

DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County
Department of Human Services



October 2018

DHS NAMI Walk team raises funds to fight mental health stigma

This year, Team Allegheny County DHS raised more than \$4,000 for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) in support of the NAMI Walk. In addition to individual solicitations, the team raised funds by selling candy bars; baked goods; and raffle tickets for an art piece designed by Amanda Schrott, the talented daughter of Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) staff member Gloria Kovel. The team also held a penny drive, which received a generous gift from Robert "Bubba" McArdle, facilities staff, who donated a collection of coins he found on the floor of the Lexington office over the last few years. Brenda Slagle, family caregiver program coordinator in the Area Agency on Aging (AAA), also supported the fundraiser in a creative way: She asked her friends and colleagues to donate to the NAMI Walk in support of her rappel off the New River Gorge in West Virginia for Bridge Day.

NAMI supports and advocates for people and families affected by mental illness. The annual NAMI Walk, which kicks off Mental Illness Awareness Week, is a public showing of support for people with mental illness and also delivers a message against stigma.