

# Issue #5 Critical for Geauga Mental Health Care

- **Geauga County loses \$1,000,000** in state dollars for mental health treatment while **emergency calls rise 58%!**
- **State cuts funding by 39%** while **waiting lists grow to 16 weeks!**
- **Your levy support is critical** to maintain treatment and recovery services!



**Vote Yes Issue #5**  
 November 3, 2009  
 Mental Health & Recovery Services Levy

**Community leaders address these critical needs. See inside...**

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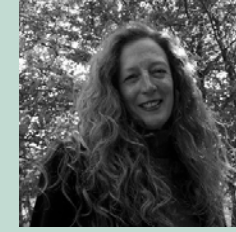
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We are trying to reduce our costs. If you would like to receive the Facilitator Newsletter via email contact: info@mhageauga.org.



Dear Voter,

Please join the Mental Health Association and NAMI Geauga County in supporting essential mental health services here at home in Geauga County. I hope you and your family never have to experience the pain of mental illness, but voting yes for Issue 5 on November 3rd will ensure that the services you need will be there.



Michelle Doehring, Executive Director  
 The Mental Health Association in Geauga County  
 NAMI Geauga County



“As the Probate/Juvenile Judge for Geauga County I have seen first hand how essential the mental health services are to children and families that are funded by our local levy. In these difficult times children and families in our community face even greater needs. Please help to keep in place services that help to make our community so great.”

Judge Charles E. Henry  
 Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court



“The Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services has been a great resource to the Geauga County Sheriff’s Office in a variety of ways. Just one example is that without their financial assistance for our DARE program many impressionable young students in Geauga County would not receive this important substance abuse education.”

Sheriff Dan McClelland

*Mental Health Association in Geauga County’s mission is to promote services and programs that are responsive to the mental health and chemical dependency needs of the citizens of Geauga County. In furtherance of this purpose, we shall: \*Provide individual and group educational opportunities. \*Research, evaluate and disseminate relevant information. \*Increase awareness of mental health and chemical dependency causes and issues. \*Address public perceptions of mental health and chemical dependency. \*Support and facilitate the programs, activities and services of public and private providers. \*Foster public visibility of the Association as well as other community agencies.*

**Vote YES Issue 5**



**SAVE Mental Health Services**



**Your vote FOR ISSUE 5 will help prevent additional cuts to mental health services**

- State cuts \$1,000,000 from Geauga Mental Health Services
- 37 Programs Cut
- Geauga County has supported this levy for 20 years
- Helping over 12, 000 Geauga County residents every year

**See inside for more reasons to vote for Issue #5**



**geauga county board of mental health & recovery services**

# Vote YES on ISSUE #5 Continue Your Support for Mental Health Treatment and Recovery

"The Suicide Prevention Coalition worked with a group of West Geauga High School juniors and seniors to develop a dynamic and meaningful presentation on the very difficult topic of suicide. This amazing group of high school students developed a program that included knowledge, compassion, and honesty for their peers."

Suzanne Fletcher, West Geauga School Psychologist



**Suicide Prevention Cut 50%  
VOTE YES FOR ISSUE 5**



"I have been a law enforcement officer in Geauga County for 24 years. I have worked closely with the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services throughout my tenure and consider them to be a valuable asset and a vital component to the common goal of professional services provided to Geauga County residents."

Joseph A. Stehlik, Middlefield Chief of Police

"In February of 2009 our (now 6-year-old) son was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, an autism spectrum disorder in

which social skills and regulation of impulses and emotions are very difficult. My son has participated in several Dina School classes with Catholic Charities. My son started kindergarten this fall in a mainstream class and is doing well! He is more comfortable with social situations, is more aware of what is appropriate behavior and he is making friends at school."

Jennifer Tomasch, Parent

**Early Childhood Programs Work  
VOTE YES FOR ISSUE 5**



Melanie Baker, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant

"Saturday was the worst day of my life. My family of four was torn apart. The echoing screams of terror coming from my three year old's mouth, "Please daddy let go of mommy...you are hurting her," kept running through my mind as I fled in the family van. I was alone in this world with my nine month and three year old and had no place to go. I remembered the police officer giving me some information on WomenSafe. It was one of the hardest calls I had ever made, but it also turned out to be the best phone call I've ever made. The staff at WomenSafe was welcoming, understanding, knowledgeable and full of hope...and before I knew it, so was I."



**Support Victims of Domestic Violence  
VOTE YES FOR ISSUE 5**

**Continue your support!  
MENTAL HEALTH**

**NOT A  
NEW  
LEVY!**

**Vote Yes Issue # 5**

November 3, 2009

Mental Health & Recovery Services Levy

## Did You Know?

- \* First passed in 1989
- \* 0.7 mill rate has never been increased
- \* This replacement levy updates current property value rates per \$100,000 by just \$6.88 per year.

### ALL OF GEAUGA COUNTY BENEFITS FROM THIS LEVY

More than 7500 Geauga County residents have received treatment at Board funded agencies in the last 5 years.

#### Children and Teens

- \* Over 500 children are in critical care services at Board funded agencies every year.
- \* More than 500 additional children receive support services.
- \* Thousands receive education and prevention services every year.

#### Parents and Families

- \* Support groups, family counseling and parenting education are all funded by the levy.

#### Senior Adults

- \* Received almost \$475,000 in critical care services last year.
- \* Over 500 seniors also received medication and Medicare subsidies from the Board.

### LOCAL AGENCIES LIKE THESE RECEIVE FUNDING FROM THE LEVY

- \* Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- \* WomenSafe
- \* D.A.R.E
- \* Teen Institute
- \* NAMI Geauga County
- \* Mental Health Association in Geauga County
- \* Ravenwood Mental Health Services
- \* Catholic Charities Community Services
- \* Lake Geauga Recovery Centers

The Board awards grants to many other community agencies that provide education and prevention services.

**This levy will help prevent additional cuts to mental health services.**

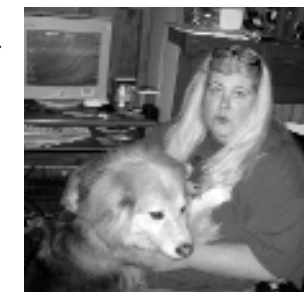
"I'm a single mother and my son's father isn't involved in his life. Ranulfo, whose nickname is Junior, didn't seem to care about much and his grades kept falling. His teachers felt he needed a role model and suggested I sign him up with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Once he was matched with his Big Brother Josh, Junior improved 95%; his grades and his attitude have gotten much better and he has a positive role model he really likes and looks up to. Big Brothers Big Sisters and Josh have definitely changed Junior's life for the better."

Junior's Mother Maria Razo



**ONLY LEVY DOLLARS CAN SAVE BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS IN GEAUGA COUNTY  
VOTE YES FOR ISSUE 5**

"When I became a Ravenwood client I realized the extent of how my illness impacted my life and of those lives around me. The many programs at Ravenwood Mental Health Center such as therapy and psychological services, support groups and housing has helped



me to believe that someone really cares. Through their caring and generosity I have begun to heal and am on my path to being an asset in our society. Without these services, I may have been lost forever."

"Kathy Kovach

**CRITICAL CARE SERVICES NEED YOUR SUPPORT  
VOTE YES FOR ISSUE 5**

"Gauga County's High School Teen Institute program has been supported by the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services for over 20 years. These programs have a positive impact on the decision of teens not to use tobacco, alcohol or other drugs."

Lynn Kempf, TI Coordinator



**Over 5,300 Geauga County students have participated in Teen Institute  
VOTE YES FOR ISSUE 5**

"NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is a ray of hope for families who care for their mentally ill relatives. Their Family-to-Family course alleviated our stress as supporters by providing us education, direction, and caring, so important for people in the trenches."

NAMI Family Member

**NAMI is a Lifeline for Families and Consumers  
VOTE YES FOR ISSUE 5**