



National Alliance on Mental Illness

New York State

NEWS

Winter 2022

SUPPORT



ADVOCACY



Fund 9-8-8!

9-8-8 is more than a number
9-8-8 is.....

A gateway to recovery

A diversion from criminal justice

A mental health response to a
mental health crisis

EDUCATION



NAMI | New York State

National Alliance on Mental Illness

2021 Education Conference

Recovering Together:
Achieving Mental Wellness

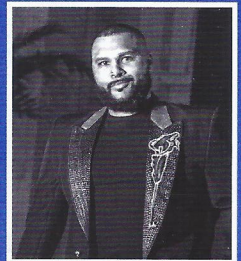
OCTOBER 22-23 ■ VIRTUAL EVENT



AWARENESS



Off The Mask



NAMI-NYS Advocacy Leads to Funded 988 System!

NAMI Putnam

NAMI Putnam Held Nicole Ettere Garden of Remembrance Dedication Ceremony

On Wednesday, September 15th, NAMI Putnam dedicated the Nicole Ettere Garden of Remembrance, a project that was prompted by Nicole's parents, Roy and Lucille, to both remember their daughter and others who died by suicide and to bring attention to suicide and suicide prevention.

The dedication featured several speakers, including Pamela Georges-Cohen, president of NAMI Putnam, Matthew Shapiro, NAMI-NYS Associate Director, Public Affairs, State Senators Pete Harckham and Sue Serino, State Assemblymember Kevin Byrne, Putnam County Commissioner of Social Services Mike Piazza, Maria Idoni from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Roy and Lucille Ettere.

It was a beautiful ceremony which honored the life of not only Nicole but also Michael Boccardi, Rich Dudyshyn, Ben Glantz, Richard Thomas Jennings and Thomas Lisk.

The garden in Putnam County was made possible by the County of Putnam, who donated the space and labor, NAMI Putnam and the Ettere family.

- NAMI-NYS is partnering with Lucille and Roy to encourage other counties to create gardens of remembrance in their local areas to help raise awareness about suicide and to provide a beautiful and serene place for families and friends to remember and reflect about their loved ones who have died by suicide. If you would like to learn more about the Nicole Ettere Remembrance Garden Project or would like to make a contribution for a garden in your area, please contact NAMI-NYS at info@naminys.org. ■



Delaware & Otsego

NAMI Delaware and Otsego was created in 2017-18 by the consolidation of 2 small adjoining rural affiliates. Unincorporated, and with no office or staff, our Steering Committee pursues its work plan by email, monthly conference calls, and participation in community forums.

Our Family Support Group meets regularly by phone, and our recent Family To Family series was held in hybrid fashion, some attendees distanced in-person, and some by Zoom.

Advocacy work has included convening Mental Health Justice Project meetings with Delaware County Sheriff and his senior staff to urge CIT training for 911 dispatchers, corrections and road patrol deputies, as well as expanded mental health and peer services for jail inmates. NAMI members participated in and made recommendations to Delaware County's police reform committee. Additionally, interviews were given to media regarding the still-closed inpatient psychiatric and addictions units in neighboring Ulster County (but serving eastern Delaware County residents), and letters were sent to key policymakers urging re-opening.

Public education included partnering with The Bushel Collective Art gallery and artist/NAMI member Jessica Farrell, for an exhibit of Jessica's "The Wilderness Diary", and an online panel discussion "Mental Health: Perspectives on Care, Support & Recovery". Delaware County NY has one of the highest suicide rates in the state, and nearly 80% of those incarcerated in the county jail have some form of mental illness. Panelists included peer speakers Garrett Smith, Jason Paden and Arianna Ilowit. A similar event is planned for July in Otsego County in collaboration with the Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown.

We also supported a church/RSS collaborative theater project, spoke to a Rotary Club, wrote OpEd pieces on Mental Wellness for the area's daily paper, and served on county Community Service Advisory Boards.

Finally, we have fielded calls from concerned but often distant family members seeking guidance about area resources for their loved ones— and for themselves in their own communities—as far away as NAMI Hawaii! ■

Syracuse

Lights on the Lake Festival Supports NAMI Syracuse

In Central New York, the holidays are celebrated with all sorts of events throughout the region, including the Lights on the Lake festival.

The festival opened up with its first three nights being "special nights," dedicated to celebrating charities and groups around Central New York for their work. This year the fest devoted the first special night to NAMI Syracuse.

- Dr. Maggie Bristol, NAMI Syracuse board member, shared, "It's such an honor for them to have chosen our non-profit to support tonight. We were thrilled to get the acceptance. Being able to partner with something that is so near and dear to Central New Yorkers' hearts and bring attention to our cause was just an absolute blessing." ■

Cattaraugus County

It is with a heavy heart that NAMI-NYS announces the dissolving of the NAMI Cattaraugus County affiliate. If you are interested in helping to start a New NAMI Affiliate in Cattaraugus County please reach out to Tammie Paradis at tammie@naminys.org or (518) 462-2000. ■