Since its inception in 2001, the NASW Foundation has supported NASW in preparing social workers to respond to the needs of individuals, families and communities. The Foundation’s activities support the practitioner, the profession, and the public.

In this issue, you’ll learn about projects to advance practitioner skills in train the trainer workshops in HIV/AIDS, and efforts to develop organizational capacity among social workers in Africa. You’ll see highlights from our public education briefings in Hollywood, and from our scholarship and fellowship award recipients, and you’ll learn of social workers’ generous response to the disaster in Japan.

Please join us in celebrating the 10th anniversary of the NASW Foundation – your support is so important!

The Practitioner

The NASW Foundation supports NASW’s research and educational projects to strengthen and improve the best practices of frontline professional social workers.

HIV/AIDS Spectrum Project

In April, the NASW HIV/AIDS Spectrum Project held a Training of Trainers (TOT) for fifteen social workers from around the United States. TOT graduates are prepared to present workshops in their own communities addressing two critical areas - HIV/AIDS and medication adherence, and working with clients with HIV and mental health diagnoses and/or substance abuse issues.

NASW member Kris Wise wrote: “When I walked in the first evening, I knew instantly this was going to influence my practice, my agency, and those we serve for the better. The amount of experience, knowledge, and passion surrounding me was both inspiring and rejuvenating.

After having learned so much, I am now challenged with delivering this message to those working in Indiana. I am approaching this challenge with a great sense of pride, humility, and determination. This project is a perfect avenue to disseminate new information for this ever changing disease and infected/affected populations.”
To learn more about the NASW Spectrum Project and the role of social work in HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment, visit www.socialworkers.org/practice/hiv_aids. Take an online course at http://www.naswwebed.org/.

The NASW Foundation supports NASW’s grant-funded international projects through Social Workers Across Nations (SWAN). www.socialworkers.org/nasw/swan/

Tanzania Social Workers Association. The Tanzania Institute of Social Work, with funding from the American International Health Alliance, invited NASW to help revitalize the Tanzania Social Workers Association. NASW President James Kelly, NASW Human Rights and International Affairs Director Luisa Lopez, and NASW senior practice associate Amy Bess met with Tanzania social work officials to assist with their organizational self-assessment. Kelly said, “I hope social workers in the U.S. continue to encourage opportunities for professional interaction with our African colleagues, including teaching, research and faculty exchange.”

NASW worked with the PEPFAR Orphans and Vulnerable Children Technical Working Group and other key stakeholders, and provided technical expertise to create a framework used in discussions about planning, developing and supporting the social welfare workforce.

160 participants from 18 countries met to discuss effective strategies and common challenges.

NASW staff Luisa Lopez, Amy Bess, and Evelyn Tomaszewski were part of the steering committee (left). Lopez noted that many countries, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania, are revitalizing the social work profession. “Social work skills are increasingly understood as an effective means of alleviating societal problems related to poverty, child neglect and access to basic needs.”

NASW and People-to-People Visit Brazil in 2011, India and Kenya in 2012

NASW Executive Director and NASW Foundation President Betsy Clark led the People-to-People social work delegation to Russia in August, 2010. Clark, who also has led delegations to Cambodia, China, Egypt and South Africa as part of the Social Workers Across Nations, or SWAN initiative, said, “Once again, I was struck by how much different cultures have in common.”


NASW was asked by the US Agency for International Development to convene a conference in November 2010 to focus on strategies to strengthen the social welfare workforce in Africa, with the aim of improving the well-being of children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS.

The Profession

The NASW Foundation supports the social work profession by recognizing distinguished social workers past, current and future, by empowering social workers to become leaders, and by providing support for tomorrow’s social workers.

Sherma Charlemagne of Loma Linda University received the 2010-2011 Jane B. Aron Doctoral Fellowship. “My dissertation research examined how family involvement in care and clinician beliefs about parents influenced psychiatric rehospitalization among children and adolescents. The study was conducted across four phases on the child and adolescent units of a large behavioral center in California. Study results indicated that family involvement, clinician beliefs, service use and psychosocial factors significantly predicted psychiatric rehospitalization status among youth. The Jane B. Aron award greatly eased the financial burden of collecting the dissertation data and contributed considerably to the fulfillment of my lifelong dream of obtaining doctoral training in mental health services research for children and adolescents. Thank you for your support.”

The 2010 Eileen Blackey Doctoral Fellowship was awarded to Jennifer Courtney, University at Albany-SUNY. “I would like to thank the NASW Foundation for supporting my dissertation research through the Eileen Blackey Doctoral Fellowship. It is an honor to be a recipient. My research is a pilot study of preliminary outcomes and effect sizes for the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Family Workshop. The information obtained through this study will be used to develop a better understanding of the needs of family members of veterans with combat-related PTSD and to develop more effective support strategies within the VA system for those family members.”

NASW Foundation recognition awards

Visit www.naswfoundation.org/recognition to nominate candidates for the Knee / Wittman Health & Mental Health Awards, and the Rhoda Sarnat Award for improving the public perception of the social work profession.

“Progress is not automatic; the world grows better because people wish that it should, and take the right steps to make it better.”
– Jane Addams

The NASW Foundation supports the social work practitioner, the profession, and the public.

Please use the enclosed reply envelope to make your tax-deductible gift today! Contact the Foundation to discuss a legacy gift, 1-800-638-8799 ext 298, email naswfoundation@naswdc.org or go to www.naswfoundation.org.

Chapter Spotlight

With thanks to the NASW Florida Chapter for planning a “Peace, Love & Social Work” event at their June 2011 chapter conference – the social event will benefit the NASW Foundation Public Education Campaign fund.

Florida Chapter Executive Jim Akin in the spirit of the theme, with Paul D’Agostino, Shirley Furtick and Carolyn Polowy at the April 2010 Peace, Love & Social Work Gala in Washington, DC.
The NASW Foundation helps individuals, families and communities by providing social work information and resources to policy makers, community leaders, employers, and the public.

Educating the Public About Social Work

The NASW Foundation supported “Picture This: Women’s Health,” a briefing to educate Hollywood television writers about the social work role in women’s health. The panel included NASW volunteers Tricia Bent-Goodley, PhD, a Howard University social work professor and nationally recognized expert on domestic violence, and Kathy Gurland, LCSW, who founded the Peg’s Group cancer care navigation service in New York.

Tricia Bent-Goodley challenged writers to better educate the public about violence and other issues social workers help people overcome. “You have the power to break the stigma, to show women are resilient and not just sitting around as victims,” she said.

Gurland urged writers to go “straight to the source” and seek out social worker experts. She said medical shows rarely depict social workers advocating for treatment and services for patients and their families. “Often, this advocate role is given to doctors and nurses instead.”

Tom Bourgeois, a CBS television executive, said he came away with a better understanding for future storylines — that social workers in healthcare are part of an interdisciplinary team that works with doctors and nurses to help the sick and mentally ill. “That is fresh and new for us,” he said.

Disaster Assistance

When a disaster strikes, social workers may need help themselves. NASW established The Social Work Disaster Assistance Fund to provide financial support to social workers affected by disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, the 2010 Haiti earthquake, and the devastating 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

We thank NASW members and friends who contributed more than $30,000 in the two weeks following the Japan earthquake and tsunami. 100% of those donations went to our colleagues in Japan to help those in need.