

By the time you read this newsletter we will have completed our Annual Gathering of members and friends.

NAMI Wayne and Holmes Counties' Annual Gathering took place on the evening of August 22, 2019 at the First Presbyterian Church in Wooster, Ohio. The theme for the evening was **"Find Help. Find Hope. Find NAMI."** 178 guests were in attendance, including the dedicated members of the Board of Directors, the general membership, CIT Advisory Council members, Family to Family teachers, MOCA House Program participants, friends, family, and community members.

Other guests included representatives from the Mental Health and Recovery Board, Anazao Community Partners, Catholic Charities, Christian Children's Home of Ohio/ Encompass, One-Eighty, SpringHaven, The Counseling Center, the Wayne County Commissioners. We also were glad to have Dustin McKee from NAMI Ohio, Ron Rett from NAMI Summit County and Thom Craig and Penny Frese from Peg's Foundation join us.

Many thanks are in order for the night. Chalow Kearney made and donated the beautiful center pieces that graced the tables. It has never been more beautiful! Thanks also Carolyn Freelon for the nice graphic art in creating the place mat and program, Becky Cox for the wonderful harp music, Mrs. Yoder's Kitchen for the great meal, and the "Country Girls" who donate their time to serve and help clean-up. Thank you so much!

In addition, thanks to the great staff here at NAMI for the hard work in putting this event together. It is really a team effort.

Loree Vick was the speaker. She is an award-winning journalist and a mental health advocate that lost her husband to suicide in 2014.



We appreciate her willingness to speak on this topic and for sharing her personal story of recovery. Giving others hope for recovery.

We were delighted to again honor those folks who were chosen for our 2019 Awards. NAMI is so grateful for all that each awardee does for the organization.



Mr. Steve Cook was presented with the **MOCA House Ginger Handwerk Service Award** for his unwavering support and dedication to NAMI Wayne and Holmes Counties, MOCA House, and the MOCANs since 2011.

The **NAMI Community Service Award** went to

Connie Blacksten.

She has been instrumental in starting and our Walk for Wellness. Connie is the NAMI Family Education coordinator and is very dedicated to our Family to Family class and getting information and awareness of it out to the community. Thank you for all you do.



Officer Derek Miller of the Rittman Police Department was the recipient of **Wayne-Holmes 2019 CIT Officer of**

**the Year.** Officer Miller completed CIT training in 2016. His colleagues stated in the nomination that "Officer Miller has taken the initiative to provide information and teach officers how to diffuse situations in the appropriate manner. Officer Miller continues to set high goals for the department when dealing with mental health victims and is much deserving of this award."

All of our previous Officers of the Year, minus one, were present to receive the newly designed NAMI Wayne Holmes Officer of the Year pin.



It was a fantastic evening. Thanks to everyone who helped to make it a success!

## Family Education Course to Begin

NAMI's signature educational program: **Family to Family's** will begin on September 14<sup>th</sup> from 9-11:30 am at the NAMI offices located at 2525 Back Orrville Rd, Wooster. This 12-week class is FREE for persons who have a loved one with a mental illness, but registration is required. We are pleased to announce that we will be able to provide transportation to this class this fall. This class is coming up quick so please call Dawn to register at 330-264-1590.



We at NAMI and the Suicide Prevention Coalition want to remind each of us that Suicidal thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or background. In fact, suicide is often the result of an untreated mental health condition.

**World Suicide Prevention Day is Tuesday, September 10** is a time to remember those affected by suicide, to raise awareness, and to focus efforts on directing treatment to those who need it most.

There are local resources if you or someone you know is having suicidal thought. Call **911**, the local mental health Crisis Line **330-264-9029** or the national Suicide Prevention Lifeline at **800-273-8255**, or use the Crisis Text line by texting **4hope** to **741-741**.

NAMI's LOSS Team and PALS group supports those left behind as a result of a loved one dying by suicide. Call the office at 330-264-1590 for information on these programs.

**International Survivors of Suicide Day** on November 23<sup>rd</sup> this year. The PALS group will be hosted this event again this year look for more details in the November/December *NAMI Happenings* or call the office for information.



