

Social Work Month 2026



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I was drawn to the profession of social work because of its emphasis on “person-in-environment” – acknowledging that individuals do not exist in a vacuum but rather are shaped and influenced by the context of their familial, societal, and community environments. Social workers are taught that to help an individual, we must also examine the different environments in which they function, and to advocate for change throughout. This is exemplified by the theme for this year’s Social Work month: “Uplift. Defend. Transform”. The National Association of Social Work (NASW) reminds us that this is Social Work’s “prime mission” – “to enhance human well-being, meet the basic human needs of all people, and put special attention on the needs and empowerment of people are vulnerable, oppressed and living in poverty.”

Social workers are on the front lines helping individuals, families, organizations, and communities come together to uplift individuals, defend the vulnerable, and transform society. We see the increasing challenges that individuals are facing today such as growing mental health concerns, barriers in accessing health care, the rising cost of living, and increases in discrimination against marginalized communities. Throughout all of this, social workers remain committed to serving those in need while sustaining a commitment to fighting for social justice and equity. We stay determined to uplift individuals and communities by defending and transforming both the lives of individuals and our society. We strive to empower vulnerable and marginalized people and communities to work towards a future that supports collective well-being.

Here at Keystone, this is embodied by our mission in which we seek to improve the mental health and well-being of clients, many of whom traditionally have had limited access to mental health care. We remain committed to client well-being and promoting a client’s mental health, as well as recognizing each client as a part of the family and community system in which they live. We often encounter families during times of struggle and attempt to meet them with compassion and hope for the future, while acknowledging the hardships in today’s times. We seek to uplift, defend, and transform the lives of our clients and the environment in which they live.