



National Eating Disorders Association

Fact Sheet: Annual Conference & Conference Scholarships

“The [NEDA] conference was a fantastic bridge between the two worlds, introducing me to people I can identify with, people I hope to work with in the future, and people who can help me along my path of recovery – people that I hope to be in contact with for years. I learned a lot, walked away with many new ideas and look forward to next year.”

- NEDA Scholarship Recipient

“What I got most from this conference was a sense of hope – meeting so many people in recovery, so many dedicated family members, and so many devoted researchers/therapists – as well as the hope that was in specific presentations.”

- Conference Attendee
(Family Member)

“NEDA's conference is very professionally run. I've been to both family conferences and professional conferences and really value the NEDA model of bringing both groups together. It has been an inspiration to me and reinvigorates my practice.”

- Conference Attendee
(Professional)

IT'S WHERE FAMILIES AND PROFESSIONALS CONNECT.

Something special happens when families, people in recovery and professionals meet together to learn at our conferences...

Since 2003, the National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA) Conference has invited treatment professionals and family members equally to our conference to gain knowledge, resources, and support. Our program provides not only the latest in eating disorders treatment and research, but also resources for family members and those in recovery. This synergy benefits not only the lay public, but also experienced professionals, experts and researchers.

YOU ARE THE EXPERT.

NEDA recognizes that other families, people in recovery and even the “experts” have a lot to learn from those who have personally experienced the journey of an eating disorder – and it does not look the same for every family. That’s why we have a family track at the conference, as well as a Family Panel that allows everyone to learn from those who have “been there.” The NEDA Conference is where both families and professionals are the experts.



SCHOLARSHIPS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.

The cost to attend a conference can sometimes be a barrier to families who face expensive treatment that often is not covered by insurance.

As a result, NEDA raises funds to provide scholarships to cover registration. If funding is available, sometimes additional financial aid for travel or accommodations can be made on a case-by-case basis. Scholarship donations enable families, individuals in recovery and students to attend who would otherwise be unable to. Attendees come away from the experience with a better understanding of eating disorders, the feeling that they are no longer alone in their struggle and with meaningful personal connections that will help them in the future. You can be sure that your gift to the conference scholarship fund will be genuinely appreciated and will make a positive difference in someone's life.

EATING DISORDERS ARE ILLNESSES...

...NOT, LIFESTYLE CHOICES.

Approximately 24 million American's suffer from Anorexia, Bulimia, or Binge Eating Disorder—more than the number of Americans who suffer from Alzheimer's disease. Eating disorders are more difficult and more expensive to treat than Schizophrenia. Anorexia Nervosa has the highest fatality rate of any mental illness. Yet, eating disorders are treatable, and recovery is possible with early detection and appropriate treatment.



"NEDA has been a source of comfort to our family after we lost our sister Karyn who struggled with her eating disorder for 30 years. Months after Karyn's passing, I attended the NEDA Conference. And for the first time, NEDA held a roundtable on grief and loss. Sitting in a room with 9 other family members whose daughters succumbed to an eating disorder offered solace beyond words. Each story was as unique as the special souls that were lost. And yet, and yet... we recognized each other. NEDA staff at the Conference could not be more helpful and compassionate. The offerings were extensive and substantive and so useful. And so it is with great sadness and great hope, that our family endows the Karyn Tandler NEDA Conference fund to enable families like ours to make the most of the extensive resources on offer at the annual NEDA Conference."

- Pearl Mattenson, Family Member

NEDA IS THE PLACE FOR HELP AND HOPE.

The National Eating Disorders Association was formed in 2001, when several smaller organizations merged to form a more unified voice for change throughout the United States. We envision a world without eating disorders. NEDA provides a website rich with free resources and a national, toll-free Helpline that acts as a lifeline to those seeking their first steps towards recovery – or for that of a loved one. We provide prevention and awareness programs such as our three online Toolkits for Parents, Educators and Athletic Trainers and Coaches – and our Proud2Bme.org interactive teen website. The Parent, Family & Friends Network (PFN), NEDA Navigators, and Loss Support Network programs help those coping with a loved one's illness. To create positive change, our Media Watchdog Program combats negative media messages and we seek to improve insurance coverage for eating disorders treatment with our STAR – Solutions Through Advocacy and Reform Program. NEDA also hosts National Eating Disorders Awareness Week in communities throughout the United States and other countries and holds an Annual Conference for Families and Professionals that takes place in a different city each year.