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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 25, 2015

OPTIMAE LIFESERVICES ANNOUNCES NAMI FUNDRAISING CONCERTS

JULY 25, 2015 (DES MOINES, IA) – Optimae LifeServices announced today two summer benefit concerts for the Greater Des Moines chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI).

NAMI-Fest, the first concert, will be held at 8 p.m. August 22 at Streetcar 209, formerly House of Bricks, with doors opening an hour early. Vinyl Vagabonds from Ames will headline the event. Other artists include Nicholas Neibauer, Trish Toma and Tina & Brandon. Former radio personality, Clarence Key Jr., will serve as the Master of Ceremonies.

The second event, NAMI-Palooza, is scheduled 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. September 9 at the Summerset Winery near Indianola. The concert features Tina & Brandon and other jazz and blues music.

NAMI of Greater Des Moines is local nonprofit aimed at raising awareness about mental illness issues and connecting people resources. It also lobbies lawmakers at the local, state and national level on mental health related legislation. The organization serves an estimated 4,000 people a month.

Advance tickets are available at www.midwestix.com by searching "NAMI." Tickets for the August 22 event are \$12, while tickets for both concerts are \$20.

Ticket sales and proceeds from a silent auction will support more than a dozen educational classes and presentations offered by NAMI Greater Des Moines, as well as the group's lobbying efforts. More information about the organization and future events can be found at namigdm.org or Optimae's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/optimaelife.

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About Optimae LifeServices

Optimae LifeServices, Inc. provides healthcare and human services for individuals with disabilities and mental illness in 28 Southeastern and Central Iowa counties. For nearly three decades, we have equipped our customers with supports and services that encourage choice, empowerment and community integration. Our programs include community-based, behavioral health, home health and residential care services. We advocate for the rights and needs of approximately 4,000 Iowans each year, providing the quality of care we would want for our own family.

Bios

Vinyl Vagabonds

Vinyl Vagabonds are a talented and upbeat blues, R&B, funky soul and roots rock band based in Ames. Their zeal for these genres is evidenced in the abundance of spirit in their stage presentation and chemistry. Their connection with audiences is spontaneous, immediate and enduring. Their performance repertoire is a breath of fresh air for audiences that crave a get-down-and-boogie sound to lift them out of the rut of pop cover rock that presently pervades the live music club scene.

Tina & Brandon

Passionate partners in love and rhyme, Tina & Brandon have become quite a force to be reckoned with. Married since January 2005 and veterans for their previous bands Lady Blue and Bella Soul, these soulmates are entering a new era of life and music. They have appeared on numerous blues stages, big and small, and were named the 2015 Iowa Blues Challenge Duo Champions. The award-winning vocals of Tina plus the sought-after artistry of guitarist Brandon create a compelling union. For them, it is all about inspiration, authenticity and the thrill of a sweet blues groove.

Nicholas Neibauer

Nicholas Neibauer is a finger-picking style acoustic guitarist from Des Moines and has been playing his original music along with covers in live shows for the past three years, including in Nashville. He classifies himself as an Indie musician, leaning towards the blues-folk side of the genre. The unique lyrics and diverse style of his original songs keep audiences engaged from the beginning to the end. His songs range from bluesy, upbeat travel songs to more classical songs. He will kick off the night with Thomas Weber, another local musician. Their dueling guitars and vocal harmonies will be an excellent way to start the 2015 NAMI fundraising event.

Trish Toma

Trish Toma has been singing in the Des Moines area since 2001. With a diverse vocal style that has been likened to Pat Benetar and Etta James, she brings soul and energy to her performances. Toma served as a worship leader for seven years at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines and has performed with several other metro-area bands including the Abby Normal, The Ripp Chords and Soul Tease. She sat in with Bob Pace, Jeff Banks Band, Alchemist, Krista Haugland, Tina Haase Findlay and Mike Ruby.