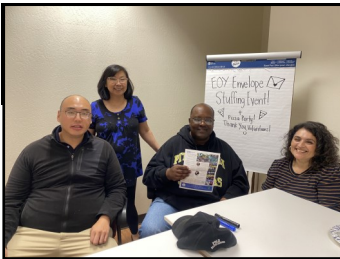
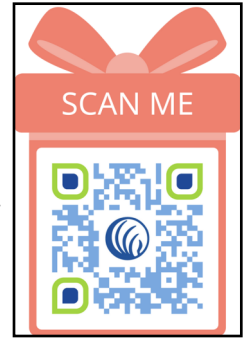


NAMI-SCC Board Officer Nominations for 2024-2025

In accordance with our bylaws, our annual election of officers will take place at the March 2024 General Meeting. We need candidates for: President, 4 Vice Presidents, Treasurer, and Secretary. If you are interested in joining our Board of Directors or wish to suggest someone, contact NAMI-SCC Board Vice President Beverly Lozoff at blozoff@namisantaclara.org. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the February and March 2024 General Meetings.

Holiday Drive

This holiday season, NAMI-SCC will distribute gifts to patients in hospitals, mental health residential facilities, and homeless shelters, as well as participants at self-help and veterans centers. Each year, we distribute gift bags to over 700 individuals, which costs us over \$8,000. Please help us bring a smile to their faces. Often these individuals aren't able to spend the holidays with their loved ones nor do they receive gifts. If you would like to donate or sponsor the Holiday Drive, please send a check to NAMI-SCC, 1150 S Bascom Av, #24, San Jose, CA 95128. Or donate through our website, www.namisantaclara.org.



Volunteers Help with End-of-Year Letter

Thank you to NAMI-Santa Clara County volunteers for dropping by the office during November. Our volunteers helped file and send off our End-of-Year (EOY) letter. The EOY letter features a personal

story from a member of NAMI-SCC and summarizes NAMI-

SCC's accomplishments over the past year. Volunteers placed the EOY letters into hundreds of envelopes and labeled envelopes for mailing. Afterwards, the NAMI-SCC staff and volunteers gathered for a pizza party. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to mental health care! If you're interested in volunteering with NAMI-SCC, please contact our Helpline or go to our website, namisantaclara.org

A Tool to Ensure Safe Shared Housing for Mental Health Clients

By Lorraine Zeller

Last month, the Community Living Coalition had the pleasure of welcoming Janette Rosales, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County Case Manager for Responsible Landlord Engagement Initiative (RLEI) to present information about their services. RLEI is a program operated by Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County (CCSCC) and primarily funded by the City of San José. Its goal is to resolve "problem properties disruptive to the neighborhood's safety, security, and well-being."

RLEI reaches out to property owners and landlords requesting that they voluntarily address the problems identified by neighbors or community members to mediate between the community and the problem property. Janette explained, "Issues impacting the neighborhood and the safety of mental health clients residing in shared independent living (IL) homes could be resolved by community members requesting RLEI's assistance rather than only by immediate neighbors." That means members of Community Living Coalition, NAMI, and others concerned with the health and safety of behavioral health clients residing in independent livings (also called "unlicensed board and care") can organize to open a case file.

Janette said, "Cases are opened with RLEI by a champion who presents a letter describing the problems and a petition signed by at least five affected neighbors or concerned community members. Once a case is opened, RLEI works with the landlord and the neighborhood or community group to resolve the issues. It is important to note that the home's residents don't have to be

involved in this group and any information about them will not be shared with the landlord."

On average, active cases normally conclude in approximately eight months, but factors may accelerate or delay the process. Successful resolution of the case requires active engagement by the neighbor or community group. If a case is not successfully resolved, RLEI provides coaching for the group to file in small claims court.

This program relies on engagement with public authorities and agencies including city council members; county elected officials and staff, police, fire and code enforcement officials; social service providers; and other associations supporting its efforts to keep neighborhoods and residents safe and healthy. RLEI's effectiveness in terms of Return on Investment (ROI) is documented in this report https://sanjose.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?meta_id=700887 to San José's Neighborhood Services and Education Committee. For more on RLEI's success, see this video: **Responsible Landlord Engagement Initiative (RLEI) - Success Stories**. It includes testimony from San José City authorities and other officials.

Community Living Coalition sees collaboration with RLEI as a way to help ensure healthy and safe living for mental health clients residing in unlicensed independent livings. Let's consider how we can work together to identify unsafe living conditions and partner with RLEI to create healthy residents and neighborhoods.

Note: There will be no General Meeting in December. The next General Meeting will be on January 9, 2024. Past General Meeting presentations can be viewed by going to our website, www.namisantaclara.org, under News & Events and clicking "General Meetings."