Thanksgiving is a time for counting our blessings, giving thanks, and for family reunions. So we’d like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members and volunteers for being part of our NAMI family and for blessing us with their commitment to making a difference in the mental health community. Each of you have touched the lives of another just by being part of NAMI Pierce County, and we offer you our sincere thanks! Here’s some events that you can be a part of:

~ Gathering: Join us for this month’s community Gathering on Wednesday November 17 from 6-8 pm as we introduce our guest speaker Wendy Haddow, Spokesperson and Public Information Officer for the Tacoma Police Dept, who will be sharing information on the new police reform laws, responses to mental health crises and more! You’ll have a rare opportunity to get all of your questions and concerns addressed directly to Wendy. Grab your dinner and join us!
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkfu2pqjMqHNSJrOZWDpOl6DIzOV7Xgm1X

~ Volunteer Recognition Award Event: Mark your calendars! In lieu of the December community Gathering, we will be holding our annual Volunteer Recognition Award event on Wednesday December 15. This event is to recognize and thank all of our volunteers who have helped us during this past year. We are offering it as a hybrid event ~ an in-person option will be held at the Tacoma Yacht Club with dinner and a virtual event option will also be available online via zoom for those who wish to join from the comfort of their home (dinner is on your own). We’ll be sending out invitations via emails to our volunteer honorees by the end of this month with additional information. We’ll also have information posted on our website so stay tuned!

~ 2022 NAMI Signature Program trainings: The training dates for next year is posted on our website for anyone who is interested in becoming a teacher,
facilitator or presenter in one of our NAMI programs. We are in particular need of both peer and family support group facilitators! The application deadline for the Connection Support Group training is November 28 and the training is on January 21-23. All trainings next year will be online via zoom. For more information: http://www.namipierce.org

~ **Register for NAMI Smarts:** Our next NAMI Smarts for Advocacy workshop will be offered on Tuesday Dec 7 from 6:00-8:30 pm via zoom. This is a hand on advocacy training that helps individuals, families and friends transform their passion and lived experience into skillful grassroots advocacy and teaches how to us th power of your story to influence others. [Use this link to register](http://www.namipierce.org)

~ **Underserved and Specialized Communities:** We have been expanding our programs to reach out to underserved communities such as the African American, Latino, LGBTQ, Filipino, Military Families, and Special Youth Needs groups. Each group has put together their own program to help address the mental health needs specific to their community through support groups, education, workshops, projects, etc. If you are interested in joining any of these groups or wish to start on yourself, please let us know. [info@namipierce.org](mailto:info@namipierce.org)

~ **NAMI Next Gen:** Youth mental health is the focus of this compensated advisory group looking to make an impact. If you know are, or know of, a young adult aged 18-25, this is a great opportunity to make a difference. This group’s mission is to help youth and young adults across the nation affected by mental health conditions. Applications are due November 30 and the group will serve from January thru December 2022. [For more information and to apply, click here!](http://www.namipierce.org)