This year feels like our world is turned upside down.
At NAMI Chicago, we took a deep breath. We held on to what we know to be true, and recalibrated to answer the needs of our community.

We feel it, too.
We doubled down and flipped the script.

By March 18, we transitioned all support groups to virtual.

By April 1, our Helpline had more than doubled our call volume as people reached out to us for support, guidance and education.

By June 1, we raised more than $180,000 for our Helpline Assistance Fund, to support the increased mental health, shelter, food and basic needs of our community.

During the first three months of the stay at home order, we provided 875 nights of shelter and 189 food deliveries to those in need.

At NAMI Chicago, we took a deep breath. We held on to what we know to be true, and recalibrated to answer the needs of our community.
So much is shifting. In the past few months, we have seen a Chicago that has altered our perspectives. It has exposed the vulnerabilities in our city’s safety net and brought to light injustices, big and small.

We cannot talk about healing without talking about equity. As this year’s events unfolded all around us, NAMI Chicago looked inward as well. We published a new mission, vision and values statement. We made equity the core of our Recovery Model, which guides how we talk about wellness and healing in the community.

Demand remained high but we did not miss a beat. We paused and reflected that the wellness of our employees is essential for serving our community. We named a Chief Wellness Officer, and built out health advocacy and wellness programming for our team, offered free therapy for staff and revamped our health insurance — to ensure that we are investing as much in our team’s wellbeing as we are in those we serve.

From the Helpline to the front lines to online, we are mobilizing to heal and prioritizing mental health for our community.

To advocate, support, and show up for those who need us.

Mobilize with us at namichicago.org/annualreport.
Human connection looks a little different these days, but it remains the root of healing.

Lack of connection hurt all of us this year. You reached out to us, and we reached out to you. We created platforms for people to connect and share their experiences, using every means possible — going virtual for our awards dinner, NAMIWalks and education sessions. And with the renewed sense of connection, we began to heal.

For those who are not ready to talk, we are here for you at namichicago.org. Our new website has been visited 120,000 times this year. It’s a safe space where our community finds helpful tips for wellness, youth inspired content, resources for mental health and community needs, and so much more.

For many, the line between work and home has blurred. We have served 65 workplaces through mental health consultation and education this year, with an 800% increase in workplace training attendees compared to before the pandemic. We also released a workplace wellness toolkit in April, to help guide prioritization of mental health in organizations.

NAMI Chicago also partnered with community members and organizations to help people get back to work. We have added nine staff members this year, and our own employment program has grown to meet community needs. At more than 50 people strong, nearly every person on our team has lived experience, and we prioritize that leadership.

At the center of it all is equity. It is a part of everything we do — every conversation, and every step forward.

97% of people who attended a virtual support group this year said the experience was helpful and positive, and 96% said they would recommend our groups to others.
Anti-Racism Statement

NAMI Chicago's core values are trust, support, collaboration, and equity. Racism and structural inequities in our city and country have caused deep pain, loss, and trauma. As an organization, we acknowledge this, and as individuals, we experience and witness it.

NAMI Chicago vows to act and advocate. Apathy and silence are not our response. We understand that opposing racism is not the same as promoting inclusion. For our entire community, NAMI Chicago will be a vocal opponent of systemic racism and the inherent biases that allow it to continue. Guided by our values and the vision of a safe and well city, we are deeply committed to creating sustainable structures to not just fight racism but foster a truly equitable society.

We vow to amplify the voices and influence of those who have experienced racism and trauma and who are asking for resources to heal. We vow to keep learning and growing together and to always be listening. We vow to continue to be transparent with our community about our work and values. We commit to anti-racism in our hiring and organizational practices, partnerships, and advocacy priorities.

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Financials

July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Support and Revenue
- Grants and Program Revenue: $1,769,381
- Contributions: $1,097,142
- Fundraisers (net of direct costs): $400,653
- Membership Dues: $3,435
- Investment/Interest Income: $26,374
- Miscellaneous: $3,804

Total Support and Revenue: $3,300,789

Expenses
- Program Services: $2,206,016
- Support Services
  - Administrative: $339,559
  - Fundraising: $199,263
- Total Expenses: $2,744,838

Net Assets
- Net Assets Beginning of Year: $2,125,645
- Net Assets End of Year: $2,681,596
Board of Directors

Edmund Eisenberg, CPA, President
John F. Kennedy, Vice President
Brian Anderson, Treasurer
Alexa James, LCSW, Chief Executive Officer
Fred Friedman
Sabrina Guthrie
Theresa Hannon, CPA, CDFA
Laura Hearn
Colleen Kula Hopkins
Jennifer Koehler
Maya Menon
Lt. Jeff Murphy
Chief Kenton Rainey
Marcia Schumacher
Mike Schumacher
Dean Stork
Dr. Shastri Swaminathan

NAMI Chicago Staff

Alexa James, LCSW, Chief Executive Officer
Jennifer McGowan-Tomke, MPH, Chief Operating Officer
Kasey Franco, MA, Chief Education Officer
Ben Frank, MSW, Chief Wellness Officer
Jim Poole, MSW, Chief Integration Officer
Charlyn Anderson, Director of Human Resources
Rachel Bhagwat, MA, Director of Growth & Engagement
Ashley Warren, MHP, Director of Community Programs
Edlyn Alcedo, Operations Coordinator
Terry Bishop, Accountant
Rachel Blackman, Programs Assistant
Brittany Blackwood, MSW, Growth & Engagement Coordinator
Norma Castrejon, MSW, Helpline Specialist
Mydalia Cotto, CRSS, Recovery Support Provider
Eric Cowgill, CRSS, Recovery Support Provider
Luis Disotuar, MS, Bilingual Clinical Manager
Jessica Donada, BSW, Helpline Specialist
Ronisha Edwards-Elliott, MSW, Helpline Specialist
John Fountain III, MSW, Helpline Specialist
Betty Frazier, Support Specialist
Dimitra Gianes, Executive Assistant
Anthony Guerrero Short, MS, Resource Manager
Priscilla Herrera, Bilingual Helpline Specialist
Ashley James, Ambassador Program Coordinator
Courtney Johnson, LSW, Education Manager
J'Mal Jones, MSW, Clinical Manager
Andrew Kaufman, LSW, Recovery Manager
Carlyn LaGrone, MS, Resource Manager
Kelly Lewison, RN, Helpline Specialist
Abel Lumas, MS, CRSS, Recovery Support Provider
Lilliam Luna, LSW, Senior Bilingual Clinical Manager
Frederica Malone, MAAT, ATR-BC, LCPC, Clinical Coordinator
Sherrrie Martin, MSW, Outreach Worker
Allie Masterson, Training & Education Admin Assistant
Pooja Nagpal, CRSS, Recovery Support Provider
Tony Ohlhausen, Policy Manager
Sierra Petersen, MSW, Training Coordinator
Marta Pocurull-Stein, LSW, Helpline Specialist
Larry Quinn, Outreach Worker
Robyn Rabicke, Health Advocate
Claudette Reed, Helpline Specialist
Juan Pablo Rivera, Outreach Worker
David Vornholt, MPA, Development Manager
DaJuan Warren, Program Manager
Janelle Williams, MA, Clinical Manager
Michelle Williams, MA, CADC, Recovery Support Provider
Jessica Zaehringer, MA, LSW, Senior Clinical Manager

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namichicago.org/annualreport.