

# HEROES

## OF HOPE & HEALING

### **PILLAR AWARD**

### **Karen Marquis**

On December 17, 2020, Dr. Karen Marquis will become NAMI Mercer's 10<sup>th</sup> Pillar awardee for her extraordinary, long-term contributor to the organization's mission through volunteerism, leadership, advocacy, and charitable giving.



Karen has served as a Board member for the past twelve years. During her presidency from 2012 to 2016 and as interim president in 2017, she was the backbone of our organization, exhibiting both strength and resiliency during good times and bad. Karen currently serves as secretary of the Board.

Karen has been a principal contributor to the upkeep of our affiliate's essential documents including the budget, the strategic plan, and the by-laws. From 2013 to 2015, she worked closely with then Executive Director Sally Osmer to complete the re-affiliation process with NAMI National. We were among the first nine of 950 affiliates to have earned re-affiliation by achieving all the required "Standards of Excellence."

When Sally Osmer retired, Karen led a very professional recruitment effort, resulting in the hiring of Janet Haag as executive director. During the gap in leadership, Karen worked in the office nearly full time to keep NAMI Mercer

running smoothly. She was also instrumental in the transition, providing comprehensive training to our new executive director.

Karen has also been responsible for the review and update of Helpline procedures and the introduction of database technology for tracking and documentation. As leader of the project to select congruent management software, Karen evaluated the options in terms of functionality and price and, following the selection of Donor Perfect, she worked on the database migration and implementation.

Karen was also a key player in the establishment of the NAMI Mercer Fund for the Future, a nonprofit account with a long-term investment horizon managed by the Princeton Area Community Foundation. Karen has chaired the Night Out with NAMI Committee several times resulting in very successful fundraising results. On a personal level, she and her husband Mike have been loyal members of the Patron Society and sponsors of the NAMIWalk.

With a doctorate in Pharmacology and many years of experience in drug discovery and executive management in the pharmaceutical industry, Karen has much to offer our small non-profit. We are very grateful for her generosity in doing so.