



OCEAN COUNTY LIBRARY

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Susan Quinn, Director

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PRESS RELEASE

What: NAMI Provider Fair & Celebrating Wellness event

When: 4:30 - 7 p.m. Tuesday May 3

Where: Toms River Branch, 101 Washington St.

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Mental Health Provider Fair Celebrates Wellness at OCL

TOMS RIVER – The Ocean County Library, in partnership with the Mental Health Awareness Committee of Ocean County and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), will host a mental health provider fair at the Toms River branch (101 Washington St.) from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 3.

The event will feature representatives from mental health services and organizations that serve adults and children.

“This is a real opportunity to reach out to the community and give them the resources they need to deal with mental illness. It can be temporary or permanent, it can happen to anyone, and the good news is it can be treated,” said Mike Jones, NAMI Ocean County president.

The event also features the “Celebrating Wellness” ceremony at 5:30 p.m., honoring people who worked to change the stigma of mental illness in their community. There will be awards given from the Ocean County Mental Health Awareness Community and a proclamation presentation from the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Area fifth grade students will be honored for their artwork from the “What a Difference a Friend Makes” contest. High school and college-age students will share their essays, poems and videos they created about mental illness awareness.

“This evening is about how mental health affects us all, no matter what age. How we rise above that is what makes our community great,” said Colleen Woods, chairperson for the Mental Health Awareness Committee of Ocean County.

Information about the Mental Health Awareness Committee of Ocean County can be found at their website <http://www.stigmahurts.org>.