

Conard House Joins NAMIWalks to Benefit Those Living With Mental Illness

Pioneer Nonprofit Bringing Self-Management Solutions to People With Chronic Mental Illness Sponsors Bay Area Fundraiser

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — June 5, 2008 — Conard House (www.conard.org), a nonprofit organization helping San Francisco residents self-manage chronic mental illness, joined NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, last Saturday, May 31st, for their annual NAMIWalks fundraiser, the Campaign for the Mind of America. Conard House attended with more than 70 volunteers -- including supportive housing residents, board members, family members and Conard House staff -- to complete the five-kilometer walk at Speedway Meadows in Golden Gate Park.

NAMIWalks is a signature NAMI event that draws thousands of concerned citizens every year who walk together in over sixty communities across the nation to raise money and awareness about mental illness. The concerted effort toward aiding those suffering from mental illness is a mission NAMIWalks and Conard House share.

Since 1960, Conard House has been on the cutting edge of serving the needs of adults living with chronic mental illness in San Francisco. With programs including supportive housing, residential treatment, and supportive employment, Conard House delivers community-based resources to help people self-manage mental illness. By providing personalized, reliable access to a variety of self-management resources, Conard House helps clients to navigate public systems of care, giving them both hope and the ability to take responsibility for a life defined more by aspirations than by illness.

"We are so gratified by our partnership with Conard House. Together we are shining a light on mental illness and reducing stigma," said Pam Fischer, NAMI-SF.

"We are always excited to be a part of NAMIWalks," said Richard Heasley, Conard House executive director, "and we esteem NAMI as an ally in our efforts to impact the lives of people who are in the grip of today's most invisible, under-treated and misunderstood health issue -- chronic mental illness."

About Conard House

Conard House, Inc. is a private, nonprofit organization, providing mental health services to residents of San Francisco. Founded upon core principles of self-empowerment, self-determination and the least restrictive, community-based living, Conard House opened its doors in 1960 as the first "halfway house" for adults no longer requiring hospitalization. Today it serves more than 1,900 people in a dozen locations. Support for its programs and services come from various city agencies, service fees from organizations, rent from residents, grants from foundations and gifts from donors. For more information about Conard House and its programs, please visit www.conard.org.

About NAMI

NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots organization for people with mental illness and their families. Founded in 1979, NAMI has affiliates in every state and in more than 1,100 local communities across the country. NAMI is dedicated to the eradication of mental illnesses and to the improvement of the quality of life for persons of all ages who are affected by mental illnesses. For more information, please see www.nami.org.

Media Contact:

Annette Shimada

Kickstart Consulting for Conard House

(650) 346 8990

www.kickstartconsulting.com