34th Annual State Convention

Award Recipients

Together Toward Tomorrow.

September 24 & 25, 2020
Virtual Convention

NAMI Tennessee

National Alliance on Mental Illness
Congratulations TO ALL OUR
2020 NAMI Tennessee Award Recipients

Kathy Martin
NAMI Oak Ridge Volunteer
Award: Service

Jeffrey Neely
NAMI Memphis Volunteer
Award: Service

Julie Potter
Dickson Middle School
Award: Professional

Caroline Castellaw
Tennessee Rehabilitation Center
Dyersburg
Award: Professional

Maria Smith
TAADAS
Award: Friend of NAMI

Charlotte Gordon
Tipton County
Award: Personal Courage

Gabe Howard
Author, Activist, Pod Cast Host
Award: Media

Sheriff John Mehr
Madison County
Award: Justice

Murfreesboro Police Department
Murfreesboro, TN
Award: Justice

Mary Sims
Gibson County
Award: Affiliate Leadership

Elliot Pinsly
NAMI Davidson
Award: Advocacy

Governor Bill Lee
State of Tennessee
Award: Public Policy

Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Liaisons Program
TDMHSAS
Award: Model Project
NAMI Tennessee 2020 Annual Awards

Each year NAMI Tennessee members are invited to make awards nominations recognizing outstanding service to NAMI, NAMI members, and the field of mental health recovery. These awards are divided into Community Recognition Awards and Member recognition awards.

The NAMI Tennessee Awards Committee is pleased to announce the 2020 Award Winners.

Community Recognition Awards

*These awards are given primarily to people outside of our organization. NAMI members are not excluded but the intent of these awards is to acknowledge broader service to persons living with mental health conditions, their families, and NAMI.*

**Criminal Justice Award:**

This award is given in recognition of the criminal justice professional or program that most exemplifies the de-escalation and diversion approach promoted by NAMI for persons with mental illness who become involved in the criminal justice system. (Includes law enforcement, justice, corrections, and other professionals in the criminal justice system.) This award is inspired by Tennessee’s own Major Sam Cochran (ret.), father of the internationally recognized CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) program, the Memphis Police Department, and NAMI Memphis.

Presented to the Murfreesboro Police Department, Michael Bowen, Chief of Police

- CIT Program established in 2010
- Chief of Police Michael Bowen promotes CIT programs in Murfreesboro and Rutherford County
- Ongoing commitment to a vigorous community Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program by assisting with training for more than 300 officers from various statewide agencies
- Successfully Promoted change in their General Order to reflect the CIT program, which changed the way officers respond to a mental health crisis
- CIT-trained officers have demonstrated successful use of training in mental health crisis

Presented to Sheriff John Mehr, Madison County

- Elected Sheriff of Madison County is 2014 after retiring as the Special Agent in Charge of Criminal Investigation Division of TN Bureau of Investigation
• Champion for CIT and advocates for treatment rather than incarceration
• Implemented Successful pilot program for improved transportation to Regional Mental Health Institutes (RMHIs)
• Serves on the NAMI TN Board of Directors as Vice President (West)

Public Policy Advocacy Award:
This award is given to recognize public figures that support our cause. Our relationships with public policy makers is important and sometimes critical. It takes courage to stand up for what is right and public figures who receive this award have “stood up” for NAMI.

Presented to Governor Bill Lee
• Worked with TDMHSAS Commissioner Williams to expanded services and avoided budget cuts for mental health during the pandemic
• Signed Executive Orders to set aside regulations, which allowed flexibility for mental health services to be delivered during the pandemic
• Prioritizing mental health treatment through his support and collaboration with CIT
• Support for suicide prevention in Tennessee

Media Award:
This award is given to recognize newspaper, TV, radio, web sites, journalists, and social or other media which have brought positive attention to the NAMI movement.

Presented to Gabe Howard
• Award-winning Writer
• Mental Health Activist
• Humorist, Speaker and Educator
• Host of multiple podcasts and Facebook Live

Model Project Award:
This award honors privately or publicly funded programs and projects that exemplify best practices for those living with mental health conditions and/or their family members. This award highlights programs that the general public should know about, increasing the likelihood of replication.

Presented to Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Liaisons Program (TDMHSAS)
• Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Liaisons assist individuals who are engaged in the legal system because of mental health symptoms and/or substance use
• They provide information, education, and assistance at court hearings
• Work with families to promote better outcomes
• Promote diversion from jail to meaningful support services and resources in the community

**Professional Award:**

This award is given to a professional who exemplifies the qualities needed to make a positive impact on the lives of those with mental health conditions and their family members. These people provide NAMI Tennessee with role models to affect change in the existing service delivery system. It says, “This is the kind of professional that really helps, and we want more like this one.”

**Presented to Caroline Castellaw**

- Mgr. of TN Rehabilitation in Dyersburg
- Champions NAMI mental health training and IOOV presentations for staff and members
- Provides Pamphlets and information on mental health issues to members
- Mental Health Advocate who works closely with NAMI to bring awareness of NAMI and mental health issues to Dyer County

**Presented to Julie Potter**

- Launched new project called “Humans of DMS (Dickson Middle School)”
- Goal: Life Lessons - Use the power of life stories to instruct students about Empathy, Acceptance, Forgiveness, and Understanding.
- Topics addressed – death, suicide, depression, body image struggles, belonging, acceptance, family members in prison, rejection, and other topics
- Works in collaboration with NAMI Dickson to promote NAMI support and education programs

**Friend of NAMI Award:**

This award recognizes a collaborative partner, person or organization that has contributed significantly to the NAMI mission through time, energy, advocacy, donations, etc.

**Presented to Maria Smith**

- Training Director of TAADAS
- Hosts Recovery Roundtables across TN
- Regularly invites NAMI to participate in Recovery Roundtable
- Connected NAMI to individuals working to establish new NAMITN Affiliates.
- Supports and Promotes NAMI’s work with families at every opportunity
NAMI Tennessee Member Awards

These awards are given to NAMI members who have given outstanding service to local affiliates or the state organization.

Affiliate Leadership Award:

The Affiliate Leadership Award is dedicated to the memory of Fred Sackleh. Fred served as the president of NAMI Coffee County for years. When he died, it took a committee to do what he did single handedly, with great compassion and skill. This award recognizes exemplary affiliate leadership. Only current affiliate officers are eligible to receive this award.

Presented to Mary Sims – Gibson County

- Established a new NAMI Affiliate in Gibson County
- Promoted NAMI, the new NAMI Affiliate and mental health awareness by knocking on doors within her community
- Connected NAMI with Community and County Leadership
- Trained Presenter for NAMI Family to Family and NAMI Basics

Advocacy Award:

This award is given in memory of Ray Sinor, charter member and longtime NAMI advocate, to someone who most exemplifies Ray’s fearless spirit of advocacy. Ray never missed an opportunity to educate and influence decision makers whether it was a legislator, the local mayor, or the governor. This award goes to a person who advocates at a local, state and/or federal level for improved laws, policies, and services for those who live with severe mental health conditions and/or their families.

Presented to Elliot Pinsly – NAMI Davidson County

- Advocacy focuses on improving access to care, reducing stigma, and driving systems change.
- Data-driven advocacy leader in TN for criminal justice reform and mental health treatment expansion
- Founder of the Behavioral Health Foundation, a new independent non-profit policy center
- Co-chair/founder of the TN Pre-Arrest Diversion Coalition
- Active member of the TN CIT Task Force

Personal Courage Award:

This award recognizes a NAMI member who has exhibited courage and strength in the face of adversity. It honors those who may not hold leadership positions but those who, despite adversity, faithfully serve the local affiliate or state organization. Others may not
know these family members well, but they represent the heart and soul of this movement.

Presented to Charlotte Gordon – Tipton County

- Known as a stigma fighter
- Advocates for others in community struggling with mental health issues
- IOOV (In Our Own Voice) and ETS (Ending the Silence) Presenter
- Presented Ending the Silence to over 480 students last year

Service Award:

Given in memory of Jean Key. This award recognizes NAMI members who quietly give of themselves in a dedicated, loving, and caring way. They consistently do what needs to be done without expectation of any recognition. Their donation of significant time and energy has contributed notably to individual lives and the NAMI mission over time. The Service Award recognizes exemplary volunteerism to NAMI and its members.

Presented to Kathy Martin – NAMI Oak Ridge

- Dedicated NAMI Family to Family Instructor
- Dedicated Support Group Leader for With Hope in Mind and BRIDGES support groups
- Self-Trained to be a Leader in bringing on-line support groups to East TN
- Provides Zoom training to others wanting to learn education and facilitation skills

Presented to Jeffery Neely – NAMI Memphis

- Dedicated Instructor for NAMI Memphis
- Known as a supportive and loving educator
- Mentors less experienced teachers
- Taught numerous NAMI education classes including with Hope in Mind, NAMI Homefront, NAMI Family to Family, and NAMI Basics
Thank You!

Thank you to the staff and many volunteers that have worked to make the 34th Annual NAMI Tennessee State Convention a success.

Your contributions help NAMI Tennessee and its affiliates educate, support, and advocate for persons with mental illness and their families.

See you again next year!

September 23 & 24, 2021

NAMI Tennessee

Never miss a NAMI Tennessee event, visit namitn.org