

## NAMI Walk

ACT staff members are selling tickets to Belk Charity Day, set for 6-10 a.m. on May 2, to support ACT's team in the annual NAMI Walk on May 16 in Oklahoma City.

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, advocates for people with severe mental illness and their loved ones.

For details, contact:  
 mchisum@actcares.org.

ACT is a private, non-profit community mental health center helping adults and children with mental health and substance abuse issues in the Tulsa area.

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## ACT will open pharmacy in June 2009

ACT will open its first-ever on-site pharmacy at 7010 S. Yale in June.

The pharmacy will include a licensed, full-time pharmacist to better serve clients receiving nearly \$4 million in donated and purchased medication through ACT annually.

"Because most are also low income, they cannot afford the rising cost of their medications without our help," said Executive Director Larry Marks.

"Medication is a vital part of the treatment plan for about 90 percent of the people we serve."

The ACT board approved the pharmacy in March, and renovations began April 27, Marks said.



ACT's pharmacy will allow clients to pick up medications and receive consultation after appointments.

"Many of our clients have transportation issues, and the pharmacy will provide added convenience."

## Foundation gifts improve young people's lives

### Teens in transition

Sarkeys Foundation, The Hille Foundation, Ralph and Frances McGill Foundation and Temple Foundation recently provided much needed gifts to help young people ages 17-24 who are learning independent living skills through Transition Services.

Patricia Simer is one of 30 youth benefiting from these gifts.

*"I'd be out on the streets if it wasn't for ACT. ACT is like a family. Nobody pressures you into doing anything you don't want to do. It's a place with arms wide open. All you have to do is open yours."*

*Patricia Simer*

### School in schools

ACT provides mental health services in Tulsa Public Schools through a program called Posi-

tive Behavior Intervention Services. The Hardesty Foundation recently provided funds to help ACT continue these services that prevent suspension.

### Computer support

The Lyle Gelvin Foundation has made it possible for ACT to provide timely services to adults, children and families by funding work station upgrades.

Marla Chisum urges staff and consumers from community mental health centers to ask legislators to invest in mental health during the Day at the Capitol on April 20.



## Legislators urged to invest in mental health

OKLAHOMA CITY -- “I am here today because 13 years ago, the state of Oklahoma invested in me,” Marla Chisum told the legislators, state officials and at least 200 others attending Mental Health Day at the Capitol rally on April 20.

This year’s Day at the Capitol theme was Investing in Mental Health, and Marla spoke of how she and others suffering with mental health issues are great investments because they give back. She was one of seven ACT staff and consumers to attend the event. The speeches were followed by visits with Tulsa area legislators at their offices and during a luncheon and dessert.

After 6 years battling, unsuccessfully against mental illness Marla returned home to Tulsa—unemployed, unemployable, uninsured, and uninsurable.

For the next five years, she received services at no cost through ACT, including rehabilitation, individual and group therapy, case management services, and medication clinic with access to prescrip-

tion medications at little or no co-pay. There were periods of times, when she receive services as much as 5 days each week.

Eight years ago this month, Marla became a part-time employee of ACT’s housing services and began a commitment to giving back as an employee and community volunteer. Today, she is ACT’s Housing Management Supervisor of five properties providing housing for 84 adults with mental illness.

“I am standing here today to brag about a system that works—a system that saves and changes lives. I am the proof. I am standing here today a return on your investment,” Marla said. “It is imperative that we continue to fund mental health services to everyone in need, regardless of means. Please do not leave here today until you have made your voice heard.”

Her comments received a standing ovation from some and applause from everyone in the crowded Capitol rotunda.