

# MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Each May, we celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month. This is a great time to break the stigma surrounding mental health struggles by encouraging open conversations and advocating for greater understanding and support. Established in 1949 by Mental Health America, this month serves as a reminder that mental health is just as vital as physical health.

Millions of people around the world face challenges with mental health, ranging from anxiety and depression to bipolar disorder or schizophrenia. Despite its prevalence, stigma often keeps individuals from seeking help. Mental Health Awareness Month aims to change that narrative by promoting education, empathy, and access to care.

## Let's Break the Stigma

This year's theme is "Where to Start: Mental Health is a Changing World." It encourages people to take the first step, whether that is reaching out for help, starting a conversation with a friend, or simply learning more about mental health conditions and resources.

Workplaces, schools, and communities can play a vital role by creating environments that support mental well-being. Practicing self-care, fostering inclusive dialogue, and advocating for mental health policies are all ways we can contribute to a healthier, more compassionate society.

Struggling with mental health is nothing to be ashamed of. It's okay to ask for help. This month, and every month, let's work together to ensure no one feels alone in their journey.

