



Brian and Linda McGrath are being honored with NAMI Mercer's Pillar award for their extraordinary long-term contributions to our mission through volunteerism, leadership, advocacy, and charitable giving.

Brian and Linda McGrath have been part of the NAMI Mercer community for over 25 years. Their dedicated service began after attending *Family-to-Family* (then called *Journey of Hope*) and being inspired by teachers Chomy and Tom Garces. In the early days at the Whitehead Road office, before NAMI Mercer had professional staff, Linda volunteered daily assisting Chomy and Tom with administrative tasks and handling "hot line" calls. Between 1998 and 2006, Linda served tirelessly in many important capacities as teacher, spokesperson, program coordinator and Helpline volunteer, educating families and consumers about mental illness and providing guidance on navigating

the health care delivery system.

Linda trained to be a *Family-to-Family* instructor and taught the course for eight years, coordinating the program for four. For her significant contribution, Linda earned the NAMI New Jersey *Family-to-Family* Award in 2005.

Linda's volunteer involvement included representing NAMI Mercer on the Mercer County Systems Review Committee (an acute mental health-care oversight group required by NJ law) and sitting on the Steering Committee for Intensive Family Support Services.

Linda's other roles included:

- Member of the NAMI Mercer speaker bureau for eight years, giving educational and anti-stigma talks to community groups.
- Member of the Board from 2001 to 2006, with three years as vice president
- Coordinator of NAMI Mercer's *Visions for Tomorrow* program (2002-2005), an eight-week course for caregivers of children and adolescents with mental health problems.
- Interim director of NAMI Mercer's education programs (2002-2006)

In addition to sharing time and talent, Brian and Linda have consistently been generous donors. They are leaders and role models who have contributed to the strength and wellbeing of our community and they are deserving recipients of our Pillar Award!