



April 11, 2025

NAMI
Attn: Elections 2025
4301 Wilson Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear NAMI 2025 Elections Committee,

The NAMI Middlesex Board is proud to submit the name of Michael Leardi as a candidate for the 2025-2026 NAMI Board of Directors. The nomination of Michael Leardi was confirmed on March 11, 2025. Michael Leardi is an active member of NAMI Middlesex.

Michael Leardi is an exceptional candidate for the 2025-2026 NAMI Board of Directors. Michael has shown a desire and ability to work selflessly on behalf of the causes of NAMI and the needs of those struggling with mental illness.

In his personal life, he has done tremendous work assisting his brother and nephew in their struggles, and through those experiences he has learned the needs and how to help support the community of those struggling with mental illness.

In his work with NAMI NJ, and NAMI Middlesex, Michael has been one of the lead facilitators for the NAMI Statewide family support meetings for the past 3 years and has been co-leading the NAMI Middlesex Social group for Peer support. He has also been driving our local organization to begin to increase our financial resources. Michael also has been active working with our CIT training program, and coordinating and supporting outreach programs. Recently he has been leading an effort to reach the high schools in Middlesex County. Of course, he also participates regularly on the board meetings with direction and caring.

Through his life's work experience, we feel Michael has skills that would be very useful to the NAMI National Board. He has over 20 years of experience in systems implementations and organizational transformation through technology, having worked for companies like Microsoft, Oracle, PeopleSoft and Cognizant Technologies to name a few. Michael has managed projects for many large organizations. He also held executive positions with information technology corporations, so has deep experience with organizational functions and what it takes to grow and maintain large organizations. As far as focus on not-for profits, in his career he has held the position of VP of Not-For-Profits including government, higher education and healthcare.

Michael also has a strong knowledge of finance and contracts. He has an MBA in finance along with a BS in industrial engineering. Prior to Michael's career in Information Technology, he

focused on development projects that included large scale international infrastructure programs encompassing non-recourse debt financing. Throughout his career Michael has worked on organizational budgeting, contract negotiations, statements of work, and design/build financing.

We have found Michael to be energetic, can do, and often thinking of new ways to serve the community. He has a passion and willingness to improve the lives of those with mental illness.

For these reasons, the NAMI Middlesex Board supports the nomination of Michael Leardi to serve families and individuals affected by mental illness as a member of the 2025-2026 NAMI Board of Directors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gaye Korley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gaye" and last name "Korley" clearly distinguishable.

Gaye Korley
NAMI Middlesex President

An Affiliate of NAMI NJ headed by Meredith Mason Blount, Chief Executive Officer