

Rep. Jane Kitchel
Rep. Kitty Toll

Address: Name of House/Senate Representatives

My name is Stacy Thrall, I live in Danville, and I am a peer, a volunteer and a member of NAMI VT, the National Alliance On Mental Illness. NAMI VT is part of America's largest grassroots mental health organization; serving 5 affiliate regions across the state, to include the NEK.

NAMI Vermont receives a grant from the Vermont Department of Mental Health to provide free programs, resources, and training for individuals living with mental health challenges, family members, volunteers, and providers. They are asking for a 10% increase in funding. NAMI VT has not received an increase over the past 5 years, while their costs for the statewide Resource guide has doubled, and this is just one example.

As a professional thriving with mental illness, NAMI VT is my first resource. In addition, along with other volunteers, I give back by serving on their board and giving others inspiration by co-facilitating the In Our Own Program and co-teaching the Mental Illness and Recovery Workshop. These free programs give peers and their families a place to turn to, decrease hospitalization and promote self-management. Combined we reached 894 people FYI 2018.

Increasing funding by 10% would allow NAMI VT to expand their free programs to reach more students, a growing segment of our population adversely affected by mental illness at a time when life should be filled with wonder and curiosity.

It is imperative that we increase current funding by 10% for NAMI VT to continue to provide free programs, resources, and training.

Can I count on your support, for NAMI VT?

Thank you,

Stacy Thrall
Stacy Thrall

1/25/2019

Current Funding:
\$ 230,810

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