

NAMI recognizes Mental Illness Awareness Week

Enterprise staff

September 30th, 2010

All are welcome to celebrate Mental Illness Awareness Week at a 5:30 p.m. rally Monday on the steps of the Yolo County Administration Building, 625 Court St. in Woodland.

Yolo County Supervisor Jim Provenza will address the rally and present NAMI-Yolo's awards for outstanding contributions by key individuals to the support of those who suffer from severe mental illness. Stuart Buchan will be recognized for his professional work, Leslie Carroll for her volunteerism and Caren Livingstone will receive the Consumer Award.

After the rally, attendees will gather for a potluck dinner in the building's atrium, followed by a candlelight vigil.

At noon Tuesday, a National Day of Prayer meeting is planned for mental illness recovery and understanding. This will take place in the chapel connected to the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, at Lincoln Avenue and College Street in Woodland. The Rev. Larry Love will conduct the service.

Mental Illness Awareness Week was established by Congress in 1990 in recognition of the National Alliance on Mental Illness and its efforts to raise awareness of mental health issues. Since then, mental health advocates across the country have joined together each year during the first week of October in a celebration of empowerment. The week's observance has become a tradition in Yolo County.

"Real recovery from mental illness requires community action, understanding and teamwork," a NAMI news release says. "Recovery is possible because of improved science, better community support and reduced stigma. But significant barriers still exist. Services are at risk, insurance can be insufficient, and stigma, though less today than when Mental Illness Awareness Week was founded, is still prevalent."

For more, visit <http://www.namiyolo.org> or call (530) 756-8181.