Executive Director's Report
NAMI Texas Award Winners
Proposed Revision of Bylaws
Board of Directors Election
Crisis Intervention Training Added to New Curriculum
Lo Que La Alianca Nacional De Enfermedades Significa Para Mi

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NAMI Texas Convention: Delivering on the Promise
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19 Celebration Recovery 2004

Austin, Texas, October 9, 2004, 4 – 10 p.m.

Cover Photo by Sandy Skelton

To find a NAMI Texas affiliate in your area, please call 1-800-633-3760 or visit www.texas.nami.org
This is my first opportunity to address you as your Executive Director, and I want you to know there is no higher privilege nor honor that could be bestowed upon me than to work for you in this position.

My hire came under special circumstances so I take the appointment as one entrusting me with the future development and growth of this organization and its affiliates so we can better meet our Mission…

"…to improve the lives of ALL persons affected by serious mental illness by providing support, education and advocacy through a grassroots network…"

To accomplish this I put forth this simple motto that I live by as a standard:

**Lead, Follow or Get Out of the Way.**

In essence, my appointment and this statement indicate that we need to re-examine how we are doing business.

I personally believe there is a better way for NAMI Texas and our grassroots to operate and yet retain our “volunteer” spirit.

It will require us to become more “business-like,” unified and vertically-aligned.

These are words that a few of you don't understand or don't like. I accept the challenge of informing you why it must occur and that the organization will be the better for it.

In my last personal comment let me say, I’m not new to NAMI Texas.

I entered her doors in 1988, when I was pulled into a lifeboat operated by the members of an affiliate, NAMI Dallas.

That experience, and what came afterward, marked the turning point in our family’s nightmare with my son’s illness.

The rest, as they say, is history.

**Delivering on the Promise!**

I love that title. It is the one selected for our State Convention, which you can read more about in this newsletter.

I’m now going to give you the “pitch” to attend that Convention.

**Ten Reasons Why You Will Want to Attend the NAMI Texas Convention:**

6. You will know what Disease Management/Jail Diversion promises for your loved one under HB 2292 if he/she has schizophrenia, substance abuse issues and early symptoms of diabetes and gets busted!

5. You will get to “Ask the Doctor Questions.”


3. You will get to “Ask Deputy Commissioner Dave Wanser and Assistant Commissioner Joe Vesowate Questions.”

2. You will see a “retrial” of the Andrea Yates case where George Parnham performs the closing argument using the NAMI Texas proposal of Guilty Except for Mental Illness.

1. You will hear General AMIDAD's update on the “Mental Illness Wars.”

See you in San Antonio!

**Joe Lovelace**

Executive Director, NAMI Texas

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*This WALK symbolized a new beginning for NAMI Texas — one where the leaders of this great organization will bend their efforts to serve with skill, understanding, and spirit, and that those who they serve will respond.*
NAMI Texas Walks Into the 21st Century

Photographs by Sandy Skelton and David Evans

On May 15, 2004, over 600 people gathered at Auditorium Shores in Austin to walk the 3.1 miles to the Capitol. It was the first NAMI Walks of many to come and we made a powerful statement to increase awareness of serious mental illness. We also came together to WALK into the 21st Century with the faith that recovery is possible for everyone.

We have proof that awareness was raised, for as we celebrated in the park, an Austinite out for a morning walk, stopped by and asked who we were. A NAMI Austin volunteer explained our mission, gave him some literature on NAMI and he promptly went to the registration table and made a donation! And as we walked down Congress Avenue, several of us were questioned by people on the street so we took the opportunity to spread our mission and vision.

It was a wonderful and beautiful day! It was a HAPPY day! We even had “Happy” the chihuahua dressed in her own Happy T-shirt as our mascot with her four tiny legs marching down Congress Avenue. She was the perfect example of good mental health!

A special thank you goes to all the NAMI Austin volunteers for helping to make our Walk a success.

In May of 2005, we will have even bigger and better NAMI Walks in both Austin and Dallas. Look for more information on our 2005 NAMI Walks in upcoming newsletters.

Diana Kern, NAMI Texas
Special Events Coordinator

There is no doubt that the path of recovery is all about a unified walk. NAMI WALKS gave us an amazing gift. We were able to visually see the “sum of our parts” and feel the energy of a purposeful connection with friends and family.

HAPPY, the 3dASAP and NAMI WALKS team mascot, was so thrilled to be at the WALK. She was the “pace car” in our group with seemingly unending energy for such a little dog. At under 4 lbs. with a tiny stride, she probably walked 15 “doggie miles” for the cause. May 15th, she was all smiles. May 16th, she was still HAPPY but too exhausted to move!

Glenda Pittard
NAMI Austin

And from the mouth of babes...My son, Michael, age 4, said that Austin was a beautiful city that he liked a lot. He thought it was the best city ever.

Michael Pittard
NAMI Texas Panhandle had our NAMI Walks on May 15th also here in Amarillo. There were 40+ people attending and walking. We had television coverage and we did two television spots before the walk. We raised $3,345 for our affiliate.

Carol Ann Vaughn
NAMI Texas Panhandle

Our community center, Tropical Texas MHMR in Edinburg, loaned us a van so that ten of us could make the trip to Austin. We left at 3 a.m. All were thrilled with the Walk. Some had never been to Austin. Only one client, besides my son, had seen so many people completely involved with mental health issues. Everyone was in awe of the numbers and friendliness shown at the Walk. A client got in the van heading home, anticipating another 7– 8 hour drive, asking, “Will there be another Walk next year? Can we come again?”

NAMI South Texas’ summary is: Texas NAMI Walks was thrilling, awesome, encouraging, energizing, and... may we please have another?

Stephanie Contreras
NAMI South Texas

Austin police well-trained...Putting NAMI Texas on the Capitol on-ramp with apprehensionless warrants for competing traffic...Enlistment of Joe Lovelace as a sidelines cheerleader...Setting a clear objective for NAMI Texas to climb the hill together to surround the capitol...After that everything was downhill, just a piece of cake.

Great way to keep our bods in shape and our brains in high advocacy gear!

John Hoelzel
NAMI Gulf Coast
The gathering of so many people for one cause in a state that is bigger than most countries gives resolve to those of us that have had our lives disrupted by mental illness. We are not alone in our struggle or our conviction. Our conviction is for a brighter future for every one that is living with mental illness. How wonderful it is to stand shoulder to shoulder with others that are bearing the burden and willing to take on the future.

What did I get from the NAMI Walk? How blessed I am to be part of all of you!

Tom Akin
NAMI Bastrop

We had a great time visiting with old friends, making new ones, enjoying the beautiful Austin scenery, and the fabulous lunch after the Walk. Being able to talk to our friends about mental illness as we asked them to sponsor our walk was enjoyable, and we hope helpful to them in increasing their understanding of mental illness.

We thought everything was great!

Jerry and Betty Fulenwider
NAMI San Antonio

The Walk reminded me of my mission and it gave me strength to carry on and continue to advocate for everyone that has lost a family member. I walked in memory of my brother who struggled with mental illness. It gave me joy to see so many consumers progressing in their recovery.

Lupe Morin
NAMI San Antonio

Este Mayo, hubo mas o menos, 650 personas se reunieron en Austin, Tejas, para participar en una caminata. La caminata, NAMI Walks, fue realizada para eliminar la estigma de la enfermedad mental. De las personas quienes participaron, un grupo muy activo fue la población hispanica. La caminata reunió clientes, familiares, voluntarios y representantes del congreso del estado. ¡Esperamos que participen con nosotros el año próximo!

Esther Garcia
NAMI South Texas
As a family member the Walk reduced my feelings of isolation and offered the opportunity to socially interact with others who individually and collectively strive to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.

Thanks NAMI for bringing us together.

Willie Williams
NAMI Austin

NAMI Texas Walks sponsors: AstraZeneca with their information booth (left) and Team Abilify ready to walk (below).
I enjoyed knowing that such a Walk is in existence and that it allowed everyone—young, not as young and old—to be together, as well as those who live and manage dealing with a brain disorder everyday of their courageous lives. I got a huge kick out of seeing all the different groups with creative T-shirts.

Marla Miller
NAMI Austin

The NAMI Walk provided a wonderful opportunity to honor Harold Scogin, unify NAMI Austin members and visit with friends who share a common goal. Austin Travis County MHMR was proud to be a part of this great event and we’re looking forward to next year.

Mildred Vuris
NAMI Austin

NAMI Texas Walks…continued on page 13
NAMI TEXAS CONVENTION 2004

Delivering on the Promise

OCTOBER 14 – 16, 2004

OMNI SAN ANTONIO

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

NAMI TEXAS will “Deliver on the Promise” of Recovery at the first convention in Texas to spotlight the new and exciting changes in our Mental Health System, specifically disease management and our new state agency, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS).
NAMI TEXAS CONVENTION 2004

Delivering on the Promise

Registration
- Registration is being handled by:
  MGA Planning Services, Inc.
  606 N. Carancahua, Suite 411
  Corpus Christi, TX 78476
  Phone: (361) 225-4500
  Fax: (361) 225-4505
- You can register online at www.mga-inc.com.
  Click on Registration On-line; Enter NAMI TEXAS and click submit; Only credit cards are accepted for online registration.

Hotel Accommodations
- OMNI SAN ANTONIO HOTEL
  9821 Colonnade Boulevard
  San Antonio, TX 78230
  Phone: (210) 691-8888
  Fax: (210) 691-1128
  Website: www.omnihotels.com
  When inquiring and making room reservations please identify yourself as someone attending the NAMI TEXAS Convention in October.

  Hotel Rates
  - Single $80.00 per night
  - Double $100.00 per night
  - Triple $110.00 per night
  * Hotel cut-off date is September 27, 2004 for these special rates.

Map & Directions
- From San Antonio International Airport:
  Take I-410 West to I-10 West; Exit Wurzbach to the Colonnade Office Complex; Omni Hotel is located on the right.

  From I-35:
  Exit 1604 West (Anderson Loop) to I-10 East to San Antonio; Exit Wurzbach, cross under I-10 in turn-around lane; Omni Hotel will be on the right.

Convention Highlights
- Conversations with Dave Wanser, DSHS Deputy Commissioner; Joe Vesowate, DSHS Assistant Commissioner; and Bill Campbell, TDMHMR Commissioner
- Conversations with Representatives John Davis and Carlos Uresti
- George Parnham, Andrea Yates’ attorney will be speaking.
- Book Signing: “The Suicide Lawyers,” a look at suicide through the eyes of two Dallas attorneys.

Convention Speakers
- Special Remarks by The Honorable Carlos Uresti, Chair, House Human Services Committee
- Plenary Speaker: Commissioner Eduardo Sanchez, Department of State Health Services

Schedule of Events
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14
  3:00 pm – 6:00 pm Registration
  Meet & Greet
  Exhibit Setup

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15
  7:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration/Exhibits
  Continental Breakfast
  Opening Session
  Break
  Breakout Sessions
  Keynote Luncheon
  Breakout Sessions
  Break
  Breakout Sessions
  Reception

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16
  7:00 am – Noon Registration/Exhibits
  Continental Breakfast
  Voting
  Regional Caucuses
  Break
  Breakout Sessions
  Closing Session
  Board Meeting

- CEUs will be available for LPCs and LMSWs
- Many sessions available in Spanish
- Interpreters available

Make your hotel reservations now! Rooms are limited and going fast.
Shaping NAMI Texas’ Future: Meet the Candidates

PRESIDENT
Linda Groom

Linda Groom is the current NAMI Texas President. Her involvement began after being a co-recipient of NAMI Tarrant County’s Community Service Award. This award was in recognition of her dedication to consumers and families in her day-to-day work as property manager. Since 1993, Linda has held positions on the NAMI Tarrant County Board, beginning with Board Member-at-large, Vice-President and President. She serves on various committees in Tarrant County, Paradise Center Resource Board, Mental Health Advisory Committee for JPS Health Network, and Death Review Committee for MHMRTC.

Linda is a Journey of Hope teacher and co-support group facilitator. She works on various projects throughout the year. Linda says her favorite is Celebration of Champions as it recognizes the true champions in the battle against mental illness. She is a family member and is consistent that support and involvement of consumers must always be a priority in the organization. If elected President, Linda would like to see additional support from the state level for all local affiliates, providing resources that would enhance their abilities to become more self-sufficient.

SECRETARY
Stephanie Contreras

My name is Stephanie Contreras. I am thrilled to be considered for the position of secretary to the NAMI Texas Board of Directors. If elected, I will do the best I possibly can. I have been privileged to be a student of mental health for over nine years. The oldest of my four children was diagnosed with schizophrenia in 1994. When my children were diagnosed with asthma, I studied every book I could find and attended support groups. Therefore, when my son received a diagnosis of mental illness, I did the same thing. His life has been unpleasantly changed because he's still unstable, but my life has changed for the better. Meeting the wonderful people I've learned to love and respect within our NAMI family has turned my life around.

I cannot imagine life without NAMI. I've been privileged to teach Visions for Tomorrow, Partnership, Journey of Hope, Family-to-Family and the Professional courses, as well as facilitate support groups. The members of Region Nine were kind enough to elect me to the State Board of Directors two years ago. The members of the board were outstandingly gracious in electing me as the Second Vice President twice. I've been thrilled to serve on the Public Policy and Educational Committees during these two years. Each time the board has met or I've attended seminar/committee meetings, I've appreciated even more the hard working, compassionate heart of NAMI members. Our local NAMI South Texas Board has mirrored this same heart by their involvement, support and ability to be repeatedly stretched while maintaining a strong unity. NAMI members are surely the best people in Texas!

Learning, teaching, supporting, advocating and speaking about mental health have become my mission in life, but my daytime job is teaching. I've taught in Tennessee and Texas, private and public schools, kindergarten through college levels. I've been privileged to teach all subjects at the elementary level and Art, Choir, Band, Music Theory, Music Composition, English as a Second Language, Bible, and a Pastor’s Wife Course at the secondary/college level, in both the English and Spanish languages. I've been allowed to earn five certifications in Texas: Elementary General Education; Early Childhood; Bilingual; All Level Music and ESL. I am currently teaching in the public school system while serving as the Minister of Music and Organist at my church. But, neither my paid nor my NAMI work is my most important job.

Along with each of you parents, my most important job is my job as mother. Three of my children work or study while living successfully on their own. My oldest son continues to live with me or in the hospitals or in his condominium, as his health dictates. Currently he is in Maryland where he has the honor of participating in the National Institute of Mental Health’s Schizophrenia Research. Thanks to the assistance of the Lovelace Law Firm, I took him to Maryland and contributed to an outpatient genetic study before leaving him as an inpatient.

Our job of learning about this illness, which affects each of us, will continue until each person has achieved recovery. Until then, thank you for allowing me to serve in any manner I can.

Continued on next page
NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR
Roger Morin
Roger Morin has been an active member with NAMI since 1999. He is the stepfather of a daughter with bipolar disorder, a brother-in-law who was treated for schizophrenia and mistreated in the criminal justice system, and a granddaughter diagnosed with attention deficit disorder. The school district recommended incarceration for her instead of treatment. Working with the local mental health authority, I’ve witnessed many injustices that families and consumers have had to endure. I’ve also seen families and consumers who speak little to no English and their situation is even worse.

My passion is to break down barriers and promote services for everyone that suffers from a mental illness. Educating family members is the key to understanding their loved one’s illness and learning to advocate and break down barriers so our loved ones can receive services. More than ever NAMI is needed to lead the way to educate our legislature and other key decision-makers across the state to stop criminalizing the mentally ill and provide appropriate treatment. Our loved ones and families should be treated with dignity and respect.

I’m proud to be a NAMI Texas Board Member and passionate about promoting better services for our loved ones.

Why should you bother to attend a caucus at the convention? Isn’t that some sort of political meeting? And you’re not interested in politics. Well, there is a good reason! The caucus for your region of Texas is presently where the board members for the NAMI Texas Board of Directors are “selected.” All of the regions except for one will be selecting representatives for the BOD for NAMI Texas this year. It’s important, however, to select someone who will represent the whole interests of NAMI Texas and not just to represent your part of the state.

But there is actually a better way to elect members of the Board of Directors for NAMI Texas...to have candidates on a ballot that everyone can choose to vote for. And, wouldn’t it be wonderful if you were able to vote for these candidates at home even if you are not able to attend the annual convention? This will be possible if you take the time this year to vote “YES” for the proposed revision of the Bylaws.

Voting will take place during the NAMI Texas Convention, Saturday, October 16, from 8:00 a.m. until noon. An Election Desk will be set up in the foyer near the registration area. Election Committee people will be serving at this desk until all the elections are completed. The regional and consumer caucuses will be held on the same day in various rooms from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
We really enjoyed the walk and were amazed at the number of people participating. It sure helped us to realize that we aren’t the only ones struggling with these dreadful illnesses. Even if the weather had been bad we would still have enjoyed it. My husband thought it was awesome that Joe Lovelace was handing out water.

Sandy & Jeff Hickox, NAMI Tarrant County
We had a great time at the walk. We met some of the staff from the Menninger Clinic in Houston. They had a large group present and the best T-shirt design! I tried to buy the T-shirts off their backs so that I could give them to my parents. Both my mom and dad were going to participate in the NAMI Walks in Hartford, CT the following weekend so I thought it would be nice for them to already have the T-shirts. They were reluctant to give them up, but after walking with them for 3 miles, we got to know them a bit and they did give us two T-shirts. We mailed them to my parents and they wore them in the Hartford Walk the following weekend.

My mother has been active in NAMI since my brother was first diagnosed with mental illness in 1994. The Austin Walk on May 15th marked her 60th birthday and she was very appreciative to receive these T-shirts that the folks from Menninger were kind enough to give us.

Dave and Christine Dixon
Crisis Intervention Training Added to Basic Peace Officer Curriculum Course

By Susan Brundage, TCLEOSE Curriculum Division

Law enforcement is society’s first line of defense against a wide variety of crime, criminals and community issues. One of the basic functions of law enforcement is to respond to crisis. Crisis can range anywhere from a vehicle accident to family disturbance to a person who is emotionally disturbed or mentally ill. The increases in drug and alcohol abuse combined with de-institutionalization of the mentally ill have all been factors in the rise of crisis escalation leading to the possibility of injury to the public and law enforcement personnel.

These are not new issues in law enforcement. Law enforcement response to individuals in serious mental health crisis has been problematic for many years. In the last five years, Texas State Hospitals have handled over 80,000 involuntary commitments and over 9,000 voluntary commitments. Under the Texas Mental Health Code, only peace officers have the authority to take a mentally ill person into custody against their will for an emergency evaluation. Crisis Intervention is by necessity a basic duty for law enforcement officers.

In the Commission’s latest Needs Assessment conducted for Texas basic peace officer functions, 285 core tasks were identified. Of the core tasks, 176 or 62%, have a direct potential to require crisis intervention on the part of the officer. Of the 181 non-core tasks identified for Peace Officers, 60, or 33% have a direct potential to require the possibility of the usage of crisis intervention techniques. The members of the Basic Peace Officer Curriculum (BPOC) committee recognized this need and recommended a basic knowledge and understanding of CIT be added to the BPOC.

At the March 2004 Commission meeting, a proposal developed by the Basic Peace Officer Curriculum Committee and supported by the Commission’s Advisory Committee, was presented to the Commissioners for adoption for 16 hours of Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to be added to the Basic Peace Officer Curriculum course. The proposal was adopted by the Commissioners and will become effective January 1, 2005.

As with all change there was some opposition to this endeavor. Out of this opposition a survey was created to poll all law enforcement administrators and training academies to determine the prevailing attitude for inclusion of the CIT training into the basic academy. The results of this poll proved to strengthen the adoption of the CIT training. Of the 2621 surveys mailed, 1126 responses (90%) were returned reflecting a positive response. Only 113 (10%) responses were against inclusion of the CIT training in the basic curriculum.

To further strengthen this transition, a committee of subject matter experts led by discipline chair and Houston Police Officer, Frank Webb, has developed a train the trainer course to be conducted during August and September in Austin and Houston respectively, which will assist academy instructors in developing new lesson plans for their recruit training.

The goal of Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) is to solve an immediate crisis, whatever its cause, by returning a person to a pre-crisis level of functioning, defuse emotions, establish communications, and build trust and rapport. There can be no question that law enforcement deals with crisis each and every day in dealing with the public.

Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) is a certification exam for peace officers and jailers in the state of Texas.
Mi conexión con NAMI comenzó en 1989 en Houston, Texas. Durante este tiempo mi hija estaba bastante enferma. Ya no podíamos más con la carga y los crisis de ella, que tiene el diagnóstico de Esquizofrenia. Hemos luchado con todo esto por muchos años. Mi hija ha estado enferma desde chica así que hemos pasado por muchos crisis. Notamos su enfermedad de 13 años pero no sabíamos qué estaba pasando. Gracias a Dios que ella ha estado en recuperación desde 1996. Hoy tiene 38 años. Vive sola en su apartamento. Paga sus cuentas, y trabaja de voluntaria un día de cada semana en un hospital. Esto no quiere decir que no depende en nosotros para una cosas, pero es muy independiente y responsable por su vida. Por favor créanlo cuando digo que “sí hay esperanza.”

La familia de NAMI me ayudó con el apoyo, educación y abochar. En NAMI encontré gente que entendían de enfermedades mental. Encontré gente que no se reían del comportamiento de mi hija. Gente que nos apoyaron en las ocasiones cuando nosotros ya no sabíamos qué hacer o pensar. Esta gente de NAMI habían pasado por los mismos trastornos y sienten las mismas emociones que sentimos con estas enfermedades tan espantosas. En NAMI encontré grupos de apoyo donde podíamos hablar de cosas que pasan diariamente que ni mi misma familia ni mis amigas podían comprender. Con tanto apoyo e información de NAMI ya no me siento sola.

Una de las cosas en particular que me interesó mucho fue la educación de NAMI. Siempre buscaba recursos para informarme de enfermedades mentales. Un día me llegó un boletín de Houston NAMI. Comenzaban clases de educación de enfermedades mentales esa misma noche. Cuando le llamé a la maestra de este programa me dijo que habían tenido una cancelación y quedaba un espacio. Después de tantas oraciones para conseguir la ayuda de Dios esto me aseguró que Dios tan poderoso me había mandado la gente de NAMI a mi lado. Esto por cierto me cambió completamente mi vida. Me impresionó tanto este programa De Familia A Familia que inmediatamente Comencé a hablar de esto con gente de NAMI y mi familia. Después de haber tomado las 12 clases me involucré seriamente en NAMI. Tomé el entrenamiento para ser maestra. En 1995 NAMI Tejas me ofreció trabajo de Coordinadora de Educación. En esta posición comencé a notar que no había materiales en Español. Enonces NAMI Nacional y la Doctora Burland, autora del programa, y todos nosotros de NAMI Tejas comenzamos a pensar que siempre la gente Latina/Hispana/Mejicana no podía beneficiar de la educación que ofrecía NAMI y NAMI Tejas, porque los materiales no estaban escritos en español. Esto ya está cambiando. Hoy en día casi todos los programas patrocinados por NAMI están escritos en español.

Una cosa que quisiera decirles en este artículo es esto. No esperen que alguien les ofrezca NAMI. Tomen el primer paso. Ustedes también arrímense y busquen a NAMI en sus áreas. Si ustedes quieren ayuda para sí mismos y sus ser queridos, necesitan a NAMI. Realmente, si no fuera por NAMI nosotros todavía estaríamos luchando con los trastornos traumáticos y las vidas de nuestra familia no tendría ninguna calidad. Les prometo que sus vidas también cambiarán por lo mejor.

Si necesitan información, grupos de apoyo y clases de educación llamen a: Norma García Bangs
Coordinadora de Educación, NAMI Texas
Teléfono: (512) 693-2000
Lupe Morin Receives NAMI Multicultural Outreach Award

On September 11, 2004 during NAMI’s 25th Anniversary Convention in Washington, DC, Lupe Morin, President of NAMI San Antonio, will receive the NAMI National Multicultural Outreach Award. This award is given in recognition of exemplary efforts to ensure that ethnic and other minorities are a strong and vital part of the NAMI family.

Lupe’s work in San Antonio and throughout south Texas to reach out to Spanish-speaking consumers and families is exactly the kind of work that will help NAMI reach this goal.

The NAMI Board of Directors is particularly impressed with Lupe’s personal leadership skills and her extensive work in training others to lead support groups and classes in Spanish.

Our thanks to the hundreds of people that donated to our NAMI Texas Walks, including the MHMR Community Centers and the Texas Council for MHMR Community Centers.

Betty and Jerry Fulenwider to be Honored with Award

On November 12, 2004, Betty and Jerry Fulenwider will be awarded the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians (TSPP) Special Service Award during their annual meeting at the Omni San Antonio. The Special Service Award was established by TSPP in 1986 to recognize persons who have rendered truly outstanding service to psychiatry or persons served by psychiatry in the community. Betty and Jerry were nominated by the Bexar County SPP, Dr. Joe Simpson, President.

Jerry serves on the Institutional Review Board at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSC-SA). He is also Chairman of the Advisory Board of the UTHSCSA Friends for Psychiatric Research.

The Fulenwiders are also very active in educating the media about the needs of persons with serious mental illness. They have worked closely with the San Antonio Express-News Editorial Board since 1998. Through this partnership, the newspaper published 11 editorials and 24 articles alone in 2003. Jerry and Betty also have developed a relationship with a local television station in San Antonio and several spots on mental illness have been televised in the 5 p.m. evening news slot.

NAMI Texas wishes to thank the following for their generous gifts:

- 3dASAP
- Abbott Laboratories
- Marie Alkis
- AstraZeneca
- ATCMHMR
- Charles & Norma Bangs
- Larry & Sharon Barnett
- Baylor Psychiatry Residents
- Bill & Judy Biggs
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Lawrence Brzozowski
- Capital Metro
- Bette Cox
- Leo DiValentino
- Richard & Barbara Duren
- Douglas Elbert
- Margaret Gardner
- Cliff Gay
- Kendall & Deanna Goodman
- Green Oaks
- Dean & Linda Groom
- Tom & Carolyn Hamilton
- Theodore & Joan Helfgott
- Diana Kern
- Ed & Sally Kuny
- KXAN36 Austin
- Lacky Foundation
- Danny & Jamie Laster
- Joe & Renee Lovelace
- Charles & Dorothy Mansfield
- Pat Marshall
- McDonalds
- Mendoza and Company
- Menninger Clinic
- New Milestones Foundation
- Ozarka Springs Water
- Walter Erich Penk
- Reddy Ice
- Rigamarole
- Safeway, Inc./Randalls
- Angela Roberts Sandefor
- Jacqueline Shannon
- Dr. & Mrs. Michael Stutesman
- Danette Tidwell
- Ray Kent Troutman
- United Way Capital Area
- Value Options
- Woodway Financial
- Yellowfin

Summer 2004 © NAMI TEXAS 17
South Texas Family Support Conference Presents El Sol Award

Sally and Ed Kuny of San Marcos, Texas were presented the El Sol Award at the Tenth Annual South Texas Family Support Conference on June 17, 2004.

The South Texas Family Support Conference (STFSC) was founded in 2001 as a volunteer-based 501(c)(3) organization that partners with TDMHMR to provide culturally sensitive mental health education to meet the needs of the South Texas region.

The STFSC is represented by the following stakeholders: Austin Travis County MHMR Center, Border Region MHMR Community Center, Camino Real MHMR Center, Coastal Plains Community MHMR Center, Corpus Christi State School, Gulf Bend MHMR Center, HAVEN, Hill Country MHMR Center, Kerrville State Hospital, MHMR of Nueces County, TDMHMR Central Office, Texas Health and Human Services, San Antonio State Hospital, and Tropical Texas Center for MHMR.

The STFSC celebrates a long tradition of presenting the El Sol Award. “El Sol”—“The Sun” was selected as the symbol for this award given the illuminating contributions being made by consumers and families throughout the South Texas Region. The first El Sol awards were presented at the fourth annual conference in Edinburg, Texas. The award is presented to a family member and to a consumer, who in some very special way illuminate the lives of others through their gift of giving, generosity, compassion, and dedication to the overall improvement of mental health services in South Texas. The award recognizes a consumer and a family member for individual efforts, achievements, and contributions. Committee members from each stakeholder submit annual nominations for this very special award. The STFSC is proud to present the El Sol Award as a symbol of our deepest appreciation to consumers/family members who are a positive force in the overall improvement of mental services in South Texas.

Jacqueline Shannon Receives MHMR Service Award

Jackie Shannon, a trustee of MHMR Services for the Concho Valley’s Board of Trustees, received the Mary Holdsworth Butt Award at the annual Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation’s (TDMHMR) Volunteer Conference in Austin on April 17, 2004.

TDMHMR gives two major awards each year to eligible volunteers of community centers, state schools and state hospitals across the state. These are the Star of TDMHMR Award and the Mary H. Butt Award. Recipients of these awards must demonstrate outstanding contributions to improving local and state programs for Texans with mental illness or mental retardation.

The Mary Holdsworth Butt Award, the most prestigious award for a volunteer, was designed as a tribute to Mrs. Butt of the HEB grocery chain. Recipients of this award are individuals who share her vision, compassion and willingness to act on behalf of individuals with mental illness or mental retardation.

Mrs. Shannon’s volunteer service began in 1987 when she and her husband helped organize the local National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) affiliate in San Angelo. She is currently in her fifth term as a trustee of MHMR Services for the Concho Valley Board of Trustees. She has used her involvement with MHMR and NAMI as a platform for positive change in the service delivery system in Texas.

Through her tireless efforts and dedicated leadership, she has earned the respect of families, consumers, Legislators and fellow advocates. As an avid advocate for individuals with a mental illness, Mrs. Shannon is recognized for her leadership at the local, state and national level.

Jackie Shannon with her sons, Brian (left) and Greg (right).
FREE Celebration Recovery
in support of the Mental Health Community

OCT 9th 4-10pm Plaza Saltillo

NAMI TEXAS INVITES YOU to the 3rd Annual Celebration Recovery! Come by our Booth!

RAFFLE GAMES Art Show Fun Booths great FOOD

SPECIAL Music Guests To be Announced

LIVE MUSIC

JOIN US this party will change your life

Ruthie Foster with Cyd Cassone @ 7pm
details? http://austin.nami.org

Community Organizations supporting and participating:
3dASAP, AstraZeneca, ATCHMHR, Austin Area Mental Health Consumers, Inc., Austin Child Guidance Center, Bristol Myers Squibb, Depression and Bipolar Support Association, Imagine Art, Irwin Foundation, LifeWorks, Mary Lee Foundation, NAMI Austin, NAMI Texas, SafePlace, Samaritan Center for Counseling & Pastoral Care, Seton/Shoal Creek, SIMS Foundation, Texas Mental Health Consumers.
NAMI TEXAS CONVENTION 2004

Delivering on the Promise

October 14 - 16, 2004

Omni San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas

NAMI Texas will “Deliver on the Promise” of Recovery at the first convention in Texas to spotlight the new and exciting changes in our Mental Health System, specifically disease management and our new state agency, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

To find a NAMI Texas affiliate in your area, call 1-800-633-3760 or visit www.namitexas.org