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NAMI STAFF SERVE THE COMMUNITY

Nellie Mendoza, Denise Uga, Isidro Torres, Krystel Rosales and Dr. Patti Fernandez (Left to Right, pictured at the 2017 NAMIWalks WRIM event)

NAMI El Paso has had a busy start to 2017! We opened the year with our annual board meeting in February, picked up momentum in March with our NAMI Walks Recognition and Information Meeting (WRIM), celebrated mental health awareness month in May, said *see you soon* to Dr. Patti Fernandez in June and welcomed many new NAMI staff and allies.

July, August and September show no signs of slowing down as we continue preparing for our NAMIWalks 2017 event in September at Memorial Park Reserve. Keep reading to discover all the ways NAMI El Paso continues to serve our community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NAMIWALKS 2017 KICK OFF EVENT

OASIS LANES
1660 N Zaragoza
Rd. El Paso, Texas
79936

July 22, 2017

This kick-off event is free to anyone who wants to create a NAMIWalks fundraising team. Attendees will learn about the event and the many opportunities to participate, have fun, and give back. The first 60 guests to register will be able to bowl free with us after the meeting for free!

To learn more about NAMIWalks El Paso visit www.namiwalks.org/elpaso or contact Isidro Torres at itorres@namiep.org

4th ANNUAL MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH FORUM

EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACS Building A, Boardroom
9050 Viscount
El Paso, Texas
79925

July 28, 2017

Registration starts:
8:30 am
Forum 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Shiva Mansourkhani, M.D.
Presentation: Children and Adolescents
Mental Health

Tina Torres, MSC/MFCT, LCDC
Presentation: Addressing Women's
Needs in Recovery from Addiction

For more information or to RSVP
please call the NAMI Programs
Office at 915-778-5726

3 free CEUs will be available for
Psychologists, LPCs, Social Workers,
LMFTs

NAMIWalks Recognition and Information Meeting (WRIM)

NAMI advocates gathered together to celebrate the success of NAMIWalks 2016.

On the evening of Wednesday, March 29, 2017 NAMI advocates gathered together at the EPIC Railyard Event center to both recognize the success of NAMIWalks 2016 and announce the date for NAMIWalks 2017, which will take place September 23, 2017 at Memorial Park Reserve. The WRIM event was sponsored by the Amerigroup team and catered by Chef Morrill from Around the World Catering Services.

Kathleen Anderson, the NAMI El Paso Board President, and Isidro Torres, the NAMI El Paso Outreach and Fundraising Event Coordinator, lead the event. Special thanks was given to our NAMIWalks 2016 family chair, April Rosales, our honorary chair, Mary Kipp and our business chair, Mark Walker.

Our walk was 1 of 82 NAMIWalks happening around the nation in 2016 and is NAMI's largest and most successful mental health awareness and fundraising event. Each year the money donated and raised provides NAMI El Paso with the resources to continue providing free classes to the community. In 2016, NAMI El Paso graduated 94 individuals through their signature programs and presented to over 700 individuals through the *In Our Own Voice* and *Parents & Teachers As Allies* programs!



September 23, 2017
Memorial Park Reserve
3100 Copper Ave
El Paso, Texas 79930
Check-in: 8:30 am
Walk starts: 9:30 am

276

**REGISTERED
WALKERS**

\$30,668.76

**SPONSOR
DONATIONS**

\$61,139.66

**TOTAL FUNDS
RAISED**

NAMIWALKS 2016 AT A GLANCE

PRESENTING SPONSORS

PASO DEL NORTE CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION
HUNT FAMILY FOUNDATION

START/FINISH LINE SPONSOR

EMERGENCE HEALTH NETWORK

GOLD SPONSOR

EL PASO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM

BRONZE SPONSORS

MILTON D. and JEAN B. FEINBERG
FOUNDATION
AMERIGROUP
PEAK BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM

SUPPORTER SPONSORS

MIRACLE DELIVERY ARMORED SERVICE
THE HOSPITALS OF PROVIDENCE
PLASTIC MOLDING TECHNOLOGY, INC.
WESTERN REFINING
WESTSTAR BANK
DICK POE TOYOTA
SENATOR JOSE RODRIGUEZ

IN-KIND SPONSORS

COSTCO WHOLESALE
NAILS LOUNGE
SUN CITY PHOTOGRAPHY
JAHZZ HAIR
CARNITAS QUERETARO
ECONOMY EXPRESS
HELEN OF TROY
CRAVE KITCHEN AND BAR
CLEMENICA PRIETO
MENCHIE'S
ALBERTSONS
AROUND THE WORLD CATERING
SERVICES



2017 Annual Board Meeting

On February 8, 2017, NAMI members gathered together to celebrate a year of accomplishments in our mental health community.



NAMI Texas awarded Sukie Saenz with *Silver Member of NAMI Education Hall of Fame*, Kip Lauritzen with *Gold Member of NAMI Connection Hall of Fame*, and Frank Shipp with *Gold Member of NAMI Family Support Group Hall of Fame*. Timothy Blevins and Crystal Ayala were recognized for their support as office volunteer and health fair organizer, respectively.

Nicole Gonzalez was named *Member of the Year* (see photo of Isidro Torres presenting the award to Nicole). Elsa Cordova, Sylvia Prieto, and Mary Sholtis were recognized for their dedication to presenting on behalf of NAMI’s signature presentations. David Pineira, Sandra Alvarez, and Trina Lee were recognized for being outstanding teachers for NAMI’s signature programs.

In late 2016, Joan Chernob, a founding member of NAMI El Paso, passed away. Mrs. Chernob lived a life full of volunteer service and is one of the reasons NAMI El Paso is in existence today. In honor of her service to NAMI and the mental health community, an award was created in her memory. This year Richard Salcido was the recipient of the award for his dedication to the community through advocacy for and growth of mental health services here in El Paso.

Welcome Aboard!



You may notice some new faces around both the NAMI El Paso Programs Office and Administrative Office. Please welcome Nellie Mendoza as the interim Programs Director while Dr. Fernandez completes her year long Clinical Internship in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the Veterans Affairs Center. Additionally, Tonie Duryee, Brenna Bandstra, Alejandra Valdez, and Jennifer Krautkremer joined the NAMI El Paso Team!

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

Kathleen Anderson

VICE PRESIDENT

Mary F. Sholtis

SECRETARY

Jim K. Jopling

TREASURER

Frank Shipp

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Joanne B. Wieters

Lydia Kasmoch

Alejandra Alcalde

NAMI STAFF

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

Nellie Mendoza

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Alejandra Valdez

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Denise Uga

OFFICE MANAGER, PROGRAM OFFICE

Jennifer Krautkremer

OFFICE MANAGER, ADVOCACY OFFICE

Ruth Hill

OUTREACH AND FUNDRAISING

COORDINATOR, WEBSITE

Isidro Torres

VOLUNTEER/INTERN COORDINATOR

Brenna Bandstra

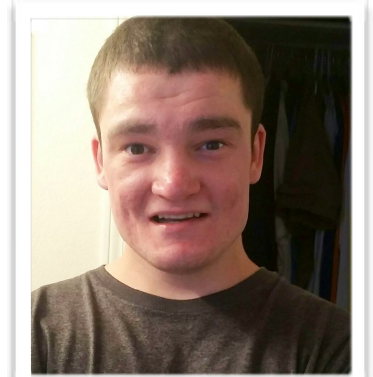
BOOKKEEPER

Tonie Duryee

NAMIWALKS 2016 TEAM SPOTLIGHT

TEAM ERIC

Each year teams of families, friends, and coworkers gather together at NAMIWalks around the country to help reduce the stigma of mental illness in our communities. In El Paso we have been honored to meet many teams over the past few years. For our first team spotlight we chose Team Eric, an outstanding group from NAMIWalks 2016 comprised of the family and friends of Eric Wilson.



I sat down with Brenna and Nick Bandstra, the sister and brother-in-law of Eric, back in April. Brenna described her brother as a “fighter his entire life.” Eric was born with a congenital heart defect and as a result experienced many physical limitations throughout his life. When he was an adolescent he was diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder; much of the anger and waves of emotions that he experienced were a result of those physical limitations. “He did not want to be represented by his diagnosis,” Brenna said, “he was such a dreamer.” Her favorite part about Eric was his infectious laugh and sense of humor.

Brenna stumbled upon NAMI in 2012 while visiting the El Paso Psychiatric Center as part of her schooling. She knew that both Eric and her family needed support and resources to help Eric cope. At times there was a feeling that “it was their burden to bear and there were no resources available to them,” Nick said of Brenna’s family. Finding NAMI provided support and a gentle reminder that they were not alone.

It has been a little over a year since Brenna and her family said goodbye to Eric. Following his death in April 2016, Brenna and her family created a NAMIWalks team. They invited many of the people who loved and supported Eric throughout his life to walk together to celebrate Eric’s life and honor those who have been affected by mental illness. It wasn’t until after his death that Brenna and her family realized how many people Eric had impacted in the community. Brenna and Nick describe Eric as a genuine person who enjoyed the pleasantries of life; talking with people in the neighborhood, hearing about the things the people around him were doing. “He was always there waiting with a handshake,” Nick remembered.

“Life itself is like a huge struggle,” Nick commented, “we are all going through these battles ... it truly is a beautiful thing. Unfortunately, that struggle or that battle sometimes is with mental illness, and it ends too early. But it’s still something to be celebrated.”

Brenna, Nick and their family and friends are gearing up for another celebration this year at NAMIWalks 2017. Brenna’s parents have been busy designing and crafting red bracelets and t-shirts for all team members. They invite anyone from the community to join their team (dogs included) and walk alongside them to celebrate, mourn, and help reduce the stigma of mental illness. Whoever you walk for, whatever the reason, you are welcome to be a part of the Team Eric community.



Above: Eric Wilson. Below, Left to right: Gina Luna, Lyric Dunn, Billie Dunn, Brenna Bandstra, and Denise Wilson

NEWSLETTER DIRECTION

Lydia Kasmoch

Interested in volunteering for
NAMI or NAMIWalks 2017?

Contact

bbandstra@namiep.org

CONTACT US

NAMI EL PASO PROGRAMS

OFFICE

6044 Gateway Blvd East

Suite 401

El Paso, TX 79905

P: 915.778.5726

NAMI EL PASO ADVOCACY AND ADMINISTRATIVE

OFFICES

4615 Alameda, Room 1157

El Paso, TX 79905

915-534-5478

WEBSITE

www.namiep.org

Don't forget to follow us on
Facebook to keep up with all
the happenings at NAMI El
Paso!

CHANGE IN NAMI MEMBERSHIP DUES

NAMI is introducing a new family membership category effective July 1, 2017. This change is in response to many people who have requested a membership that will provide everyone in the household with a NAMI membership and all the benefits. For families, this will be a more affordable option than having multiple memberships in the same household. Visit <http://namiep.org/membership/> to renew your membership today!

HOUSEHOLD - \$60 annual dues

▶ For family members living at the same address

INDIVIDUAL - \$40 annual dues

▶ Standard memberships for one person

OPEN DOOR - \$5 annual dues

▶ For NAMI members experiencing financial constraints

NAMI EL PASO

PO BOX 9771

EL PASO, TX 79995

Thank you for being part of the largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for millions of Americans affected by mental illness.

