



March is Social Work Month!

The theme "**Social Work Breaks Barriers**" resonates because social workers are on the frontlines helping our nation overcome myriad challenges, including but not limited to economic inequality, reproductive rights, racism, and natural disasters worsened by global warming. More than 700,000 social workers entered this profession nationwide because they strongly desire to assist those in need and strengthen our communities.

For generations, social workers have broken barriers to help people live better lives, and we continue to break barriers by empowering people in challenging situations. For example, we help those in mental crises by calling 988, the suicidal and crisis lifeline. We assist families overcome cultural hurdles that keep them from accepting and supporting children who are LGBTQIA2S+. We remove obstacles that prevent people from exercising their right to vote. For more than a century, we have helped break through barriers that have created a minimum wage, a 40-hour workweek, and the implementation of Social Security benefits.

Let us use this month to commit to bringing attention, awareness, and celebration to our great profession! Start with creating positive attention on the importance of social workers and rewrite the myths that plague our profession, for example, that we only work in child welfare. Next, engage with your community by volunteering at a non-profit and demonstrating your skills with individuals and families that need them the most. Also, use your voice and advocate by contacting federal elective officials and urging them to vote NO on discriminative, oppressive, and injustice legislation such as HB 1223: PreK-12 Educational Institutions and Instructional Requirements. This proposed legislation would prohibit specific actions relating to the use of certain titles and pronouns and revises requirements for instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity in public schools.

Celebrate all the social workers who are breaking barriers and thank them for their heart, dedication, and trailblazing work as change agents at every level of practice. Most importantly, be proud to tell others you are a social worker or a future social worker. Let the world know you are joining a profession founded on the core principles of social justice and the dignity and worth of all human beings. Use your social media platforms to post about social work month, the theme and highlight a social worker in your life. Volunteer to appear on the department's Instagram page (**saintleo_socialworkdept**) to bring awareness to why social work students are the best! Lastly, please consider attending one or all of the social work events planned by the BSW department below. Together let us remind the world why **Social Work Breaks Barriers**!

- **Influential Women in Social Work** – March 6, 2023, 11:00 am at the Wellness Center.
- **LEAD Day- Tallahassee** - March 20 – 21. To attend, please reach out to Professor Cazanave.
- **Why Vote Campaign? Voter Registration Drive** – All month – please contact Vanessa Navarro to participate or to register to vote!
- **NASW Social Work Month: Social Media Toolkit**: To access, [please click here](#).