

PROCLAMATION
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH - MAY 2026

WHEREAS, NAMI Broward's Mission is to enhance awareness and provide programs in Broward County that support a world-class system for the treatment and recovery of individuals facing mental health challenges. NAMI Broward delivers support, education, and advocacy to nurture better understanding, coping strategies, and positive outcomes for people and their families navigating the complexities of mental health; and

WHEREAS, mental health conditions are treatable health concerns that are widespread and manageable; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive healthcare encompasses mental health care, which must be accessible to all individuals irrespective of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, values, and cultural beliefs. It is vital that these factors are integrated into treatment, allowing the community to become a bastion of support; and

WHEREAS, the breadth of the mental health crisis affecting both children and adults is profound. One in five adults will encounter a mental health challenge in any given year. Half of all mental health conditions begin by age 14, and 75% by 24 years old. Prompt intervention leads to more favorable outcomes; and

WHEREAS, half of the children and adults living with mental health challenges never receive transformative treatment due to barriers to care and stigma. The resilience and recovery journey of individuals diagnosed with a mental health condition should be celebrated rather than stigmatized; and

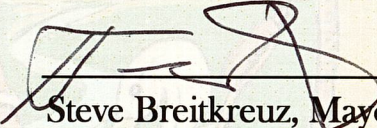
WHEREAS, mental health challenges are not criminal issues. Nonetheless, individuals with mental health diagnoses are disproportionately represented in jails and prisons. NAMI commends the implementation of Crisis Intervention Training for law enforcement officers, Diversion Programs, and Mobile Crisis Response Teams that effectively reduce involvement in the justice system and enhance safety; and

WHEREAS, individuals experiencing mental health challenges are capable of leading meaningful lives and contributing significantly to society. Communities aid those with mental health challenges by ensuring access to quality care and appropriate supports; and

WHEREAS, NAMI Broward County designates the month of MAY as **MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH** to promote mental health awareness, to inspire those living with mental health challenges to seek **SUPPORT**, and to be uplifted by our message: **“YOU ARE NOT ALONE”**; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida do hereby proclaim May 2026 as **Mental Health Awareness Month**.

Dated this 23rd day of April, 2026


Steve Breitkreuz, Mayor

FOUNDED JUNE 2000
Preserving Our Rural Lifestyle