

NAMI Huntsville

STATE COMBINED **CAMPAIGN #031495**

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Grassroots- Official Newsletter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness - Huntsville, Alabama

Mar/Apr 2018

NAMI-Huntsville March & April 2018 **President's Corner**

NAMI-Huntsville (NAMI-H) struggled financially through 2017. Thanks to all who participated in the NAMI Walk which helped financially and to increase community awareness that we are here. We will participate in this venue again in 2018.

Since October 2016 NAMI-H has been part of the Madison County Jail Aversion Program. The goal is to reduce the rotating door of the mentally ill through our local jail system. NAMI-H is part of the North Alabama Mental Health Coalition (NAMHC) which brings together representation from Wellstone, Crisis Services, Order of Saint Vincent DePaul, Madison County Sheriff Department, Huntsville Police Department, Madison City Police Department, Huntsville Hospital, mental health providers to name a

In April 2017, NAMI-Alabama in conjunction with Auburn University with local support from NAMI-H provided NAMI's signature Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) course to 40 regional law enforcement personnel. Graduates received a bronze pin in the shape of Alabama to wear on their uniforms. Our NAMI-H office has received two letters from law enforcement citing incidents that the CIT training was credited with providing a positive outcome for both those living with mental illness and law enforcement.

Please thank the officers you may see wearing those pins for caring to help our community. The current status of the effort is that two mental health workers have been hired to work with jailed persons to become stable on their treatments and follow up after release.

The NAMI-H education meeting in February (2018) hosted Daniel Adamak of LittleOrangeFish.org. Daniel's mission is "Foster greater public understanding on the roles, value and current state of mental health care. Bring greater visibility to available resources that support behavioral, emotional and mental health care needs. Grow and strengthen the mental health care community and Ensure immediate access to essential support and treatment."

One thing he said during the meeting was that as a community there is a need for Mental Wellness efforts as well as mental health. Wellness, as with mental health, is hard to talk about due to stigma. Someday, society will realize that the incidence of mental illness is on the rise and that wellness may slow or reduce the trend. It is time to treat both the symptoms and the causes of mental illness.

Calendar of Events

All meetings are held in the United Way Building Unless Otherwise Announced

March

Tuesday 6th 7p - Family Support Group Facilitator Joe Keweza

Tuesday 20th

7p - Education Meeting - In honor of Brain Injury Month, Dianne Pierson of the Alabama Head Injury Foundation will do a presentation on the correlation between head injuries and mental illness

Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday 6p Connection Support Group at Windscape Apts Community Room 2220 Windscape Drive in Athens Facilitators: Mark Prescott & Steve Pendergrass

Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday 6p Connection Support Group at 600 Governors Dr SW 35801 Rm 252 Facilitators: Teresa Hardin & John Boulton

Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday 6p Connection Support Group at 446 Jeff Rd NW 35806 The Hub Meeting Rm

Facilitators: Teresa Hardin & John Boulton

Every Wednesday 530p Connection Support Group Facilitator: Nick Snead

Are you a NAMI-HUNTSVILLE member?

Consider joining to help support your favorite mental health organization! Just fill out the form on the last page and mail it in along with your membership fee and/or donation to the NAMIH office. Or go to www.namihuntsville.org and click

JOIN.

Events we are participating in and we invite you to join us!



U.S. Space & Rocket Center.

proceeds with a selected local charity each week!

NAMI - Huntsville has been selected as the featured charity in the U. S. Space & Rocket Center's 6th Annual German Biergarten Stein & Dine on Thursday, April 12, 2018. We will have a table there with brochures on mental illnesses and the services we provide. Plus, it will be a perfect time for you to bring your family and friends for great food and drinks in a great atmosphere, while meeting us too! Also, you are welcome to renew your membership and make a donation during your visit!





VETERANS COMMUNITY HEALTH SUMMIT AND STAND DOWN

Fort Jackson Armory 2499 Johnson Road Huntsville, Alabama 35805

Thursday, April 26, 2018 8:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. (Stand Down) 10:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. (Summit)



Hosted by the North Alabama Veterans Advisory Council (NAVAC)



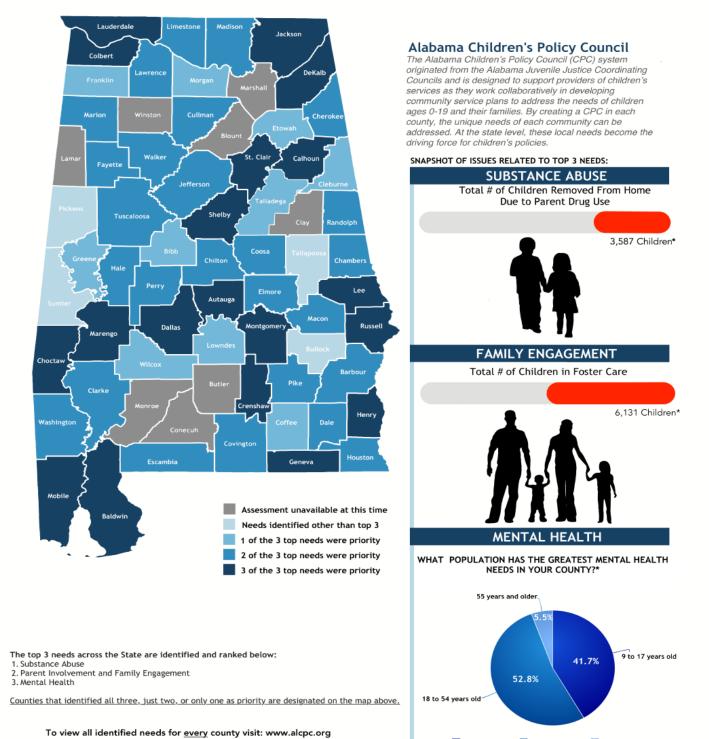
REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE:

NORTH ALABAMA VETERAN ADVISORY COUNCIL (NAVAC) A Consumer-Advocate Liaison Council for the Huntsville VA and Birmingham VA Medical Center

FOX ARMY HEALTH CLINIC. REDSTONE ARSENAL

VET CENTER, HUNTSVILLE, AL FOR MORE INFORMATION: Mitchell.williams@va.gov & Eric at osdh17@gmail.com

Throughout the year, CPC members review the needs of children and families in their community then report their results in a Needs Assessment. The Needs Assessment serves as a blueprint for the counties, state, and legislators to assign priorities to needs and implement programs and services to provide for the needs. The most recent needs assessment reported the following top 3 needs across the state: (1) Substance Abuse; (2) Family Engagement/Parental Involvement; and (3) Mental Health.



*Total number reflected is based on data from multiple state agencies.

9 to 17 years old 18 to 54 years old 55 years and older

The above is from the Alabama Children's Policy Council's website (http://www.alcpc.org/informationbycounty):

Madison County top 3 needs are identified and ranked as:

1- Early Care & Education

2 - Parental Involvement & Family Engagement

3 - Mental Health

For information on other counties please refer to their website.

Basics Instructors Needed:

NAMI Basics is a free, 6-week education program for parents and family caregivers of children and teens who are experiencing symptoms of a mental illness or whom have already been diagnosed. NAMI Basics is offered in a group setting so you can connect with other people face-to-face.

You'll learn the facts about mental health conditions and how best to support your child at home, at school and when they're getting medical care. Last year, 99% of participants told us they would recommend the program to other parents.

The course is taught by a trained team with lived experience—they know what you're going through because they've been there. The 6-session program provides critical strategies for taking care of your child and learning the ropes of recovery.

Ending the Silence Presenters Needed:

NAMI Ending the Silence is an engaging presentation that helps audience members learn about the warning signs of mental health conditions and what steps to take if you or a loved one are showing symptoms of a mental illness.

NAMI Ending the Silence presentations include a lead presenter who shares an informative presentation and a young adult with a mental health condition who shares their journey of recovery. Audience members can ask questions and gain understanding of an oftenmisunderstood topic. Through dialogue, we can help grow the movement to end stigma.

WHAT YOUR AUDIENCE WILL GET

- Free of cost to schools and communities NAMI Ending the Silence for Students: 50minute presentation designed for middle and high school students that includes warning signs, facts and statistics and how to get help for themselves or a friend. Research has shown that NAMI Ending the Silence for Students is effective in changing middle and high school students' knowledge and attitudes toward mental health conditions and toward seeking help
- NAMI Ending the Silence for School Staff: 1-hour presentation for school staff members that includes information about warning signs, facts and statistics, how to approach students and how to work with families
- NAMI Ending the Silence for Families: 1-hour presentation for parents and primary caregivers that includes warning signs, facts and statistics, how to talk with your child and how to work with school staff



Family Support Group Facilitators Needed:

NAMI Family Support Group is a **peer-led support group** for family members, caregivers and loved ones of individuals living with mental illness. Gain insight from the challenges and successes of others facing similar circumstances.

NAMI's Support Groups are unique because they follow a structured model, ensuring everyone has an opportunity to be heard and to get what they need.

- Free of cost to participants
- Designed for adult loved ones (18+) of individuals living with mental illness
- Led by family members of individuals living with mental illness
- Meets weekly or monthly
- No specific medical therapy or medication is endorsed or recommended
- Confidential

Starting Off 2018 by Reaching Out

On February 17th, we had 2 of our board members (Lisa P & Beth J) participate in the Downtown Rescue Mission's 3rd Annual Carts4Hearts 5K, and the Shift from Broken to Healed Citywide Conference on February 19th was attended by 2 board members (Lisa P & Joe M) where they held a NAMI-Huntsville booth. This weekend (Saturday, March 10th) we will be participating at the Downtown Huntsville Library's Family Fair. Come visit us at our table and other organizations between 10a to 5p. They will have 2 story times among other activities set up for your family. See you soon!

Resourceful Events



When: Saturday, March 10, 2018 9-11am

North Huntsville Location:

Location: 2448 Shepard Drive NE, Huntsville, AL 35810



Location: United Way, 701 Andrew Jackson Way NE, Huntsville, AL 35801





Citizens who may have lost their voting rights can:

- ✓ Initiate the process to regain your voting rights
- ✓ Apply to Register to Vote if your conviction is not on the list of moral turpitudes
- ✓ Ask questions!

Sponsored by: North Alabama Voter Rights Restoration Coalition







For more information, email the Tennessee Valley League of Women Voters at govote17@gmail.com or call (256) 829-8416

North Alabama Voter **Rights Restoration Coalition**





Volunteer Training for Voter Rights Restoration Clinics

When: Saturday, March 10, 2018 1:30-3:30pm Location: Union Chapel 315 Winchester Rd NE B, Huntsville, AL 35811

Learn about:

- ✓ Recent changes to the Alabama Moral Turpitude laws and how it affects Alabama's disenfranchised citizens
- ✓ How to organize, publicize, staff, and support a Voter Rights **Restoration Clinic**

JOIN the North Alabama Voter Rights Restoration Coalition Today!

For more information, email the Tennessee Valley League of Women Voters at govote17@gmail.com or call (256) 829-8416









Alabama Institute for Recovery

April 16, 17, 18, 2018 Shocco Springs



 $\underline{Important}$ – Shocco Springs Campus is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains and attending activities at Shocco Springs requires walking attending activates at snocco springs requires waxing up and down hills. Some lodging is located away from the main campus center. Lodging is on a first-come first-serve basis, with the rooms in the main area going to the early registrants. We may not be able to provide lodging near all activities. Transportation to and fi

Scholarships

We have a limited number of consumer scholarships available, and <u>we usually run out of rooms</u> and <u>scholarships before the registration deadline</u>. The workshops, plenary sessions, and activities are the foundation of the conference. If you do not intend to participate in the workshops, plenary sessions and other conference activities, we ask that you not register for the conference so that rooms and scholarships can go to those who plan to participate fully in the conference but otherwise will be unable to attend due to lack of scholarships and/or rooms.

March 10, 2018 Deadline for Scholarships

Note to Mental Health Center Staff: If attendees from your facility require monitoring, supervision, or assistance at the conference or with taking their medication, it is important that responsible staff from your facility attend the conference to provide the needed support throughout the entire conference.

Questions? Please call The Office of Peer Programs at:

1.800.832.0032 = 324.003246

1-800-832-0952 or 334-242-3456

Smoking Rules: Smoking is restricted to clearly marked areas only. No smoking is allowed in rooms, balconies, near the chapel, or outside of marked smoking areas.

Conference Cost

Full Conference (3 days, 2 nights) \$30 1 day (no lodging) (with lodging) Full Conference, no lodging Single Room \$195 (No scholarships available for single rooms)

Registration

Registration Deadline March 20, 2018 March 10, 2018 Deadline for Scholarships

Scholarships are available to consumers who are unemployed or on disability only.

All scholarships require a \$10 non-refundable, non-transferable

registration fee.						
Name						
Address						
CityZip						
Telephone ()						
Email						
□Male □Female						
Roommate						
(Roommate will be assigned if one is not indicated.)						
Are you a smoker? □Yes □No						
I would like to be in the Talent Show. □Yes □No						
Disability/Accommodations						
☐ Wheelchair Accessible Rooms						
☐ American Sign Language						
Please Register Me As Follows:						
☐ I am a consumer and requesting a consumer scholarship. Please check						
appropriate choice below-\$10.						
☐ Entire Conference-including all activities, all meals and all lodging \$90.						
☐ All conference activities, meals, but no lodging\$60.						
☐ All activities and meals on Monday, but no lodging\$30.						
☐ All activities and meals on Tuesday, but no lodging-\$30.						
☐ All activities and meals on Monday and lodging Monday night\$50.						
☐ All activities and meals on Tuesday and lodging Tuesday night-\$50.						
□ Single Room \$195.						
Make Checks payable to: WINGS						

Mail to: Alabama Institute for Recovery P.O. Box 301410 Montgomery, AL 36130-1410

The NAMI Huntsville Annual Report for 2017

NAMIH Monthly Reports for 2017

	Janu- Febru-		Marc					Au-	Sep-	Octo-	Novem-	Decem-	To-
	ary	ary	Ч	April	May	June	July	gust	tember	ber	ber	ber	tal
Enter Number of Participants for Each Program													
Basics	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Connections	61	58	26	49	45	46	53	33	20	45	44	24	481
Ending the Silence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Family to Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	47	64	16	144
In Our Own Voice	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	47
Parents & Teachers as Allies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peer to Peer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Smarts for Advocacy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sharing Hope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Family Support Group Meetings	9	7	7	13	6	7	11	10	10	7	3	7	97
Hispanic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vet to Vet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CIT				09	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	09
Enter Number for Each Statement													
Number of Government Officials Contact-													
ed	0	3	2	1189	7000	0	0	0	0	0	0	79	8273
Number of People Served	1280	240	72	161	20	36	52	64	311	111	70	10	2312
Number of Brochures Distributed	0	7	65	296	330	999	1105	243	220	1387	50	0	4291
Number of Phone Calls/Emails Received													
or Placed	848	939	400	1688	1381	822	2396	1184	2359	883	1663	468	15031
Number of Media Contacted	5	2	9	4	4	2	4	2	5	1	4	1	40
Approximate Number of Audience	77	, ,	157,52	305,45	200,000	r C	Š	17253	000	7	000	700	2,503,
reactied by Media	940,1/3	9,151	Ŋ	٥	D	4200	0,000	0	300,000	TO2,000	300,000	4730	19C

Platinum (up to \$1000 or more) Linda Lou Hardison

Joe Keweza

Joe Moody

Sherry Thompson

St. Mary of the Visitation Catholic

Church

Sebrina A Mayes Allen

Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC

Gold (up to \$750)

AKA - RHO CHI OMEGA

St Thomas Episcopal Church

Silver (up to \$500)

Virginia Warvi

Brenda Taylor-Moody

Bronze (\$250 or less)

Anna Laura

Dovle & Eileen Sessions

Susan Lewis

Juli Langford

Nick Snead

Patricia Hinrichs

Dorothea Schlidt

Rachel Roberts

Cecille B Spina

Lana A Fischer

Lewis Perry

Nadler Robert

David Beeason

Huntsville Psychotherapy & Counsel-

ing Services via Stephanie Bolton

Mark Prescott

Evette Brooks Lockett

David Barnhart

Patricia Blair

United Methodist Women of First

United Methodist Church

Marilyn Neste

Lyle E Hendrick

Alabama Psychological Services Cen-

ter via Wendy Pope

Cornelia Turnbow

Kristie McShane

Angie Simmon

Janet Anderson & Roland Anderson

Margaret Craig

Walter Avellaneda

Mona Smith

Wood & Peggy Deleuil

Cletus & Judy Harper

Gayle Baker

Robert Snead

NAMI-Huntsville thanks each of

you for your donation for the 2017

year! We hope to get your contin-

ued support for the 2018 year!

Let's get the community to be

aware that there is help for every-

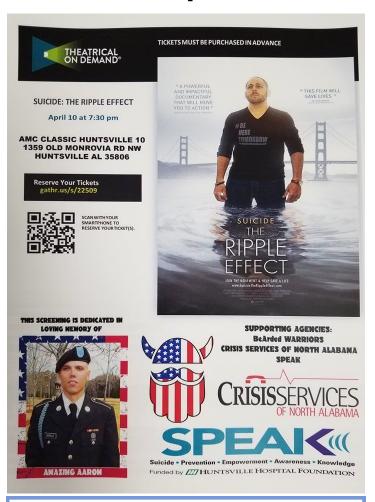
one affected by mental illness.

Concluding the Annual Report for 2017

With over 2000 volunteer hours submitted in 2017, we participated in the Huntsville Hospital Psychiatric Conference, 2 HOSA presentations at Sparkman High School & Hazel Green High School, the NAMI Alabama NAMIWalks at Blossomwood Elementary, the Jeni Benefit Concert, Mental Health Matters Health Fair hosted by Alpha Kappa Alpha, Speak Life: I am Greatness Inc, CIT Law Enforcement Training, Alpha Kappa Alpha – Epsilon Gamma Omega Line Dancing Fundraising (with advertising on WEUP 1600am & Etv Impact with Kenny Anderson), the Love Fellowship hosted by St. Mark Baptist Church honoring NAMI-Huntsville's mission for the community, BJ Restaurant & Brewhouse Fundraising Night, Huntsville Hospital Foundation SPEAK Committee (2 NAMI-Huntsville Board of Directors serve on the committee), Tinsel Trail, Huntsville Havoc Mental Health Awareness Game Night, and last but not least on a weekly basis a NAMI-Huntsville representative provided the Crestwood Behavioral Department with information on our programs and services to their patients.

As of today, the NAMI-Huntsville membership consists of 11 household, 31 open door, 9 lapsed open door, 63 active, 63 lapsed memberships. On Facebook we have 815 people who liked our page, and 788 that are following us. To continue showing your support in the NAMI-Huntsville mission please consider renewing your membership if it has lapsed or become a member. Your membership fees (and donations) will take us further in exposing who we are and what we do in addition to allowing us to have the tools needed to do more for the community!

Join us in supporting this suicide prevention event in April 2018



About the Movie: Suicide: The Ripple Effect

At the age of 19 Kevin Hines wanted to die – he decided to accomplish that by jumping of the iconic Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. More than 1600 people have died jumping off the bridge and Hines wanted to be one of those people. However, something happened the second his hands left the rail. He knew he knew he wanted to live and miraculously Hines did.

He has made it his life's mission to advocate for suicide prevention and mental health awareness. Working tirelessly to share his story and most recently completing his documentary "Suicide: The Ripple Effect" – chronicling his journey to fight the stigmas associated with suicide and mental illness. The trailer for the documentary has been making the rounds on social media and has been seen over 100 million times.

Wendy Galloway happened to be one of the people that viewed the trailer for "Suicide: The Ripple Effect". She was drawn to it because she had lost her son Aaron Alexander to suicide at the age of 19. Aaron was a high school graduate from Sparkman High School and was just beginning his career in the military starting with the Army National Guard with the plan of becoming active duty. Instead, on the night of July 10, 2016, Aaron lost his life to suicide. Now Galloway looks for ways to honor her son thru advocacy. She has started working to bring about change to how people talk about suicide.

Galloway created an opportunity to have "Suicide: The Ripple Effect" shown here in Huntsville, AL. The screening will be held April 10th, 2018 at AMC Classic 10 located at 1359 Old Monrovia Rd NW starting at 7:30 PM. Tickets must be purchased at this link https://gathr.us/screening/22509. They will not be available at the box office.

Please join in the fight to stop suicide and open the conversation to end the stigma associated with suicide and mental illness.

-Rocket City Moms-

Amazing Aaron

Aaron Alexander Gorklo was born November 29, 1996 in Denver, Colorado. As a little boy he loved Buzz Lightyear, Bionicles, and his "best game ever" was the Army. As a teenager he struggled with school, not really liking the social structure of a school environment. He was "different" in the way he communicated. Aaron didn't have filters - he told people what he thought whether it was socially acceptable or not. This didn't make Aaron a lot of friends, he had a hard time making and keeping friends and was bullied because of the way he looked at things. Even though Aaron didn't like school, he loved to learn. He loved reading and writing and drawing. He loved history, especially military history. As a young boy, he would play Army and be a soldier for Halloween. As a teenager, he went through a few different phases of what he wanted to do but finally settled on becoming a real solider instead of just pretending. Aaron had me sign the paper for him to start participating in the recruiting program while still attending high school in Colorado.

Because of life changes we moved to Alabama for Aaron's senior year in high school – he didn't complain – he looked at it as a new adventure and was soon excited to learn that he would be able to participate in the JROTC program. He only got one year of it but he worked hard and graduated high school May 2015. He was signed up and ready to join the Army National Guard after graduation. He left for basic training November 2015 and was so happy to be a part of the military and the brotherhood that is found between the soldiers. Aaron graduated basic training in March 2016 and was stationed with his unit in Cullman, Alabama.

While Aaron was happy to be a soldier he also had struggles – he had many disappointments in his life and the sadness in him finally won. Aaron died by suicide July 10, 2016. Aaron was smart and funny and kind. He was talented and giving and loving. He loved his country even with her flaws and he was proud to be a soldier. Some of his best times were spent at the U.S. Veteran's Memorial in Huntsville, Alabama working with veterans and listening to their stories. He loved his family and would do anything for them. He wanted everyone to be happy but didn't know how to be happy himself. The hole that has been left by his loss will never be filled. We miss him every day.

Wendy Galloway - Aaron's Mother

For more information:

https://gathr.us/screening/22509 - movie information

 $\underline{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LytKNC405oI\&t=8s} \quad -movie \\ trailer$

https://youtu.be/Pjro9MZZ_ps - WZYP interview

http://www.rocketcitynow.com/news/a-mother-who-lost-her-son-to-suicide-is-hoping-to-raise-awareness/951122893 - WZDX Channel 54

http://whnt.com/2018/02/18/madison-mother-shares-story-ofsons-suicide-to-raise-awareness/ - WHNT Channel 19

https://www.rocketcitymom.com/event/special-screening-suicide-ripple-effect/ - Rocket City Moms

NAMI-Huntsville Membership/Donation Form



NAMIH dues are paid annually. You may pay by cash or check to NAMI Huntsville. If you prefer to join online go to www.namihuntsville.org.

Please provide your email address in order to receive the newsletter by email.

NAME			ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBER				
ADDRESS:				CITY/STATE:			
PHONE:			EMAIL:				
ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBER EMAIL:							
\$ 60 Household	\$40 Individual	\$5.00 Open Door	Donation	 → One copy of the Advocate magazine, mailed → Access to members-only areas of the NAMI. 			
\$	\$ RENEWAL?			Discounts on National Convention registrations			

Mail check to: NAMIH, 701 Andrew Jackson Way

Huntsville, AL 35801

- twice per year
- org website
- ion rates
- Discounts on items in the NAMI Store
- Your local NAMIH bi-monthly newsletter



























G R A S S R O O T S

Official Newsletter of NAMI Huntsville

Office: 256.534.2628 Email: namihuntsville@gmail.com Website: www.namihuntsville.org

www.facebook.com/NamiHuntsville

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Published bi-monthly.
Distributed free to NAMIH Members and Mental Health Professionals/Organizations.

Information provided in this publication is for educational purposes only and is not intended as medical advice.

Deadline: Email news, announcements, and articles by the 15th of the month. Articles subject to editing for brevity.