

July 12, 2011

Issue 2

By Eric Spencer, NAMI Georgia Executive Director

### **NAMI Georgia Board of Directors 2011-2012 Elections**

On May 21, 2011, the NAMI Georgia membership elected 8 members to the board of directors. Two candidates were incumbents: Patrice Harris of NAMI Atlanta/Auburn Ave. and Bill Kissel of NAMI Gwinnett. Six were new candidates: Yovancha Lewis Brown of NAMI Savannah, Dr. Jim DeGroot of NAMI Northside, Qwynne Galloway of NAMI DeKalb, Ashley Kilpatrick of NAMI Northside, Bonnie Moore of NAMI Rome, and Jewel Norman of NAMI Northside.

These board members bring a rich and diverse set of skills and backgrounds to the NAMI Georgia Board of Directors. At its first meeting after the election, the Board elected officers.



**Bill Kissel** is the new President of NAMI Georgia. Bill has spent 20 years working for the Georgia Department of Corrections, rising from an entry-level mental health professional to the director of health services. He now works as national director of mental health operations for a correctional health care provider called NaphCare. Those experiences make him uniquely qualified to steer NAMI Georgia toward its goal of reducing the number of people with mental illness in Georgia's jails and prisons. NAMI supports people with mental illness and engages in public education.

*Please welcome the 2011-2012 NAMI Georgia Board of Directors:*

Bill Kissel - President  
Matt Crouch - Vice president  
Jane Martin - Secretary  
Bill Burr - Treasurer  
Yovancha Lewis Brown  
Bill Csuk  
Alison Dawson

Dr. Jim DeGroot  
Qwynne Galloway  
Patrice Harris  
Ashley Kilpatrick  
Mimi Marlowe  
Barbara MacFarland  
Bonnie Moore

Jewel Norman  
Jane Osborn  
Charles Releford  
Bill Roberts  
Temple Sellers  
Valerie West

### **NAMI Georgia Hires a New Walk Manager**

The folks at NAMI National believe in NAMI Georgia. They envision a \$500k+ Walk in the near future. Their No. 1 recommendation: Hire a Walk Manager. NAMI Georgia made the decision to hire a Walk manager, who would be dedicated to the Walk. We reviewed many terrific candidates. The decision was not an easy one, but with the assistance of NAMI National Staff, **Bernita Smith** was chosen.

Bernita has brought an energy and passion to this position that has served her well in other grassroots campaigns and events. Her knowledge and connections with the Atlanta scene create opportunities for NAMI Georgia to take our Walk to the next level. Please join with me in welcoming the newest member of the NAMI Georgia Staff!

Bernita came in to the 2011 Walk season after it had already started. We had planned to have our Walk at Grant Park, but unfortunately, another group has used Grant park three years in a row on October 1, so we could not get it. Bernita burned the midnight oil to secure another suitable location for us.



### **The Metro Walk has a New Location! Candler Park, Atlanta, Georgia - October 1, 2011**

Bernita has also secured a wonderful location for the Metro Team Captains Kick off Luncheon. Everyone should look forward to enjoying a fine meal at the Trolley Barn in Atlanta. We look forward to working and walking with you this year!

### **NAMI Walk 2011 Team Captains Kick-Off Luncheon Dates**

Atlanta Metro: Thursday, July 28    Waycross: Friday, July 29

*Coming up Next Issue: Standards of Excellence - Program Tune-ups  
Georgia at the National Convention - CARF recognizes NAMI Programs at VA*