

## Social Work Month 2026



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March is National Social Work Month!

Social work is a profession. This month is a time to promote the profession, inspire social workers, and commend the beneficial impact of their practices. This month's theme: "Social Workers: Uplift. Defend. Transform." speaks to the mission of the profession – "to enhance human well-being, meet the basic human needs of all people, and put special attention on the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed and living in poverty" (NASW, 2026).

Social work professionals are found in all areas of society. Among these are schools, child welfare agencies, adoption and foster care, mental health and health care, research, academia, training, business, corporations, and in local, state, and federal government. Our own Keystone clinical social workers greatly enhance our mental health practice by touching the lives of our clients and our community. They are skilled psychotherapists who are also active contributors in several realms, working well beyond the basic expectations of their positions with us. For example, Colleen Abendroth, MSW, LCSW, RPT-S™ is one of others of our psychotherapists who has diligently trained in and incorporates Play Therapy in our practice. This is a highly specialized treatment modality particularly helpful for very young children. She has advanced to the level of a credentialed Play Therapy Supervisor, and able to pour back into her profession. She is equipped to train and mentor other professionals, even outside of our single practice. In late spring of 2025, Shana Blumenthal, MSW, LCSW took the lead in Keystone's advocacy in the plight of tornado victims in our North City community. She initiated the collection and with Emily Salmieri, MSW, LCSW, RPT™ and Amelia Sotnyk, MSW, LCSW, RPT-S™ disseminated basic supplies and resources to affected residents. Similarly, Amelia Sotnyk, MSW, LCSW, RPT-S™ headed up our cooperative efforts with the St. Louis Public Library's annual Martin Luther King, Jr Food Drive. This drive serves to address the unmet needs of vulnerable persons facing food insecurity.

We invite you to learn more about the social work profession. Please see the following highlights of how social workers uplift, defend and transform the lives of millions each day!

On the NASW webpage, you can check out resources such as a series of feature videos entitled "A Day in the Life of Social Workers"; a video and podcast series of "101 Things to Do with a Social Work Degree"; panels with social workers from multiple sectors on the Facebook/You Tube Event: "Social Workers: Uplift. Defend. Transform. Behind the Scenes"; and many other informational opportunities. Follow these links to get started:

<https://www.socialworkers.org/Events/Campaigns/Social-Work-Month>

<https://www.socialworkers.org/news/nasw-social-work-talks-podcast>