

## Remembering Ellen C. Grassman

*Remembering Ellen C. Grassman,  
long-term advocate for the mental  
health community, former First  
Vice President of the NAMI NJ  
Board of Trustees, and NAMI  
Camden affiliate leader.*



With a heavy heart, we are sharing the sad news that Ellen C. Grassman, former First Vice President of the NAMI NJ Board of Trustees, passed away on August 14, 2021. Ellen, a dedicated leader on both the state and county levels, served on the NAMI NJ Board of Trustees for five terms, leading as its first Vice President when retiring in 2018. That year, Ellen received the Sylvia Axelrod Award for her long time commitment and contribution to the mental health cause. She was also an active member of the NAMI NJ Public Policy Committee for many years, advocating for thousands of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

Ellen became a member of NAMI Camden County in 1999, where she remained active until her passing. She served on the NAMI Camden Board as a family support meeting facilitator and on the nominating committee. As NAMI Camden Agency and Provider Liaison, Ellen served on the Camden County Mental Health Board, the Camden County CIT Steering Committee, and attended numerous County Agency Systems and Review meetings to keep the affiliate informed. Ellen had a generous heart and soul, and kept giving to her family and friends. She followed in the footsteps of her father who served as a leader in the original NAMI Camden. She devoted her life to the service of the most vulnerable, those with mental illness, and those struggling with the daily challenges of life, which was also demonstrated through her 30 years of work with the NJ Department of Human Services.

We remember Ellen for her caring and kind spirit, her wonderful attitude of joy, and her dedication to the community affected by mental illness. We are grateful to have called her a friend, and honored to have shared in her life.

[See Obituary](#)

Donations may be made in Ellen's memory to  
NAMI Camden County, Inc., 19 Ormond Ave., Cherry Hill, NJ 08034.