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News Release Writing Sample

WASHINGTON, DC - Praxis News Group is excited to announce its contribution of three million dollars to the **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** to help identify African Americans with mental illness and get those in need into community mental health clinics or private clinics for diagnosis and treatment.

James Jones, CEO of Praxis, is concerned about the timely and accurate diagnosis of mental illness in African Americans and the lack of services for this population. Praxis' donation is the largest one ever received by NAMI for a project targeting a specific group of individuals.

"We are committed to helping this group of individuals because year after year we've seen studies about how they are deprived from accurate mental health care. African Americans in the United States are less likely to receive accurate diagnoses than their Caucasian counterparts. Schizophrenia, for instance has been shown to be over-diagnosed in the African American population," Jones said.

Culture biases against mental health professionals and health care professionals in general prevent many African Americans from accessing care due to prior experiences with historical misdiagnoses, inadequate treatment and a lack of cultural understanding; only 2 percent of psychiatrists, 2 percent of psychologists and 4 percent of social workers in the United States are African American. Because of The Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, private insurance and other programs, the costs of mental health treatment can be managed. The problem is getting people into the mental health system.

NAMI's efforts in recent years have focused on closing the gap between the African American community and the health care industry. It is the organization's purpose to provide better mental health care for this group of individuals to prevent fatalities.

"Programs in African American communities sponsored by respected institutions, such as churches and local community groups can increase awareness of mental health issues and resources and decrease the related stigma," said **Mike Fitzpatrick, Executive Director of NAMI**.

Jones is concerned about the timely and accurate diagnoses of mental illnesses in African Americans and the lack of services for this population. **Across a recent 15-year span, suicide rates increased 233 percent among African Americans aged 10-14** compared to 120 percent among Caucasian Americans in the same age group across the same span of time. Therefore, the donation will serve to create programs rooted in the community to not only increase awareness but encourage action towards assessing viable options for mental illnesses.

"At NAMI, we are more than grateful for this donation. Our efforts wouldn't turn into realities if it weren't for organizations like Praxis News Media who, just like us, believe in the importance of diagnosing mental illnesses," said Fitzpatrick.

Our Lives, a publication owned by Praxis News Media, will publish monthly content on stories related to mental illness in the African American community. Every story counts, Praxis is encouraging African Americans to share their stories to leverage the message of mental health awareness.

About Praxis News Group

Praxis News Media is publishing house focused on delivering stories that matter. Our diverse magazine portfolio covers everything from business and tech innovations to lifestyle and culture, offering fresh perspectives and engaging reads. At Praxis, we believe in the power of responsible reporting and compelling storytelling to spark meaningful conversations. Backed by a passionate team of writers and editors, we're dedicated to shaping the future of media—one issue at a time.