



Dear Friend,

Thank you for your recent inquiry regarding the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Santa Clara County, and its programs and services. I hope that the enclosed information is helpful.

NAMI Santa Clara County's (NAMI SCC) mission is to provide community-based self-help services for individuals with psychiatric disabilities and their families and friends. Our membership and Board of Directors are composed of family members, mental health professionals, and public officials, as well as direct consumers of mental health services.

NAMI SCC volunteers offer telephone support, referral services, training programs, presentations, practical experience, comfort, education, and understanding to those dealing with mental health conditions. Monthly general meetings are open to the public and feature expert speakers in areas such as medications, treatment, legal affairs, estate planning, and Social Security benefits.

We offer specially designed courses, such as, Peer-to-Peer for persons with mental illness; Family-to-Family for their families and friends; BASICS for any parent or primary caregiver of a child or adolescent living with mental illness; Provider Course for those providing services for individuals who are mentally ill; Community Peer Connector Program to help for increasing wellness of consumers through the support and mentorship of their peers. In addition to our programs, we also give mental health awareness presentations such as "In Our Own Voice" and "Ending The Silence" at hospitals, colleges and local high schools. Our FaithNet team helps faith community leaders create mental health friendly places of worship.

NAMI SCC cooperates with public agencies (e.g. universities, police departments, hospitals, correctional facilities, and libraries) to enhance communication and understanding between mentally ill individuals and public service personnel. Our collaboration with the Santa Clara County Mental Health Department and the San Jose Police Department resulted in the establishment of the San Jose Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Academy. This is a 40-hour police-training program designed to minimize the use of force, increase officer and public safety, and explain resources available for community policing.

With NAMI SCC membership, you will automatically be enrolled in both the state and national levels of NAMI. Each of these memberships will entitle you to receive their newsletter with valuable information about treatment and recovery. Please consider joining today. We need your support and participation in our very important work for people who suffer from biological brain diseases, their families, and friends.

For further information and assistance, call or visit our NAMI SCC office, Monday through Friday, 10am to 6pm.

Sincerely,

Rovina Nimbalkar
Executive Director