

Michael Leardi
Nominated by NAMI Middlesex County (NJ)

Nominator Narrative

Gaye Korley

Board President, NAMI Middlesex County (NJ)

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 [2025 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.

Michael has worked in the implementation of major transformational IT systems for large corporations, universities and not-for-profits. As the Executive Vice President for major IT consulting firms he led high performing teams in the strategy, design and configuration of systems.

Michael has an MBA in Finance. Prior to his career in information technology, Michael held director level positions leading efforts for the international privatization of airport systems and facilities. Michael worked with organizations such as the world bank and major financial institutions in the U.S. He has also worked with major organizations on communication plans and information technology strategies.

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.

Experience through his work assisting family members with mental illness. Including:

Facilitated family support groups for NAMI for 3 years.

Organizes and facilitates social groups for persons with mental illness.

Awarded the 2023 NAMI NJ Facilitator of the Year Award.

Cares for and supports persons with severe mental illness.

Can navigate complex government and organizational institutions in the support of persons with mental illness.

Led transformational technology projects: Pan American Health Organization, International Justice Mission, Merck, Citibank, HSBC, Dow Jones, Brandeis University, Penn State, City MD, and a multitude of government organizations.

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

Facilitating family support groups, bringing guidance and support to hundreds of family members

throughout NJ during times of crisis

Engaging on the board of NAMI Middlesex in support of furthering the goals of NAMI

Participating in CIT training activities

Co Leading and coordinating NAMI Middlesex social groups for those suffering with mental illness

Co-Leading the annual NAMI Walk in Middlesex for NAMI Middlesex

Assisting with the NAMI Middlesex Facebook site and NAMI Middlesex internet site

Participating in our annual GameFest fundraiser

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

His work with the NAMI Middlesex board, leading and supporting efforts to evangelize the NAMI mission, and coordinating social groups supporting those in the community with mental illness.

Michael has worked with all the board members in support of activities including NAMI Middlesex's NAMI Walk coordination and participation, meetings with mental health organizations and schools, coordination of special events such as our annual Jingle Mingle and Chinese New Year celebrations.

Michael is always willing to step up and step in and work with others for the betterment of our community.

He has organized a special task force for engaging with the High Schools in Middlesex.

Michael is a pleasure to work with.