



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 14, 2015

\*\*\*\*PRESS ADVISORY\*\*\*\*

**MEDIA CONTACT**

**Kristina Mossgraber (585) 520-8380**

[kristina.mossgraber@namirochester.org](mailto:kristina.mossgraber@namirochester.org)

**NAMI Rochester Jessica Henderson Memorial Event Welcomes award winning author Kevin Hines to Rochester to speak about raising awareness about mental illness and suicide prevention**

**WHEN: Tuesday October 20, 2015 at 6:00pm (Mr. Hines takes the stage a 6:45pm)**

**WHO: Kevin Hines, award winning author of *“Cracked, Not Broken: Surviving and Thriving After a Suicide Attempt”***

**WHERE: School of the Arts 45 Prince Street Rochester, NY**

Kevin Hines, author of “Cracked, Not Broken - Surviving and Thriving After a Suicide Attempt” will be the featured speaker at NAMI Rochester’s 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Jessica Henderson Memorial Event. Mr. Hines will be telling his amazing story and delivering a message of hope and recovery at the Henderson Event. Two years after he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, he attempted to take his own life by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge. Mr. Hines is one of a startling minority of people who jump who have survived the fall (less than 1%). Following this experience he has dedicated his life’s work to raising awareness about mental illness and suicide prevention.

The Jessica Henderson Memorial Event was started by Kathy and Tom Henderson after their daughter lost her life to mental illness at the very young age of twenty-one. The event honors Jessica, by raising awareness and helping to break down the stigma associated with mental illness. NAMI Rochester shares the Henderson’s vision in helping individuals and their families of all cultures and backgrounds in need by offering support groups, classes, education and advocacy. Programs offered by NAMI Rochester are offered at no cost to the community.

**This year’s event will be held Tuesday, October 20 at 6:00 pm (reception begins at 5:30) at School of the Arts (45 Prince St.).** In addition to the keynote address given by Mr. Hines, guests will be able to visit community resource tables from other mental health agencies, enjoy refreshments and participate in a silent auction. Another meaningful item that has been added to the evening is the presentation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Jessica Henderson Spirit Award. The award honors a person whose contributions have enhanced the lives of individuals with mental illness, their families and their community. This year’s recipient is Meg Hutchinson, an award winning songwriter and poet who was featured in the documentary “Pack Up Your Sorrows” – a film that follows her on her journey to learn how to live a healthy life with bipolar disorder.

Registration for this event is \$15. Mr. Hines’ book will be available for sale the evening of the event, with a book signing following the program. Please visit [www.namiroc.org](http://www.namiroc.org) to register and for more information on NAMI resources.