

Todd Donovan
Nominated by NAMI New Hampshire

Nominator Narrative

Susan L. Stearns
Executive Director, NAMI New Hampshire

NAMI Board service demands experience, knowledge, commitment, and time to help others. Board members must be passionate about NAMI's goals, values, and beliefs. This year, the NAMI Board is highlighting specific skills that they are seeking in candidates to strengthen the current skill sets on the board. You can review the [2024 Open Letter](#) from the NAMI Board President for more information on the call for candidates.

Please list the skill areas identified in the Open Letter in which this candidate excels.

A New Englander for over 35 years, Todd brings 30 years of experience as a first responder - paramedic and fire fighter - as well as his lived experience with mental illness and that of a small business owner. Having identified development as an area he needed to strengthen, he is now Chair of the Advancement Committee and a very successful fundraiser. His skills include managing his thriving business, implementing data strategies, and creating strategic and master plans for public service organizations. A skilled leader who loves cultivating those skills in others, Todd brings out the best in people and organizations.

Explain any additional skill areas in which this candidate excels not identified in the Open Letter that you believe would be an asset to the NAMI Board.

Todd offers exceptional governance skills - and a true understanding of the difference between operations and governance. He is a leader who has actively worked to develop those skills and fundamentally believes in making more leaders and fewer followers. He is skills at consensus building, as well as gracefully navigating conflict when the need arises. He does not hesitate to engage in earnest dialogue even around the thorniest subjects. Todd's IOOV presentations are powerful. Indeed, it was one such presentation that led to a request for him by Comcast/NBC Universal and for them to invite Dan Gillison to participate as well.

This individual has helped advance the NAMI mission in my community by...

sharing his story, especially with first responders, including law enforcement, as well as developing key relationships that have increased the exposure of our entire Alliance.

This individual works well in coordination with other leaders to accomplish goals as evidenced by...

the development of succession planning on the NAMI NH Board of Directors, and his ability to help folks find common ground despite seeming disparate viewpoints.