

National Social Work Month

WHEREAS, the Social Work Profession has, for decades, been dedicated to improving human well-being and enhancing the basic needs of all people — especially the most vulnerable among us — working against social injustice and advocating for the respect, dignity and worth of all people, and;

WHEREAS, Social Workers enter the profession because they have a strong desire to help empower individuals, families, communities, and to help our nation overcome issues that prevent us from reaching our full potential, and;

WHEREAS, Social Workers positively touch the lives of millions of Americans each day and in a variety of places, including schools, hospitals, the military, child and family welfare agencies, community centers, federal, state and local governments, businesses and foundations, and private practice, and;

WHEREAS, Social Workers are often first responders to the human condition, providing crucial support and empathy in times of crisis, and;

WHEREAS, Social Workers are the largest group of mental health care providers in the United States, working daily to help thousands of Americans overcome mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety, and;

WHEREAS, Social Workers are on the frontlines of the nation's opioid addiction crisis, helping people get the treatment they need and prevail over substance use disorders, and;

WHEREAS, Social Workers have helped people cope with death and grief and helped people and communities recover from natural disasters, including hurricanes, fire, drought and flooding, and;

WHEREAS, Social Workers have helped this nation live up to its values by advocating for equal rights for all, and;

WHEREAS, the Social Work Profession is one of the fastest growing careers in the United States, with over 700,000 social workers today and more than 80,000 more social workers expected to enter the profession over the next decade, and;

WHEREAS, Social Workers have continued to push for changes that have made our society a better place to live, most notably the social safety net programs that help ameliorate poverty, hunger, and homelessness, and;

WHEREAS, Social Workers endeavor to work throughout our society to meet people where they are and help empower people and our society to reach the goals they wish to attain, and;

WHEREAS, the 2026 Social Work Month theme, "Social Work: Uplift. Defend. Transform." Honors the prime mission of the Social Work 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 that are vulnerable, oppressed and living in poverty. Social Workers are critical to society as they help bridge cultural, political and economic divides that all nations experience over time adding positively to our efforts here at home in creating a more perfect union.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert T. Barnett, Mayor of the Village of Downers Grove, do hereby proclaim March 2026, as National Social Work Month in Downers Grove and encourage all residents to celebrate and support the Social Work Profession.

Dated this 3rd of March 2026, at Downers Grove, Illinois.



Robert T. Barnett, Mayor