



*Mental illnesses are
medical brain conditions*

November 9, 2007

Dear NAMI Gainesville Members and Friends:

Thanks for your kind attempts to keep us on board for another year as co-presidents of our NAMI group. However, after 3 years it is time for us to step out of this position according to the Bylaws. We will remain involved as members.

Our Gainesville NAMI chapter has evolved to be grounded on four main tenants: support, advocacy, education, and research. North Central Florida members have come to expect this of our chapter, whether they are actively involved or not. Whether or not a president is found right away, our Board members can work together with general members in order to carry on our chapter's activities and maintain these tenants.

Pat's letter to the membership this week is an effective way to reach out to potential volunteers for new president and board positions. It is true that the inreach mission of our NAMI is the foundation for its existence, and the support meetings are essential. But even without any president at all, our NAMI family members and consumers still need a sense of continuity that provides sorely needed structure and connection to the larger community.

The NAMI brand in some form must be carried on in Gainesville. We now have about 30 activities or program categories (see table below) that define our current group. Now that the groundwork has been laid, the Board can reset priorities and decide which activities to continue based on available talents and time. The following table lists a part of our NAMI chapter's "brand", as coordinated by the many members of the Board with help from general members.

NAMI Gainesville Activities 2007

Family Members support group meetings (People Reaching Out to other People— P.R.O.P.)	Family Members Information/Education Meetings	Family to Family Education Course	C.A.R.E. Support Program for consumers
Website resources	NAMI Walks	Mental Illness Awareness Week projects & activities	Telephone contacts and counseling
Arts Festival Booth	Survivors of Suicide program	Community speaking engagements on radio and TV and community organizations	Affiliate email news and information
Special anti-stigma community programs	Affiliate newsletters & card notices	Jail diversion relations with Alachua county including Mental Health Court	State Mental Health Planning Council
State mental health agencies relations and Tallahassee legislative lobbying	United Way/UF Community Campaign booth	CIT relations	CSU liaison relations
Gainesville Opportunity Center relations	NEFSH relations	NEFRTC relations	DCF relations
FACT relations	UF Dept of Psychiatry relations	NAMI Florida relations	NAMI Florida Public Policy Subcommittee
Outreach projects at Meridian	Outreach projects at Vista	Newspaper letters to Editor	Holiday social gatherings

We are optimistic that NAMI Gainesville will continue its grassroots mission helping North Central Florida folks.

Sincerely,

Joan and Bruce Stevens
co-presidents