

Submission Number: 5

Organization Name: NAMI Colorado

Organization Address: 1100 Fillmore St.

Organization Contact: Tammy Snow

Phone: 303-321-3104

About the Organization: NAMI Colorado provides education, support, and advocacy for families and individuals impacted by mental illness. During a time when families feel hopeless and alone, NAMI provides a foundation and a resource for those in crisis when many times services are unavailable or unknown. At this critical time when resources are limited by budget cuts and more people have loss access to mental health services due to job losses NAMI has provided a helpline without bias.

This helpline has been accredited to preventing suicide to persons in crisis states and directs families and individuals with mental illness to the resources to get the treatment needed. The resource data bank used goes beyond just help for treatment but also contains resources, for housing, medicine, rent assistance, support groups, food and many other very basic needs.

NAMI staff also assist individuals who are calling to understand and navigate a very fragmented and frustrating system that now also find itself in a state of crisis due to budget cuts. The NAMI education programs provide a lifeline and knowledge base for families that often feel isolated and embarrassed by the stigma of mental illness. NAMI provides the tools that offer hope and awareness and understanding. The free education programs empower families to make responsible choices in day to day living often giving them a feeling of having control once again in their lives. NAMI support services for consumers challenged with mental illness have been identified as “the life line that shows there is reason to fight” These programs are offered across the state some in very rural areas again at no charge to participants.

The Power of recovery is strong and being able to see others who have succeeded as productive members of society is a powerful testimony for hope. NAMI advocates for any individuals and families who have not yet found their voice and request help. Seasoned volunteers and staff members lend their knowledge to support these programs and attend meetings. Often just a voice on the other end of the phone or someone sitting by the side of an unsteady family member in the emergency room is what is needed to remind people there is hope for recovery and they do have support from those who understand.

NAMI is able to offer all of our programs at no charge to participants with 97% of the money raised by the organization being placed into programs.

Mission Statement: NAMI Colorado is a grassroots organization that provides education, support and advocacy for people affected by a mental illness and their families.

Submitted by: Tammy Snow

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