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## **Cherokee Herald is Ala. NAMI Newspaper of Year**

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by Cherokee County Herald

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CENTRE, Ala. — The National Association for Mental Illness recognized the Cherokee County Herald with its Alabama NAMI 2013 Newspaper of the Year award, presented at its annual conference this month.

“The Cherokee County Herald has provided wonderful coverage for NAMI Centre,” said Wanda Laird, executive director of NAMI Alabama.

Laird said Herald editor Terry Dean has gone out of his way to attend special meetings in order to obtain information to maximize coverage.

Sue Guffey, NAMI Centre president, accepted the award on behalf of the Herald. She was the recipient of the organization’s Shining Star Affiliate Leader award

“She has promoted NAMI Centre’s involvement in the community by reaching out to local judges, attorneys, sheriff, mayor and the local police chief to seek their advice and participation in NAMI programs — and within the past few months the membership has tripled,” Laird said.

Guffey, who will begin her term as president of NAMI Alabama in January, said her main concern is raising awareness about the far-reaching effects of mental illness.

“I was talking with one lady and she said there were no members in her family with mental illness,” Guffey said. “As we talked further, she said she had a daughter-in-law that was bi-polar.”

NAMI Centre meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the ROC. For more information, call Guffey at 256-927-4868.

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