

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS, MERCED COUNTY

Membership Application Form

Complete the form below and mail it to: NAMI Merced 827 W. 20th Street, Merced, CA 95340

Name: _____
Address: _____
Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____

Annual Membership

- Consumer \$15
 Family or Individual \$35
 NO Membership, Newsletter Only
 I am interested in volunteering.

Did You Know?

- The causes of brain diseases/disorders are not thoroughly understood, but what is known is that these are serious illnesses with neurobiological, bio-chemical, genetic and perhaps viral components. Brain imaging techniques have shown conclusive proof that these illnesses have a physical basis.
- Of the three most common brain diseases/disorders, the vast majority suffer from major depression, while about one out of every 100 of the total population of the United States suffer from schizophrenia; and another one out of every 100 suffer from bipolar depression.
- Many thousands of other people suffer from other serious disorders such as obsessive-compulsive disorder, panic disorder, and schizo-affective disorder.
- Nearly every family in the United States is affected by mental illness.
- Approximately 25% of all hospital beds are occupied by people who have been diagnosed with schizophrenia.
- Schizophrenia predominantly strikes a person between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five.
- Approximately two million individuals who have a diagnosed psychiatric disability are living as out-patients in the community, or go untreated.
- It is estimated that 40% of the homeless population are afflicted with a serious brain disorder.

nami MERCED COUNTY



Merced County National Alliance on Mental Illness

*A self-help support and advocacy group
for consumers, families and friends
of persons afflicted with
serious neuro-biological disease/disorders.*

NAMI Merced County
827 West 20th Street
Merced, CA 95340
209-385-5314



NAMI - MERCED COUNTY

We are an organization of relatives and friends of persons with serious brain diseases/disorders, i.e., mental illnesses. We are an independent, all volunteer association, without ties to government or other agencies. We are affiliated with the California and National Alliances on Mental Illness.

OUR PURPOSE

TO PROVIDE group support for families, sharing experiences and knowledge of the mental health care system.

TO EDUCATE ourselves and others about mental illness.

TO ADVOCATE for better treatment of the mentally ill.

TO ENCOURAGE active involvement of family members in the operation of the mental health system.

TO SUPPORT legislative efforts that address the needs of the mentally ill and their families.

OUR GOALS

Through our organization of family members and friends, we advocate:

EXCELLENCE in patient care;

AFFORDABLE quality housing and services;

VOCATIONAL training and job placement; and

RESEARCH into the causes and treatment of brain diseases/disorders.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

NAMI Merced County publishes a quarterly newsletter. It's purpose is to keep members, health care providers, elected officials, and the general public informed about local issues and the latest developments in research, care, treatments, and legislative matters affecting people with mental illnesses.

Members are actively involved in community groups, committees and task forces that address the problems of the mentally ill. Members are encouraged to write to their legislators on issues affecting the mentally ill.

Our resource center has books, audio/video tapes and other materials available for loan at no cost.

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

The NAMI Board of Directors meeting is held monthly. The public is invited.

Family support group meets the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at Challenged FRC, 827 West 20th Street in Merced.

The Mood Disorders Support Group is affiliated with DBSA (Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance). They meet the first and third Thursdays of the month at Mercy Medical Center Community Campus, 301 E. 15th Street, Cafe B, in Merced from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. The group's purpose is to provide support, education and advocacy. It focuses on self-help, is safe and accepting and is completely confidential. For more information call 388-1582.

If you would like more information or to become a member please contact

**NAMI Merced County
209-385-5314**

*"We are all about families,
who share and care."*