

Awareness Events Draw Attention Across Ohio

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On July 19th, at the ***Bringing Mental Illness out of the Shadows*** event in Cleveland, Republican policy leaders gathered to discuss the urgent need for bi-partisan mental health reform.

This event kicked off an **8-month statewide awareness campaign** with one goal: to get people talking about mental illness. The current state of our nation's mental health system leaves many adults and children without proper mental health care.

Throughout this campaign, NAMI Ohio affiliates will inspire, entertain, and, most importantly, raise awareness about the need to invest in mental health in Ohio and nationally.

For a list of upcoming events, visit the [Out of the Shadows Google Calendar](#).

The following includes details on four events of this exciting campaign. We hope you'll agree these events and others in this campaign demonstrate how communities can join together in support of those affected by mental illness.

NAMI Geauga County Organizes a "Green Out" for Mental Illness



September 23rd, Madison- NAMI Geauga county's Out of the Shadows event was held at the celebrated high school football game, Chardon versus Madison. Football Players wore green gloves and socks as cheerleaders wore green shoe laces, pom poms and hair ribbons.

The crowd showed up in their best green to bring awareness to mental illness and end the stigma. In addition, they displayed the Bringing Mental Illness Out of the Shadows logo with messages of hope and recovery.



NAMI Greater Cleveland Dons Green to Build Awareness



October 21st, Parma Heights- NAMI Greater Cleveland used a Northeast Ohio high school football rivalry as the setting for this awareness event. Players wore green socks during these much celebrated games to raise awareness about mental illness, just as Brandon Marshall did in 2013 in a dramatic display of solidarity with the mental health community.



NAMI Clark, Green and Madison Counties Tattoos Hope



October 22nd, Springfield- NAMI Clark, Green and Madison counties held a "tattoo rally" at a local tattoo shop. Participants received free "hope" or green ribbon tattoos in an effort to raise awareness. The turnout for this event was incredible, with a line wrapped around the block. At one point, the wait to receive a tattoo was 4 hours long! Participants didn't just receive tattoos; they enjoyed pizza and received NAMI Clark, Green and Madison literature.

From Executive Director Angela Dugger: "It was amazing to see so many people choosing our event to receive their first tattoo. The cause truly spoke deeply to them and helped aid them on their and their loved ones' recovery journey."



NAMI Lake County Uses Football Rivalry to Highlight Mental Illness



October 28th, Perry- This event highlighted one of Lake County's biggest football rivalries, Perry High School and Harvey High School. Football players dressed in green jerseys and socks and members of the crowd wore green ribbons and held green glow sticks to support those affected by mental illness.

The giant "Bring Mental Illness Out of the Shadows" banner was a nice touch!

