

The Ally

December 2018
The Families As Allies Newsletter



WHAT A CELEBRATION!



(Pictured above, from top left, clockwise): Congressman Gregg Harper with Howard Roffwarg and Joy Hogge, Henry Moore and Joy Hogge with representatives from the Community Students Learning Center, Ramona Russum and Joy Hogge with John Lunardini and Sue Allen of Catholic Charities, and Tara Manning and Joy Hogge with representatives from the Coalition For Citizens With Disabilities)



On Monday, November 5th we held our fifth annual Community Partnership Celebration at Bravo! Italian Restaurant. This event is our major fundraiser of the year. Watch the video below as Monica Webber describes how her involvement with Families as Allies has made a difference in the lives of her child, her family and other families they have come to know.





SAVE THE DATE! New Year's Open House

Thursday, January 17
from 4:30 to 7:00 PM

Please join us at [Families as Allies](#)
to celebrate our friendships
and plan how to work together for
our children in 2019.

840 East River Place Suite 500
Jackson, MS 39202

Activities for children

Catering by:



A PARENT DESCRIBES HOW HER INVOLVEMENT WITH FAMILIES AS ALLIES HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE

We appreciate the many friends and supporters who joined us for the evening and their generous donations. Your generosity transforms lives of children and families across the state. If you would like to partner with families across the state to help them advocate for their children, you can donate [here](#).

This year's award winners were Catholic Charities' who received the HELEN REDDY JOHNSON MEMORIAL AWARD FOR VALUING EVERY CHILD AND FAMILY; The Coalition for Citizens With Disabilities' who received the RUSTY TURNER MEMORIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE; The Community Students Learning Center who received the PARTNERSHIP AWARD, and Congressman Gregg Harper, who received the ACCOUNTABILITY AWARD. You can read more about each of our wonderful honorees [here](#).

Families as Allies would like to thank
our generous Silver Sponsors:

HAPAX CREATIVE, JOY HOGGE AND HOWARD
ROFFWARG,
MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES,
REGIONS BANK and SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

Honoring President George H.W. Bush



**Mental Health & Wellness
Day at the Capitol**

**Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2019
8:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.**

Mississippi State Capitol
400 High St.
Jackson, MS 39202
Rotunda & West Hallway

ma **DMH**
Mississippi Department of Mental Health
& Substance Abuse Services

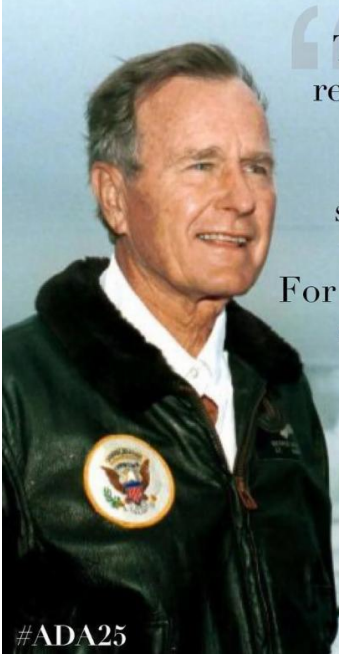
NAMI Mississippi

Personal stories/speakers will be
in Room 216 (8:30-9:30 a.m.)

Exhibitors will be in the hallways
(8:00-10:30 a.m.)

For more information, call 601-899-9058
or email stateoffice@namims.org

This event is in conjunction with the Consumer Rights Committee of the MS Planning and Advisory Council.



“Together, we must
remove the physical
barriers we have
created and the
social barriers that
we have accepted.
For ours will never be
a truly prosperous
nation until all
within it prosper.”

*President George H.W. Bush
Signing of the ADA, 1990*

#ADA25

POINTS
OF LIGHT

QUICK LINKS

Families as Allies joins the nation in honoring the life
of President George Herbert Walker Bush.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US REACH
1000 LIKES!!

NEXT STOP 2000 LIKES!!



SHOP WITH US!

[Kroger](#)

[AmazonSmile](#)



President Bush's signing of the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) into law in 1990 is likely the single most important presidential action ever taken to support people with disabilities. It reflected what he knew: people with disabilities can live, work and thrive in their communities with the right kinds of support. He did not pity people with disabilities. In fact, he worked side by side with them to pass the ADA.

In a touching turn of history, President Bush's son, George W. Bush, the 43rd president of the United States, signed an [executive order in 2001](#) instructing federal agencies to work with each other and the states to develop the kinds of support that people with mental illness need to live outside of institutions. This executive order was based on a landmark 1999 Supreme Court case, [Olmstead v. L.C.](#), which established that the ADA applies to people with mental illness.

Mississippi is currently [being sued by the United States Department of Justice](#) pursuant to the ADA and Olmstead because we do not have enough of the right kinds of services in the community for people with mental illness. As a result, too many people end up in institutions, one of the costliest yet least effective forms of mental health care.

We could become discouraged or defensive about this. We could deny it. We could have polarizing discussions about funding without even knowing what we really need to fund. We could have countless meetings about mental health with no one ever acknowledging that Mississippi is being sued and why.

Or we could, in the optimistic and inclusive spirit of President George H. W. Bush, all come together to figure out what kind of mental health system we need and what it would take to create it.

And what a fitting tribute to President Bush that would be.



[Check out our 2018 Impact Report](#)

Interested in Partnering with Families as Allies?

We provide family support and training as well as training and technical assistance for policy makers and those working with families. Call our office to learn more 601-355-0915.



Supporting Families of Children with Special Health Care Needs

This recent [article](#) from Disability Scoop highlights what families repeatedly say is important to them - mental health support and services need to be where children already are, including in schools and



2018 NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FAMILIES CONFERENCE



FAMILIES AS ALLIES PRESENTS AT THE NATIONAL
FEDERATION OF FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL
HEALTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

where children already are, including in schools and wherever children get their physical health care. We are thrilled that the Mississippi Department of Health is bringing partners to the table to make sure this happens for families of children with special health care needs. We are honored to be one of those partners and are especially interested in how parent peer support can be helpful these families. If you have ideas or suggestions, let us know. This [brochure](#) describes the State Department's program.



Last month we were in Houston for the NFFCMH annual conference. We were honored to be asked by the conference organizers to present at the conference, and presented at 4 sessions.

Using Real World Data from Real World Families to Make Real World Changes

Executive Director Joy Hogge and Lead Family Partner Henry Moore gave a very well attended (we had to find more chairs) presentation entitled: **Using Real World Data from Real World Families to Make Real World Changes**. The presentation examined "What Happens When Families Seek Help for Their Children"? The presentation looked at how to use lessons learned to gather data from families in ways that can help bring about meaningful systemic change and also strengthen relationships with state systems and policy makers.

Data and Policy: Family Foes or Family Driven?

This presentation chronicled Families as Allies' journey to make its work more data-informed, policy-focused and family-driven all at the same time through the eyes of family partners doing the work on the ground. It was facilitated by Henry Moore, our Lead Family Partner, and Coreaner Price, one of our longest employed Family Partners. Henry shared his efforts over the past two years in engaging families in data and policy, and Coreaner shared her perspective on seeing our organization go through many phases and stages, including it becoming more focused on policy and data, and how these have enriched her work.

Developing Fiscal Sustainability

Families as Allies consultant [Carter Smith](#) (Founder, Profit Smart, LLC) presented at this session on helping nonprofits develop capacity to conduct long-range financial planning. Carter engaged the audience with a series of questions that are important for all organizations to answer. Do you have a sustainable funding model? Does your income match the level of funding that you need in order to achieve the goals projected in your strategic plan (if you have one)? Is the current funding fully supportive of your mission? Have you adequately assessed the impact of new funding streams? How do you decide to cut or add programs? The attendees were engaged and challenged by these questions.

On the Road to Family-Driven Evaluation: Pot Holes, Speed Bumps, U-Turns and Driver's Ed for All

The definition of family-driven care is often cited among system of care partners but not necessarily perceived or acted upon in the same way in reality. These challenges and differences become even more pronounced when family-driven evaluation is introduced. This presentation described the journey of the Families as Allies and the evaluator of a local Infant and Early Childhood System of Care Project (Mississippi BuDS) to ensure the initiative's evaluation was family-driven. Families as Allies Executive Director Joy Hogge and Dr. Rodney Washington (Mississippi BuDS) presented.

PARENT PEER SUPPORT TRAINING



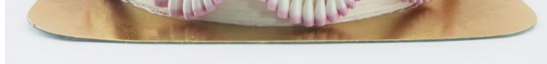
We recently conducted two training sessions for Certified Parent Support Specialists through the Mississippi Department of Mental Health. We are also excited to implement support, coaching and continuing education for parent peer support specialists over the next year. We hope this leads to opportunities to expand parent to parent support to more families and across child serving systems.

Pictured above are two of our favorite trainers, Nikki Flippins and Coreaner Price.

[Help Joy Celebrate her Birthday!](#)



2018 WORKING TOGETHER BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS CONFERENCE



[Donate](#) to her Facebook fundraiser honoring Families as Allies



We were delighted to present at the Mississippi Department of Education's 2018 Working Together Building Partnerships Conference on "Complaining vs. Complaints: How to Use the Law without a Lawyer to Help Your Child". You can learn more about formal state complaints at this [link](#). You are also welcome to call our office if you would like to learn more.