Congratulations to Our 2018 Mental Health Heroes!

Be part of recognizing these tireless, fearless and resilient honorees from across the state at the annual NAMI Texas Awards Celebration on Friday, October 26th in Austin. Get inspired! Get your ticket!

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, Charley H. Shannon Advocate for Justice Award (NAMI Texas)
The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services is in charge of health legislation and oversees most mental health bills in the legislature. They have led major reforms to the mental health system in Texas, shepherding in initiatives supported by NAMI Texas. For example, they sponsored the bill that made peer services a Medicaid benefit. They also worked on a bill that expedited licensing for out-of-state psychiatrists. We are honored to work with them.

Dr. Mahesh Dave, Mental Health Professional of the Year (NAMI Brazos Valley)
Dr. Dave is an outspoken advocate for and supporter of people with a mental health condition. A believer in peer education and support, Dr. Dave refers patients to NAMI resources for continued mental health recovery. “I approach my patients as a whole being rather than a set of symptoms only,” Dr. Dave says. “My treatments help my patient re-establish the harmony of body-mind-soul.” For many of his patients, Dr. Dave is more than just a doctor prescribing and adjusting meds, he’s a friend.”

“I approach my patients as a whole being rather than a set of symptoms only,” says Dr. Dave.
Keri Blakinger, Betty Fulenwider Media Award (NAMI Greater Houston)
Keri has emerged as an outstanding Houston Chronicle reporter on mental health and criminal justice. Her coverage of a telepsychiatry pilot program launched by the Sheriff’s office positively portrays the criminal justice system’s efforts to aid people with mental health conditions.

Andrew Horner, Volunteer of the Year (NAMI Greater Corpus Christi)
Since joining the NAMI Texas board of directors in 2017, Andrew has been a dedicated participant in meetings and events, willing to go wherever needed as a state level trainer. He actively promoted NAMI Texas’s work at the 2018 NAMI convention and yet remains active in his local Affiliate, serving on the leadership team of NAMI Greater Corpus Christi, where he is leading strategic planning. Horner is a financial donor to both NAMI Greater Corpus Christi and NAMI Texas, chairing the NAMI Texas development committee, where he actively seeks support from fellow board members.

Valerie Milburn, Mark Korenek Consumer Quality of Life Award (NAMI Austin)
Valerie enthusiastically commits her time to reducing the stigma of mental illness through powerfully sharing her story of recovery to educate and support peers and the community. Her role as a lead presenter in the “Ending the Silence” program has touched hundreds of teens. In evaluations, her story is consistently noted as the most poignant and impactful aspect of the training. Valerie fearlessly shows the world what recovery means by speaking out and advocating for the rights of people diagnosed with mental illness.

Doug Beach, Jackie Shannon Enduring Volunteer Award (NAMI San Antonio)
As President of NAMI San Antonio, Doug leads through his experience in business, as a person of faith, and as a caregiver. Chair of the NAMI FaithNet Advisory Group, he is also a NAMI Family-to-Family instructor and leads a Family Grace faith-based support group for families impacted by mental illness. Doug serves on local mental health advisory councils and committees, including the San Antonio State Hospital Redesign. He also provides testimony to the state legislature. Most notably, Doug leads the annual Pathways to Hope conference which draws nearly 1,000 participants from faith groups and congregations.
Carolyn Hamilton, Dedication to the Cause Award (NAMI Greater Houston)
Carolyn Hamilton has led the NAMI Greater Houston organization through many changes over the past 26 years. She is a tireless mental health advocate, has served in various leadership roles such as Board President, and is currently serving as the membership chair. She and her husband Tom have annually awarded scholarships to peers who want to attend the NAMI Texas Annual Conference, but would otherwise be unable to do so. Carolyn was the recipient of the 2009 Jackie Shannon Enduring Volunteer Award.

Sandra Martinez, Above and Beyond Award (NAMI Texas)
Sandra's official title at Methodist Healthcare Ministries is Community Impact & Advocacy Strategist Manager. To those who work for NAMI Texas, NAMI Austin, NAMI San Antonio, NAMI Greater Corpus Christi, NAMI Laredo, NAMI Rio Grande Valley, and NAMI Kerrville, Sandra is champion for the mission and vision of NAMI. Sandra is the go-to person for the collaborative grant that funds NAMI Texas and the above Affiliates to increase NAMI programming, elevate awareness of mental health conditions, engage communities in the grassroots work we do, and fight stigma. Her advocacy for our work is truly making a difference in the communities in her service area.

Get Informed and Inspired at the Best NAMI Texas Conference Ever
Everything you love and expect from NAMI is part of the NAMI Texas conference experience, taking place on October 26-27, 2018, in Austin:

- **Education** - Hear from experts on trauma, communication, resilience, young adults, healing through writing, and more!
- **Support** - Share special NAMI connections in a stigma-free space.
- **Advocacy** - Learn about the 2019 policy platform.

Register now!
**Sponsor and Exhibitor Deadline is October 1st!**

**Sponsor:** Highlight your company’s commitment to mental health care and recovery and align your brand with the only statewide organization that empowers people with lived experience.

**Exhibit:** Showcase your products, services and publications to families, consumers, caregivers and health care professionals who are seeking to keep abreast of new developments in the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness.

[Learn about sponsorship opportunities and being an exhibitor!](#)
2018 Exhibitors

- Center for Cognition and Recovery
- CCS Correct Care Solutions
- NEA BPD
- ROSEHILL
- SPED Texas
- The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Family Endeavors, Inc.
- TIEMH Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health
- Menninger
- Texas Clubhouse Coalition