



National Alliance on Mental Illness

nami | Athens

Annual Report

2025



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Letter from our Board President

This has been a year of meaningful growth and renewed impact for NAMI Athens. Together, we deepened our commitment to supporting individuals and families impacted by mental illness while expanding our reach across the region. In 2025, for the first time, NAMI services extended beyond Athens County into Vinton and Hocking counties—an important step toward ensuring that more of our neighbors have access to compassionate mental health education, advocacy, and support.

To meet rising community needs, we also expanded our staffing and this added capacity has strengthened our ability to offer more support groups, community trainings, and outreach partnerships, and it has laid a solid foundation for continued sustainable growth.

None of this progress would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers, trainers, donors, and community partners. Your belief in our mission drives every accomplishment and every life touched.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for standing with us. We are proud of the year we have shared—and energized for all that lies ahead.

With gratitude,

Maria Modayil, PhD, CCC/SLP
NAMI Athens Board President



Meet Our Staff



Jordan Pepper
Director



Santana Adams
Office Administrator



Christian Benedetti
Americorps/ComCorps
Member 2025/2026

Jordan has been a resident of Athens for 26 years. She earned her undergraduate degree from Ohio University in 2004 and her Master's in Community Mental Health Counseling from Ohio University in 2011. Prior to joining NAMI, Jordan worked as a therapist in private practice and in local schools. She enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, and volunteering. For Jordan, the mission of NAMI is an important one, as she has a loved one living with mental illness.

Santana has been a resident of Athens for 3 years and is originally from Southwestern Virginia. She earned her undergraduate degree, a Sociology and Anthropology double major, from Eastern Kentucky University in 2022 and her Master's in Sociology from Ohio University in 2023. She enjoys hiking, spending time with her cats, and giving back to our community. NAMI Athens mission is important to Santana because she believes, when caring for those with mental illness, nothing is more important than community!

Christian is a recent graduate of Ohio University, where he earned a B.S. in Communications in May 2025. After living in Athens for 3 years, he joined the ComCorps program to strengthen his communications and outreach skills while giving back to the welcoming Athens community he has grown to love. Christian enjoys movies and music, petting his cats, and connecting with others. The mission of NAMI Athens resonates deeply with him, as he is passionate about destigmatizing conversations surrounding mental illness.



Desmond Addo
Master of Social Work
Practicum Student



Wren Hankins
Community Health
Worker

Desmond Addo is a Master of Social Work student at Ohio University completing his practicum with NAMI Athens. He is passionate about mental health, community engagement, and helping others find support and strength. With a background in political science, Desmond brings strong advocacy skills, a commitment to social justice, and a passion for systemic change to his work. Outside of his studies, he enjoys staying active, coaching soccer, and spending time outdoors.

Wren is a Community Health Worker (CHW) and is a resident of Athens County for the past 5 years. She joined NAMI Athens with the belief that our personal experiences can become bridges of understanding. Living with a mental illness and navigating the local disparities in care has shaped her commitment to helping people feel seen, heard and supported. She hopes to create spaces where people can find connection and compassion. When she's not working, she enjoys making art, hiking, and spending time with her family.



Meet Our Board



Maria Modayil
President



Michael Hunter
Board Member



Kelly Strickland
Vice-President



Brenda Kline
Board Member



Carlos Walker
Treasurer



Misty Mayle
Board Member



Adrienne Nagy
Past President



Reggie Morrow
Board Member



Briana Brown
Board Member



Anne Walker
Board Member



Andrea Frohne
Board Member

Vision

NAMI's vision is to improve the quality of life, and ensure dignity and respect for persons with mental illness.

Mission

To provide education, advocacy, and support for individuals with a mental illness and their loved ones. This mission is achieved through our goals to advocate at the county, state, and national levels for non-discriminatory access to quality healthcare, housing, education and employment for people with mental illness, through:

- Educating the public about mental illness.
- Eliminating the stigma around mental illness.
- Advocating for better mental healthcare.
- Supporting individuals with mental illness and their loved ones through their journey.

Educational Programming



NAMI Ending the Silence is a presentation tailored for middle and high school students, their parents and guardians, as well as school staff. Audiences learn about the signs and symptoms of mental health conditions, how to recognize the early warning signs, and the importance of acknowledging those warning signs. So far this school year, NAMI Athens delivered this program in six schools—including repeat sessions at three schools across two semesters—reaching a total of **3,167 students!**



This class designed for families, significant others, and friends of individuals with mental health conditions. This course has proven to enhance understanding of mental health conditions, improve coping skills, and empower participants to advocate for their loved ones. This year, we celebrated six graduates from our class!



NAMI Basics is a six-week course aimed at parents and other caregivers of children and adolescents living with mental illness. We conducted a course this fall at Memorial Health, where four parents received certification.

Speaker Series

NAMI Athens held five **Speaker Series** events this year, featuring mental health professionals, experienced family members, and individuals living with mental illness who share their personal stories with the community. This year's **Speaker Series** events were held at the Athens Library and the Ohio University Baker Center, attracting a total of 106 attendees.

Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) Training

Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) are community-based programs that bring together law enforcement, mental health professionals, advocates, people living with mental illness and their families, and other partners to improve community responses to people experiencing mental health crises.

This year is our 25 year anniversary! 13 officers were trained this year.

Hocking College Cadet Training

NAMI Athens provided a brief “pre-CIT” presentation to Criminology students at Hocking College. Many of these students plan to pursue careers in law enforcement, so this introduction gave them a working understanding of CIT training and may increase their likelihood of participating in the full weeklong course in the future.

Mental Health in the Workplace

NAMI Athens is collaborating with **Ohio University’s Healthy OHIO** initiative to support employee mental well-being through expanding awareness, fostering a culture of caring, and improving access to support. This program is funded through the generous donations of our supporters and the fundraising partnerships with local businesses.

Train the Trainer

In January 2025, NAMI hosted a training event in which 6 State Trainers traveled to Athens and were able to certify 12 new Connections group facilitators, 10 Family Support Group facilitators, and 5 NAMI Basics facilitators. These facilitators can lead groups in Athens and beyond!

Youth and Young Adult Programming

Ohio University NAMI On-Campus

Ohio University has a student-led **NAMI on Campus** group that focuses on raising mental health awareness and ending stigma through events and partnerships. You can find them on Instagram at [@ohiounami and follow NAMI Athens, Ohio on Facebook for meeting and event updates.](https://www.instagram.com/@ohiounami)



“How Do I Drive This Thing” - Navigating the Teenage Brain

CHW, Wren, hosted teen programs at the Nelsonville and Glouster Public Libraries designed for teens to discuss mental health topics. This program helps teens navigate life's roadblocks and develop skills for their mental health. The program was hosted in partnership with the Athens County Public Library system.



Advocacy

Every **Memorial Day**, NAMI Athens holds a ceremony to honor those buried at the Ridges Cemeteries, with speeches and military salutes. This moving tribute reminds us of our past and how far we have come in the treatment of those with mental illness.

The Ridges Nature Trail - In May, Rural Action's AmeriCorps program completed maintenance work on the Ridges Nature Trail, ensuring it is in good condition for hikes or walks. We are also excited to begin a partnership with local veterans ecotherapy group *Boots on the Trail* to support trail maintenance for this site!

NAMI Walks is an event to bust the stigma of mental illness and this year's walk was one to remember! Our second year as a fundraiser was a success and we raised \$20,506. We are grateful for the community support and excited to grow that support in the coming years.

The Tom Walker Impact Award recipients for 2025 are **Laura Caple** and **Anne Walker**. The Tom Walker Impact Award is presented to individuals for their outstanding mental health advocacy and support of NAMI's mission. Previous recipients included Jane Krason, Tom Walker, Steve Noftz and Betty Lowe.

Volunteer of the Year Award is presented to an individual who consistently shows up to support those in our community through volunteering their time and service. The inaugural recipient of the 2025 volunteer of the year award is **Tisha Springer**, who started volunteering for NAMI Athens during her service in COMCorps.



Support Groups

Family Support Group

NAMI Family Support Group provides a safe space for loved ones and caregivers of those who suffer from mental illness to come together and share experiences, provide and receive support. This group, led by trained NAMI volunteers, meets the first and third Thursday of every month and is open to anyone with a loved one living with a mental illness.

NAMI Connection

NAMI Connections is a support group for people with mental health conditions. We will be offering this support group through our Ohio University NAMI On-Campus and in McArthur (Vinton County) in 2026.

We hope to have more groups in this coming year.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!!!

NAMI Athens programming would not be possible without our amazing volunteers who dedicate their time and wisdom to help educate and support their peers, the families, and others experiencing mental health crisis. We recognize the following members who gave the gift of time generously.

Laura Caple
Tisha Springer
Scott Carson
Audrey Schustrich
Tessa Blakeley

Analyssa Torres
Rachel Lehn
Grace Kilcommons
Allison Case

Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position		
	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalent	74,506	33,265
Investments (CDs)	45,754	44,327
Accounts Receivable	18,000	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 138,260	\$ 77,593
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Credit Card	1,459	994
Accounts Payable		1,500
Equity		
Opening Balance Equity	65,969	65,969
Unrestricted (Retained Earnings)	9,129	30,853
Prior Period Adjustment	280	
Net Revenue	61,422	-21,724
Total Equity	\$ 136,801	\$ 75,099
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$138,260	\$ 77,593

Our commitment to financial transparency and long-term sustainability is demonstrated by a diversified revenue base, including grants, partnerships with local businesses, individual contributions, and community fundraising events. Generous support from the Athens County Foundation, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Joe Burrow Foundation, Macy's (through NAMI National), NAMI National, Rocky Community Fund, and Sisters Health Foundation further strengthened our financial position.

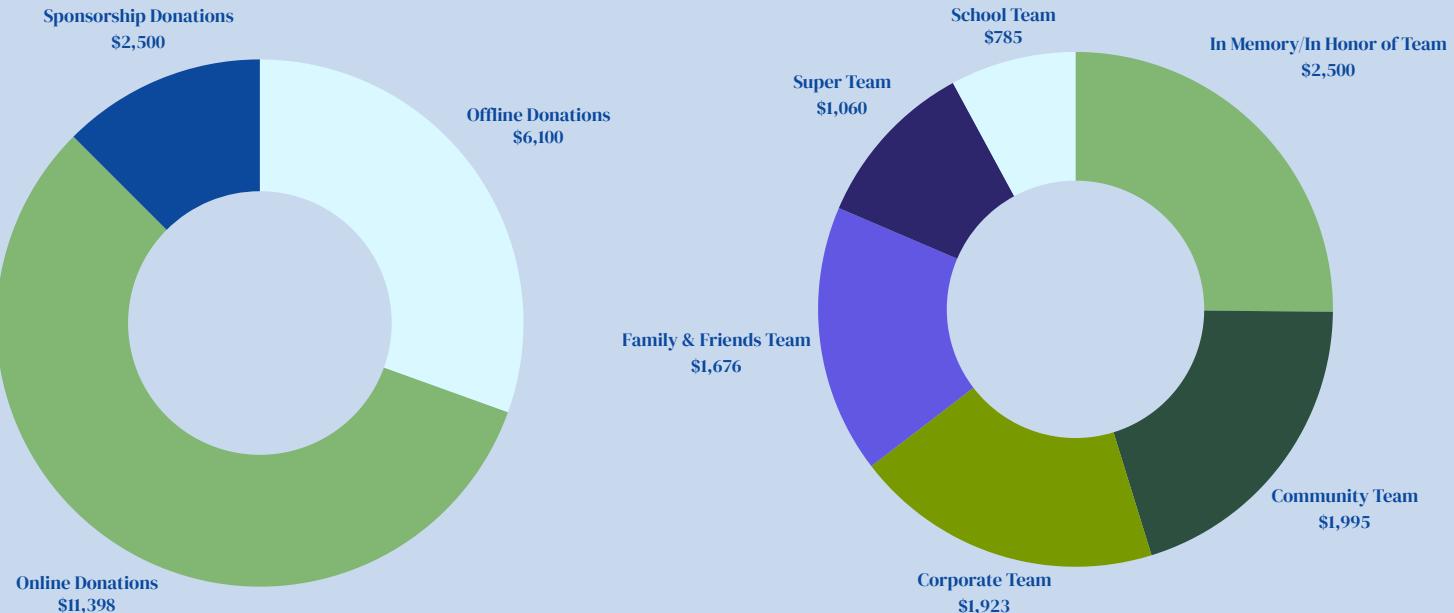
These collective efforts have fostered growth in membership, volunteer engagement, and community involvement, positioning NAMI Athens on a solid financial and operational foundation as we enter the 2026 fiscal year, despite ongoing economic uncertainties. For a comprehensive list of business supporters, please refer to pages 15 and 16.

Treasurer's Statement

In 2025, NAMI Athens substantially enhanced its regional presence across Athens, Hocking, and Vinton Counties by expanding programming, forming strategic partnerships, and implementing targeted outreach initiatives in underserved areas. This was made possible through crucial grant funding from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services via the Athens-Hocking-Vinton 317 Board, which facilitated staff expansion and the allocation of ongoing resources. Additional funding from NAMI Ohio supported the development of youth programs, support groups, and institutional outreach within local schools and Ohio University.

Statement of Activity		
	January - November 24 2025	
	2025	2024
Revenue		
Donations	48,796	32,780
Grants	158,753	27,232
Fiscal Agent Programs (ACSPC)		6,521
Earned Revenues (interest, membership dues)	1,720	987
Total Revenue	\$ 209,268	\$ 67,520
Expenditures		
Program Expenses	24,296	8,048
Salaries & Related Expenses	73,384	42,535
Other Professional Services	10,945	12,046
Fiscal Agent Programs (ACSPC)	1,041	5,893
Non-personnel Operating Expenses	17,130	9,020
Occupancy Expenses (Rent, Office Furniture)	15,081	9,000
Travel & Meetings	3,894	1,218
Miscellaneous (Insurance, Bank Fees)	2,075	1,484
Total Expenditures	\$ 147,847	\$ 89,244
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 61,422	-\$ 21,724

NAMIWalks: Walk the Walk Breakdown

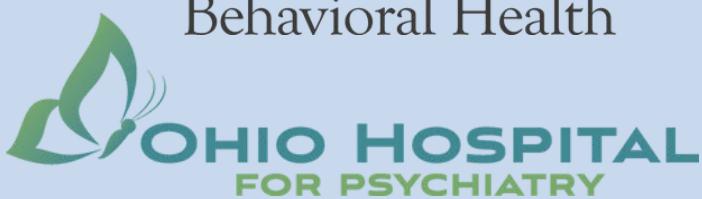
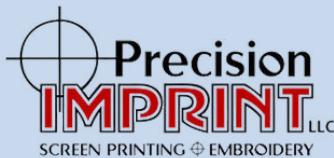


For over 20 years, NAMI Athens has held Walk the Walk, a public event to raise awareness of mental illness. In 2024, we decided to merge Walk the Walk with a successful fundraising model, NAMI Walks, that has been used to support national, state, and local affiliates.



Thanks to the generous contributions from dozens of individuals and local businesses, our 2nd Annual NAMI Walks: Walk the Walk Event raised 14,216 after expenses

Sponsors and Partner Organizations



Thank you to our 2025 Monthly Fundraising Partners!



BUFFALO
WILD
WINGS





Ways to Give



End of Year Giving: Make a 100% tax deductible donation to NAMI Athens before the end of the year!

Monthly contributions, endowment, and planned giving: You can support NAMI Athens through monthly contributions, either via your employer or directly. Recurring donations are incredibly impactful, providing a consistent flow of funds for our programs year-round. Additionally, including NAMI Athens in your estate plans can help ensure our support continues for many years. Contact us for more information!

Individual donations can be made through our website, www.namiathenohio.org/donate (or scan the QR code)



Volunteering: Can't give? That is okay, come volunteer! To see what opportunities we have available check out the QR code



Kroger Community Rewards Program: Kroger donates a small portion of all their sales to support non-profit organizations through this program. Register at www.kroger.com/communityrewards. Note that our organization name is NAMI Athens, and our non-profit organization (NPO) number is **QK770**.



Become a member of NAMI by signing up on my.nami.org/join-nami. Be sure to mention NAMI Athens as your local NAMI. Your membership helps ensure free programming.

Send a check to: We accept checks anytime! Checks can be made to NAMI Athens, 17 Blue Line Drive, Athens OH 45701.

Contact us



740.593.7424



info@namiathensohio.org



namiathensohio.org



17 Blue Line Dr., Athens, Ohio 45701



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Your feedback helps us improve our programs and reach more people who need support. **Thank you for taking a moment to share your perspective.**

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