



WILLIAM P. HAYES, MD

The NAMI Mercer Board of Directors has chosen Dr. William P. Hayes to receive its prestigious Pillar Award for 2017. The award is given for a consistent and significant contribution to achieving the NAMI Mercer mission through volunteerism, leadership, advocacy and/or charitable giving over at least five years. Bill, along with John Marsland, will be the fifth recipients.

Dr. Bill Hayes will receive the Pillar Award at our dinner/dance on November 4. A board-certified psychiatrist, Dr. Hayes has provided comprehensive care to children, adolescents, and adults in the Princeton area since 1986. He has served as a consultant to the Lawrence Township Board of Education and as an educator for NAMI New Jersey. In addition, he had been a long-time advocate for mental health parity in insurance and for the allocation of increased funding for mental health research.

In 2008, NAMI National honored Bill with the Exemplary Psychiatrist Award. According to former Director Michael Fitzpatrick, Bill was one of 30 psychiatrists across the nation “who are stars within the nation’s mental healthcare system.” Candidates for this award are nominated by the individuals and families they serve.

Locally, Bill was a member of NAMI Mercer’s Board of Directors from 2007 to 2015, serving as president from 2008 to 2012. During his tenure as president, NAMI Mercer increased its impact in many ways: piloting “Sharing Hope,” a new NAMI National program for the African American community; forming the “Becoming Friends” social group for young adults; introducing a weight management support group to help those with metabolic syndrome; participating in the founding of a Crisis Intervention Training program for law enforcement officers; launching our annual “Harvest of Hope” wellness conferences; forming an advocacy committee; establishing the “NAMI Connections” support group; and building capacity to offer Sharing Hope and Family-to-Family in Spanish.

As loyal members of the Patron Society, Bill and his wife, Mary, are committed to the long-term sustainability of NAMI Mercer. Bill served as the NAMIWalks Mercer County Chairperson for

five years and consistently supports the NAMIWalks effort by leading one of the highest fundraising teams. He continues to leverage his expansive network to solicit corporate sponsorships for the Walk, which marked its 10-year anniversary in 2017.