



JOHN E. MARSLAND, JR.

The NAMI Mercer Board of Directors has chosen John Marsland 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. John will be the sixth recipient. The presentation will take place at NAMI Mercer's benefit concert, featuring pianist Tanya Gabrielian, on Sunday, October 8.

John has been a stalwart member of the NAMI Mercer family for many years. He was elected to the Board of Directors in 2008, recruited with the expectation that he would drive our fundraising efforts as chair of the Development Committee, which he led until 2015.

During John's tenure, the Development Committee grew beyond the simple management of fundraising events. Adhering to nonprofit development best-practices, John focused the committee's attention to strategizing for long-term sustainability. John launched a very successful membership drive that brought us to a high-water mark in enrollment; he also created the Patron Society, NAMI Mercer's first giving circle of major donors. Capitalizing on NAMI Mercer's 30th anniversary in 2014, John was instrumental in the establishment of our Fund for the Future nonprofit investment fund in collaboration with the Princeton Area Community Foundation.

John led the development effort by personal example. His own financial contributions to NAMI Mercer over the years have been substantial; leveraging corporate matching gifts and his personal network across the country for Team Chela, his NAMIWalks team has been a top fundraiser. The Marslands' donation of a day of sailing on their sailboat has been one of our premier and favored live-auction items.