

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1, 2017

Find us @naswil | #naswil

Contact: Joel Rubin, Executive Director**E-mail:** jlrubin@naswil.org**Phone:** 312.435.2100 x110

Social Workers Stand Up: March is National Social Work Month *Elgin Resident Honored as Social Worker of the Year*

ELGIN, 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 Social Worker of the Year Mary Abbott. **Mary Abbott** (MSW, Aurora University; LCSW) started her career in social work twenty-five years ago as a juvenile probation officer. For the past twenty years she has worked as a school social worker with the last five years as department lead. Additionally she is adjunct professor at Aurora University in the Graduate School of Social Work. She also provides supervision to social workers seeking their clinical hours for LCSW certification. Lastly she has a small private practice in which she provides psychotherapy to individuals, families, and couples. Mary has a passion for trauma-informed care and building relationships with her clients. She believes in connection, genuineness, and caring in order to empower change.

Of the nomination of Mary Abbott, colleague Ashley Talip wrote: "Ms. Abbott has been a vital member of this district for twenty years which means she has built relationship with countless families and resources in the community. She continues to work and support families while being the lead social worker and this full-time position now allows the social workers to have a contact person for help and guidance on situations."

The NASW-Illinois Chapter is proud of the work of Mary Abbott and others like her who fight every day for the underserved and underprivileged in Illinois. Mary 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) or contact Joel L. Rubin, executive director, at 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.