

Wisconsin United for Mental Health

Mental Illness is... Real. Common. Treatable.

Wisconsin United for Mental Health

*An ongoing effort by Wisconsin
citizens to educate and increase
awareness about mental illness as a
real and common disease
that is treatable.*

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www.wimentalhealth.org

Steering Committee :

Grassroots Empowerment
Project

Helping Others Prevent and
Educate about Suicide

Mental Health
Association in Milwaukee
County

Mental Health Center
of Dane County, Inc.

National Alliance for the
Mentally Ill - Wisconsin

WI Coalition for
Advocacy

WI Council of Mental
Health Associations

WI Council on
Mental Health

WI Department of Health and
Family Services
Division of Public Health
Division of Supportive Living
Bureau of Community Mental
Health

Wisconsin Family Ties

Wisconsin Women's Health
Foundation

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“A BEAUTIFUL MIND” DONATION TO HELP EDUCATE WISCONSINITES ABOUT MENTAL ILLNESS

Wisconsin United for Mental Health donates approximately 300 copies of movie to Wisconsin libraries

Wisconsin residents can now check out a great movie on DVD or video from their local library and learn more about mental illness at the same time. Nearly 300 copies of the Academy Award-winning movie “A Beautiful Mind” were donated to more than 200 libraries around Wisconsin by Wisconsin United for Mental Health to help bring attention to mental illness and the support resources that are available to those who suffer from it.

“We want to provide everyone with the chance to view ‘A Beautiful Mind’ because it is a great mainstream tool that helps bring the issue of mental illness to the forefront,” said Nino Amato, co-chair of Wisconsin United for Mental Health. “Mental illness is a disease that many people don’t like to talk about, but one that needs to be brought out in the open. Through this donation, we hope more people will learn about mental illness and understand that it is a real, common and treatable disease.”

“A Beautiful Mind” is based on the real life challenges that John Forbes Nash Jr. (played by Russell Crowe) faced and how he overcame those struggles. Nash, who won the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1994 for his Game Theory of Economics, suffered from paranoid schizophrenia. The winner of four Academy Awards, including Best Picture, the movie depicts Nash’s life and shows how he overcame the debilitating mental illness.

Copies of the movie are available at fourteen library systems around Wisconsin, including the Arrowhead, Eastern Shores, Indianhead Federated, Kenosha County, Lakeshores, Manitowoc-Calumet, Milwaukee County Federated, Nicolet Federated, South Central, Southwest Wisconsin, Waukesha County Federated, Winding Rivers, Winnefox and the Wisconsin Valley Library Systems. Wisconsin residents can check out the movie from their local library with their library card.

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The library donation is one way the new organization is working to educate the public and improve everyone’s knowledge and perception of mental illness.

“Mental illnesses are very real diseases that affect one out of five Wisconsinites,” said Amato. “If we can help to educate people on this issue through this Hollywood movie, then it was a worthwhile effort.”

Wisconsin United for Mental Health is a non-profit group made up of health organizations dealing with mental illness that was launched in May to provide information about mental illness to the general public and to reduce stigma associated with mental illness. Additional information about mental illness can also be found on the organization’s Web site at www.wimentalhealth.org. Wisconsin United for Mental Health is being funded through an educational grant from Eli Lilly & Company.

The group’s steering committee is made up of: National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-Wisconsin; Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy; Wisconsin Council on Mental Health; Mental Health Association in Milwaukee; Mental Health Center of Dane County, Inc.; Grassroots Empowerment Project; Helping Others Prevent and Educate about Suicide; Wisconsin Family Ties; Wisconsin Women’s Health Foundation; and Wisconsin Dept. of Health and Family Services, Division of Public Health, Division of Supportive Living, Bureau of Community Mental Health. The co-chairs of Wisconsin United for Mental Health are Sinikka McCabe, administrator for the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, Division of Supportive Living, and Nino Amato, president of Nino Amato & Associates.

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