



# NAMI South Dakota

June 22, 2010

Dear City Council Members,

I am a member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). We are a National non-profit organization, with State and local affiliates, dedicated to education, support and advocacy on behalf of the mentally ill.

Our local NAMI-Rapid City affiliate is planning a series of fund-raising events which will include raffles. Therefore, I am asking for the Council's acknowledgement of this request to hold these raffles.

For the past three years NAMI-Rapid City has had a team for the annual NAMI WALK, NAMI's major fund-raiser. But, the expenses for making the team a success were paid for almost entirely through the generosity of one member of NAMI-Rapid City. That generous lady passed away this past March.

Additionally, each year, NAMI-SD holds a state conference. Attendance involves a conference fee and two nights in a hotel room. Again, this activity was financed by our now deceased NAMI-Rapid City member.

Our affiliate is not in a position at this time to take over the expenses for these events. Therefore, we are seeking ways to cover, at least in part, both the WALK event and expenses for affiliate members who need assistance to attend the annual conference. Most of our affiliate members are mentally ill and live on either Social Security or Social Security Disability benefits, neither of which provides adequately for extras such as WALK and conference expenses.

We are planning our major raffle for the first week in Sept.; it's proceeds will be ear-marked for a fund to provide "scholarships" for members who need assistance to attend the conference. This raffle will involve one prize-package anticipated to be valued at about \$250. Tickets will be sold for \$1 each.

Additionally, we are planning a series of monthly fund-raisers, beginning in mid-July, each including a small raffle, pending your acknowledgement of this request. These raffles will involve smaller items whose value will probably not exceed \$20. These proceeds will be used to support the WALK team's efforts.

In all cases, the prizes for the fund-raisers are being donated by local area businesses and persons, and are scheduled to be held at The Black Hills Center for Equality here in Rapid City. In the event of any unused funds, they will be carried over for the same activities for the following year. All proceeds will be used for our local affiliate; none will be made available to other NAMI offices.

I look forward to your acknowledgement of this request. Should you have questions, please feel free to call me at 716-5166.

Sincerely yours,

Vivian Jenkins  
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Rapid City, SD 57701

**NAMI South Dakota**

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*NAMIWalks for the Mind of America.*