



# NAMI Orange County, NY

April 4, 2023

NAMI

Attn: Elections 2023

4301 Wilson Blvd., Suite 300

Arlington, VA 22203

Dear NAMI 2023 Elections Committee,

The NAMI Orange County, NY Board is proud to submit the name of Dhanu Sannesy as a candidate for the 2023-2024 NAMI Board of Directors. The nomination of Dhanu Sannesy was confirmed on March 31, 2023 [Date of the Board Meeting where the candidate nomination was voted upon]. Dhanu Sannesy is an active member of NAMI Orange County, NY

Dhanu Sannesy is an exceptional candidate for the 2023-2024 NAMI Board of Directors. She has 30 years of experience & knowledge about mental health conditions through her personal family's journey.

She works tirelessly for NAMI Orange County, NY where she has served as the affiliate's President since 2016 with an impressive resume of activities across her many years of being a member.

Dhanu attends NAMI-NYS legislative and educational conferences and NAMI national conferences to stay in tune with the latest information regarding mental health issues and to provide her voice as an advocate.

One of her many strengths is her ability to network, spreading the word about NAMI's missions and encouraging not only new membership, but also making connections with attorneys, county and state officials, law enforcement (local and state police), state legislators, mental health professionals, local colleges' faculty (physician program and nurses program), medical staff at the local hospital and staff at the libraries in Orange County.

She was also the driving force behind creating her affiliate's website, [namiorangeny.org](http://namiorangeny.org) and created and maintains the NAMI Orange County, NY Face Book page.

Dhanu has brought a total of ten NAMI Signature programs to her community: she is a facilitator for **NAMI Family Support** and an instructor for the **NAMI Family-to-Family** Educational Course and **NAMI Peer-to-Peer** Course as well as a scheduler and lead presenter in **NAMI Ending the Silence** and scheduler for **NAMI In Our Own Voice** presentations and **NAMI Connection**. She has also presented **NAMI Basics** and **NAMI Friends & Family**. Dhanu has recently received training to become a presenter for **NAMI Provider** and **NAMI Smarts for Advocacy**.


Other ways that Dhanu volunteers her time to assist the public to better understand mental illness is by organizing and obtaining speakers for numerous zoom education meetings for the public throughout the year, organizing outreaches to educate the public about mental illness and provide information about the supports that are available, participating as a telephone responder on the NAMI Orange affiliate Helpline, answering the affiliate email Helpline and also serving on the "Families Helping Families" committee whose members provide information packets to visiting family members outside the Behavioral Unit of Garnet Health Medical Center. She is a Mental Health First Aid instructor for Youth, Adult, Public Safety Officers, EMS & Firefighters, Military, College Campuses & Older Adults. She serves on numerous county committees and several state committees and has served on the Board of Directors of NAMI-NYS.

Dhanu gives heart and soul to NAMI. She is energetic, has a thirst for knowledge, is a team player and determinedly gets things done. She has excellent administration and communication skills and is a true leader. Dhanu's particular passion is Crisis Intervention Team Trainings for law enforcement officers. Her passion and dedication to NAMI's mission are evident every single day.

For these reasons, the NAMI Orange County, NY Board supports the nomination of Dhanu Sannesy to serve families and individuals affected by mental illness as a member of the 2023-2024 NAMI Board of Directors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rosemarie Richardsen, Treasurer/Board of Directors of NAMI Orange County, NY

*\*If the Chief Officer is the nominee, then another proper officer must be the signatory.*



---

NAMI Orange County, NY • P.O. Box 637 • Middletown, NY 10940

Telephone: 845-956-6264

email: [info@namiorangeny.org](mailto:info@namiorangeny.org)

website: <https://namiorangeny.org>

