

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 1, 2017

Find us @naswil | #naswil

**Contact:** Joel Rubin, NASW-IL Executive Director**E-mail:** [jlrubin@naswil.org](mailto:jlrubin@naswil.org)**Phone:** 312.435.2100 x110

---

## **Social Workers Stand Up: March is National Social Work Month** *Chicago Social Worker Honored as Emerging Leader of the Year*

**Chicago, IL**—Social workers stand up for millions of people every day. These include people who are experiencing devastating illnesses and mental health crises, our veterans, children, families and communities. Yet many people still misunderstand who social workers are and the invaluable contributions they bring to society. This month we celebrate the contributions of outstanding Illinois social workers during National Social Work Month with this year's theme, "Social Workers Stand Up!"

In honor of Social Work Month, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Illinois Chapter is honoring the work of exceptional social workers and individuals whose work promotes social justice and social change with and on behalf of the people and clients they serve.

One such exemplary Illinois social worker being honored this year is Statewide Emerging Leader of the Year Sarah Buino. **Sarah Buino** (MSW, Loyola University Chicago; LCSW; CADC; CDWF) is founder of Head/Heart Therapy, Inc. She is a licensed clinical social worker, certified addictions counselor, Certified Daring Way facilitator, and adjunct faculty member at Loyola University. She specializes in shame and substance abuse and utilizes her musical skills in therapy interventions at various drug and alcohol treatment centers in the city. Sarah's latest endeavor in clinical social work leadership is a project she has been collaborating on with Robert Hilliker, LCSW, of Houston, TX. Together they will be opening a new location of The Lovett Center in Chicago. The Lovett Center is a community hub for continued learning, collaboration, and innovation for helping professionals. The Lovett Center provides practitioners with the autonomy of private practice, while creating a work environment that feels like a community. By hosting a broad base of helping professionals they will create opportunities to connect clients with highly specialized, integrative support, and higher levels of care they would likely not receive in other treatment settings.

Of the nomination of Sarah for Emerging Leader, colleague Catherine Chinnock, wrote: "Sarah's efforts to reduce shame and stigma associated with addiction have facilitated the healing of countless individuals. In addition to the work she directly does with clients, her impact comes through her role as an educator and the impact she indirectly has on all of the individuals served by those practitioners."

The NASW-Illinois Chapter is proud of the work of Sarah Buino and others like her who fight every day for the underserved and underprivileged in Illinois. Sarah is one of three individuals being honored during Social Work Month. To learn more about the other statewide awardees, please visit the NASW-Illinois Chapter website ([www.naswil.org](http://www.naswil.org)) or contact Joel L. Rubin, executive director, at [jlrubin@naswil.org](mailto:jlrubin@naswil.org).

---

*The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world, with over 130,000 members. The NASW-Illinois Chapter is one of the association's largest chapters with over 6,000 members in Illinois alone. NASW strives to advance social work careers, grow social work businesses, and protect the profession.*