



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northern Arizona NAMI Walk comes to Buffalo Park

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is bringing its flagship awareness and fundraising campaign - ***The 2009 NAMI Walks for the Mind of America*** to Buffalo Park in Flagstaff. The 2-mile Walk will be held Saturday, October 10, 2009 at Buffalo Park in Flagstaff; registration begins at 9:30am and the Walk at 11:00am.

This is the first time this walk is being held in the Flagstaff area. Phoenix, Tempe and Tucson have held the events in the past and in 2008, St. Johns sponsored a local NAMI Walk. The Northern Arizona NAMI Walk is expected to draw participants from Flagstaff, Prescott, Cottonwood, Camp Verde, Lake Havasu, Kingman, Bullhead City, Page, Winslow, Holbrook, St. Johns, Springerville and Show Low. The goal of the NAMI Walk is to raise both money and awareness regarding the need for America to build a world-class treatment and recovery system for children and adults with mental illness.

Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA) is the Gold Sponsor of the Northern Arizona NAMI Walk along with Flagstaff Medical Center (Bronze Sponsor), and other Supporters: Carrie's Day Salon, Child & Family Support Services (CFSS), Counseling and Consulting Services/CPES, Mentally Ill Kids in Distress (MIKID), Mohave Mental Health Clinic (MMHC), The Guidance Center (TGC), and Yavapai Regional Medical Center. Kilometer Sponsors include: Chick Arnold & Pam Koestar, Roberta Howard, Mingus Center, Mingus Mountain Academy, and Sedona United Methodist Church.

NAMI Arizona works to advocate, support, and educate people with mental illness and their families. The programs and classes that are offered to the community are at no cost to participants. The proceeds from the **2009 WALK**, including money raised through corporate sponsorship, will be used by NAMI in the following ways:

- To provide support to persons with serious brain disorders and to their families
- To educate families and consumers
- To advocate for nondiscriminatory and equitable policies at the federal, state, and local level and in the private sector
- To advocate for improved opportunities for housing, rehabilitation, and meaningful jobs
- To support research into the causes, systems and treatments of brain disorders
- To support public education programs designed to eliminate the stigma surrounding severe mental illness

For Information about the **2009 Northern Arizona NAMI Walk** or **Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA)**, please contact Christina Mencuccini at (928) 556-2662/ (928) 380-4004 or christina.mencuccini@narbha.org.

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