



nAMI Illinois

National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI ILLINOIS AFFILIATES

- Barrington Area
- Champaign County
- Cook County North Suburban
- East St. Louis
- DeKalb, Kane So. & Kendall Counties
- DuPage County
- Elk Grove/Schaumburg
- Greater Chicago
- Greater Decatur
- Grundy County
- Hanover Township
- Jackson County
- Kankakee County
- Kane County
- Lake County
- Livingston/McLean Counties
- Macomb
- Madison County
- McHenry County
- Metro Suburban
- Metropolis-Southern Most Illinois
- Morgan/Scott Counties
- Mount Vernon
- Northern Illinois
- North Central Illinois
- Northwestern Memorial
- Northwest Suburban
- Quincy
- Rock Island/Mercer Counties
- Sauk Valley
- Southeastern Illinois
- Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- South Suburbs of Chicago
- Southwest
- Springfield
- Stark County
- Tri-County
- University of Illinois Champaign
- Vermillion County
- Will County

October 5, 2012

Dear NAMI Illinois 2012 Illinois Heroes Award Winners,

Congratulations! On behalf of NAMI Illinois I am delighted to be the first to congratulate you on what we consider to be a very prestigious award.

This origins of this award are based on a program developed by Lilly USA to work in partnership with advocates and providers to recognize individuals and organizations who work in communities to make life better for individuals and families living with mental illnesses. NAMI Illinois was the lead sponsor for many years; the program was commonly known as Heroes In the Fight.

This year we were again approached by Lilly USA representatives who know the hardships that Illinois has had over the past several years. We jumped at the opportunity to renew these awards! Although we could not formally use the name "Heroes In the Fight", please know that's what you are to us! You are the folks who work tirelessly to educate, to serve, and to make life better and a bit easier in a multitude of ways, for those who cope on a daily basis with severe and persistent mental illnesses.

Awards will be given at NAMI Illinois' Education Conference on October 20th during our 2012 Illinois Heroes Luncheon. The luncheon will be from noon – 2:00pm at the Hilton Lisle/Naperville Hotel, 3003 Corporate West Drive, Lisle, Illinois. We would certainly be honored by your presence!

Please accept our most sincere appreciation for the contributions you have made to so many, and our enthusiasm at continuing our journey together. We have announced this award through NAMI (see page 2); please feel free to share this information throughout your own networks.

If there's anything I can do, please contact me at: (217) 522-1403.

Congratulations and best wishes,

Lora Thomas
Executive Director



Proud Member of

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2012 Illinois Heroes Announcement...

NAMI Illinois is pleased to announce the names of each of the winners of NAMI Illinois' **2012 Illinois Heroes** program.

This program – in partnership with Lilly USA - recognizes those individuals and organizations who exemplify care, dedication and unflinching determination in their efforts to make life better for those individuals and families who are fighting severe and persistent mental illness. This year's nominations were exceptional. All who were nominated are deserving of recognition and an award, but hard decisions were called for in selecting the best of the best! These individuals and organizations stood out as they clearly integrate their hearts and minds with meaningful actions.

We are happy to introduce the NAMI Illinois' **2012 Illinois Heroes**:

2012 Legislator of the Year: Fred Crespo, Illinois State Representative, 44th District

2012 Advocates of the Year: The North/Northwest Suburban Task Force on Supportive Housing for Individuals with Mental Illness (The Housing Task Force)

2012 Friend of NAMI: Daveri Development Group, Larry Pusateri, Cullen Davis & Jessica Berzac, principals

Team Work / Innovation (two awards for 2012):

- **Thresholds, Wellness Management and Recovery Program**
- **Trilogy Behavioral Healthcare – Integrated Healthcare Program**

Psychiatrist / Mental Health Professional: Dr. John M. Davis, Professor of Psychiatry, University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center

Education / Katie Petray Excellence in Education: Tom Johnson / John FS Williams, Co-Facilitators, Illinois Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training Program

Journalist / Media – The John Rowley Excellence in Journalism Award: Bonnie Miller Rubin, Chicago Tribune

We'll share more about the extraordinary contributions and impact of these folks as we highlight them over the next couple of weeks; they will be recognized at the NAMI Illinois Educational Conference on October 20th in Lisle Illinois. We are grateful for the continued support of Lilly USA in being able to recognize and celebrate Heroes!

Please join us in congratulating – and thanking – each of the **2012 Illinois Heroes** for their selfless work that makes a difference in the lives of so many.