



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**November
2014**

Welcome Members and Affiliates

We welcome your ideas for topics to cover, your feedback on issues that face consumers, families, and providers across the state. Contact us at newsletter@namicalifornia.org.



New NAMI CA Community Engagement Department



NAMI California's Community Engagement Department continues to pave the way towards completing a new culturally responsive mental health awareness program

that will better reach various diverse communities throughout California.

To date, NAMI California has completed 25 focus groups throughout the state to elicit feedback and suggestions for the new program, and to provide community inclusion throughout the development process. NAMI California anticipates to launch the new program in early 2015.

For more information about the new program, please contact NAMI California's Community Engagement Department at

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**NAMI California's Tree of
Tribute**

Fiscal Year 2013-14

veronica@namica.org or (916) 567-0163.

Directing Change Contest Submission Deadline: February 1, 2015



Students throughout California are invited to Direct Change by submitting 60-second films to spread awareness about suicide prevention and ending the silence associated with mental illness. The winning teams and their associated schools will win cash prizes, receive mental health or suicide prevention programs for their schools, get to participate in a meeting with state legislators on these topics, and attend the award ceremony at the end of the 2014-15 school year. Directing Change is part of statewide efforts to prevent suicide, reduce stigma and discrimination related to mental illness, and to promote the mental health and wellness of students. These initiatives are funded by the voter-approved Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63) and administered by the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA).

NAMI California is excited to announce the expansion of the education and training component of The Directing Change Student Film Contest! This year, Directing Change is offering an Ending the Silence presentation and suicide prevention programs to students who intend on submitting entries into the contest. There are also additional resources for participants, parents and school advisors. The



[Click here to honor a loved one.](#)

Each year many donors elect to give a gift in celebration of an event, in honor of a special individual or in memory of a loved one. The Tree of Tribute formalizes this tradition by providing a lasting acknowledgement for individuals who are remembered, individuals who are honored or have an enduring record of a significant celebration.

Gifts of \$500 or more will be eligible for an engraved leaf on the Tree of Tribute or an engraved stone at the base of the tree.

- \$500 - Bronze leaf
- \$1,000 - Silver leaf
- \$2,000 - Gold leaf
- \$3,000 -- Small stone
- \$5,000 - Large stone

Major Donors



NAMI California thanks the following for their very generous contributions of \$500 or more, 2013-2014.

Humanitarian: \$5,000 - \$36,000

Eli Lilly
Janssen Pharma
Otsuka

Directing Change Team will be offering a monthly newsletter to keep participants up-to-date with all developments about the contest and various mental health and suicide prevention topics through articles, educational videos, and current events. Educational films that discuss various mental health and suicide prevention topics will also be released for participants on a monthly basis. The films can be used to provide more information to students and teachers to help inspire the film-making process! Check out the October films about the Mental Health Continuum, mental illness, and stigma:

<http://www.directingchange.org/education-videos/>

To subscribe to The Advocate: Directing Change newsletter, please visit

<http://www.directingchange.org/newsletter/>

Visit the campaign website for contest rules and information: www.directingchange.org .
Submission Deadlines: February 1, 2015.

Have questions about Directing Change?
Contact Lauren Hee at lauren@namica.org or 916-567-0163.

NAMI Ventura County Volunteer Spotlight by Joan Wiggins

NAMI Ventura County is a proud of our exceptional volunteer base. Working diligently to meet the needs of the community by teaching Family to Family classes, facilitating support groups, answering Helpline calls, making the NAMIWalk happen, and much, much more, NAMI Ventura County Volunteers gave over 5,000 hours of their valuable time

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All donations,
large and small,
are greatly appreciated by
NAMI California and help
us achieve
our mission
at the state level.

over the previous 12 months.

In recognition of these outstanding achievements, NAMI Ventura County is proud to announce the winners of the 2014 President's Volunteer Service Award, a prestigious national honor offered in recognition of volunteer commitment. Established in 2003, this award is given by the President of the United States and honors individuals, families and groups who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to volunteer service over the course of 12 months.

In order to qualify for this esteemed award the recipient must have volunteered for a certified organization at least 100 hours in a 12 month period. NAMI Ventura County's volunteer hours are tracked from July 1st through June 30th each year.

The following NAMI Ventura County Volunteers were presented with the President's Volunteer Service Award at the NAMI Ventura County VIP Appreciation Dinner, an elegant evening of appreciation for all NAMI volunteers, Walk Team Captains and Walk Sponsors.



Roberta Rodriguez-692 hours, Bob Wickham-229 hours, Kebra Stuart-143 hours, Judy Shure-140 hours, Susan Gramme-120 hours, Lyn

Olson-120 hours, Marcia Weems-120 hours, Lisa Cameron-118 hours, Gaye Kahn-118 hours, Valerie Flores-115 hours, Diane Bustillos-112 hours, Alex Villalobos-104 hours, Basil Augustine-102 hours.

The volunteers received the official President's Volunteer Service Award pin, a certificate of

State Advocacy
2014

Visit NAMI's State Advocacy Page

achievement, a congratulatory letter from President Obama, and the undying gratitude of NAMI Ventura County.

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Contact Information

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(916) 567-0163

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