

Chronic Mental Illness Outreach: Education is the Key

by Erma Barber

Before a congregation can effectively respond to a need, it must understand the scope of the problem. This requires education and resources. Here are a few to get you started:

Michigan District Mental Illness Manual: To equip professional church workers and congregations with resources in their ministries to and with persons with serious mental illness, The Michigan District – LCMS Committee on Mental Illness has produced a resource manual “Mental Illness Manual.” It can be downloaded at www.michigandistrict.org/pdf/ministries/MentalIllnessManual.pdf. It is also on the District Convention Wrap-up CD being provided to each congregation. In addition, a disc or hard copy may be obtained from the District Office, 888.225.2111 or e-mail warren.paulson@michigandistrict.org.

Pathways to Promise is an interfaith technical assistance and resource center, which offers liturgical and educational materials, program models, and networking information to promote a caring ministry with people with mental illness and their families. These resources are used by people at all

levels of faith group structures from local congregations to regional and national staff.

5400 Arsenal St, St. Louis, MO 63139
Fax 314.877.6405 pathways@minh.edu
www.pathways2promise.org

Lutheran Network on Mental Illness/Brain Disorders (LNMI) serves all Lutheran Families – ELCA and LCMS with brochures and a quarterly newsletter. For LNMI brochures, call 800.638.3522 ext 2692. For a subscription to the LNMI quarterly newsletter, contact editor Jane Carlson, 4061 Brewster Dr., Westlake, OH 44145, or janeDDRIL@aol.com.

NAMI “the nation’s voice on mental illness” is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to improving the lives of persons living with serious mental illness and their families. Founded in 1979, NAMI has become the nation’s voice on mental illness, a national organization with 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 improve-



ment of the quality of life of all who are affected by these diseases. National NAMI Helpline: 800.950.6264 2170 Wilson Blvd., Suite 300, Arlington VA 22201. www.nami.org

NAMI Michigan at 921 N Washington, Lansing MI. 48906, 517.485.4049. namimichigan@acd.net. For a support group nearest you contact either the state or national office by phone or their web site (see above).

NARSAD: Mental Health Research provides funding and sponsors scientists doing brain research. Free educational materials are available on request. These include brochures on mental illness, fact sheets, and a quarterly newsletter. 60 Cutter Mill Road, Suite 404, Great Neck, NY 11021; www.narsad.org.

National Institutes of Mental Health: Government funded research. Brochures and fact sheets are available on request. National Institutes of Mental Health 866.615.6464 www.nimh.nih.gov.

Books: *Strength for His People* and *Life's Tough Questions* are two books to assist in the ministry for families of the mentally ill. They are published by Westcliff Press www.webtheology.com; westcliff@amaonline.com

Erma Barber is a member of the Michigan District Committee on Mental Illness, Founder of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Genesee County, and a past President of NAMI Michigan.

Additional Resources:

Lutheran Network on Mental Illness/Brain Disorders - www.elca.org/dcs/epr/disability/mentalillness.html

www.congregationalresources.org

Christian Council on Persons with Disabilities - www.ccpd.org

Finding Hope in Mental Illness Mennonite Media 800.999.3534

www.mentalhealthministries.net

National Mental Health Association - www.nmha.org

Search - National Consensus Statement on Mental Health Recovery - www.samhsa.gov

www.Cartercenter.org

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance - www.DBSAAlliance.org

www.hopehaven.org

Mary Moller RN - www.psychiatricwellness.com

Seraphim Communications, Inc - www.seracomm.com/

www.shadowvoices.com

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