“Hope is not about believing that we can change things. Hope is about believing that what we do makes a difference.”

– Vaclav Havel
“Progress is not automatic; the world grows better because people wish that it should and take the rights steps to make it better.”

– Jane Addams
SOCIAL WORKERS ACROSS NATIONS (SWAN)

Recognizing that social work is now a global profession, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Foundation initiated the Social Workers Across Nations (SWAN) program to provide a mechanism for social workers in the United States to offer their expertise and skills to the international community and to develop supportive and collaborative linkages with social workers around the world. Since its inception in 2008, SWAN has facilitated and funded a variety of initiatives including capacity building projects, outreach to allied international organizations, professional exchanges, and humanitarian efforts in many countries.

In her role as Chief Executive Officer of NASW and President of the NASW Foundation, Dr. Betsy Clark has long maintained that social work is the “profession of hope,” and that hope is a critical element of social work practice. She believes that social workers are the “holders of hope” for individuals, families, communities, and nations, and that, even in the face of the direst situations such as war, famine, and violence, social workers remain hopeful. Building on that belief, she created SWAN with the intention of strengthening the capacity of social workers around the world in their efforts to address poverty, inadequate health and mental health care, violence, and racial, ethnic, and gender disparities.

Social workers have the education, training, and culturally responsive skills to help those who are vulnerable, at-risk, and in crisis. They recognize the inherent worth and dignity of all people regardless of geographic boundary, and they play an important role in peace and social justice efforts.

This important work will be furthered through contributions to the SWAN program. Contributions in honor of Dr. Clark’s years of service to the profession of hope are most welcome. Please visit NASWSWAN.org for more information or to make a donation.
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

African Palliative Care Association (APCA)
NASW hosted leaders of the African Palliative Care Association (APCA) and members of the National Association of Social Workers of Uganda in 2011 and 2012. Continuing the partnership, NASW contributes resources and materials on palliative and end of life social work to the organization.

Best Practices of Psychosocial Oncology Summit in Hungary
NASW convened and coordinated with CancerCare, a psychosocial oncology summit in Hungary funded by the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation to address cancer care in the region in 2008. This project also provided six grants to start cancer programs in Hungary, as well as a web-based educational course.

Big Shoes Foundation
The Big Shoes Foundation, founded in 2003 in South Africa, is a non-governmental organization that provides consultative services to hospitals in three provinces. Children who have been diagnosed by the hospitals as having a life-limiting illness are referred to the palliative care team. The team supports the child and family-focusing on quality of life. An NASW delegation visited the facilities and provided resources. Big Shoes closed in 2012, and NASW is pleased to continue to support the work through Umduduzi Hospice Care for Children in South Africa.

Brookings Institution
NASW has worked with the Brookings Institution’s Building Bridges Coalition since its inception to increase the number of U.S. volunteers overseas, including social workers and others working in many capacities.

FHSSA (Foundations for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa)
NASW is a partner with FHSSA which was founded by NASW Social Work Pioneer® Dr. Bernice Catherine Harper. NASW has endowed a
scholarship in her name for social workers who address the psychosocial needs of the seriously ill in Africa. The first three recipients selected by the African Palliative Care Association began their studies in 2012.

Friends of Chernobyl (FOCCUS, Inc)
FOCCUS, Inc. works to raise public awareness in the United States of the devastating human consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. Composed of social workers, psychologists, and educators, this group serves populations and communities in Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia that were severely affected by the accident. FOCCUS, Inc. was the 2003 recipient of the NASW Foundation’s International Rhoda G. Sarnat Award. The Foundation also provided a grant to assist centers in the Ukraine in the training of social workers from Chernobyl in pediatric oncology social work.

Institute of Medicine (IOM)
- Global Violence Prevention Forum
  NASW serves on the IOM Global Violence Prevention forum aimed at addressing the high burden on global health posed by violence against women and children.
- Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education
  NASW is a member of the IOM Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education which aims to apply an ongoing, multi-national, multidisciplinary approach to exploring promising innovations in health education.

InterAction
NASW is a member of InterAction, the largest coalition of US-based international nongovernmental organizations focused on the world’s poor and most vulnerable people. Collectively, InterAction’s more than 190 member organizations work in every developing country to eliminate extreme poverty, uphold human rights, safeguard a sustainable planet and ensure human dignity for poor and vulnerable populations worldwide by elevating and advancing the goals of the U.S based international nonprofit community.
International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)

IFSW is a global organization representing over 750,000 social workers in 90 countries. The organization stands for social justice, human rights, and social development through the promotion of social work best practice models and the facilitation of international cooperation. NASW has been a supporting member and representative of the North American delegation. Most recently IFSW, in collaboration with the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) and the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), created the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development.

Jaipur Foot

During a delegation trip to India, NASW visited Jaipur Foot, an organization dedicated to ensuring the physical, economic, and social rehabilitation of those who are living with a disability, to enable them to regain their mobility and dignity and become full members of society. The NASW Foundation contributed funds to assist Jaipur Foot develop and distribute prosthetic limbs for those in need.

Korean Association of Social Workers (KASW)

KASW and NASW partnered to place a KASW staff member in Washington, DC for a year-long professional exchange. In addition, three NASW Presidents traveled to Korea and NASW has hosted several Korean social work delegations.

People to People Ambassador Program

NASW has a partnership with the People to People program and has led 10 professional exchange delegations to nations around the world including a special delegation to hospices in South Africa and a humanitarian trip to Costa Rica in the summer of 2013.

Physicians for Peace

Based on similar goals, Physicians for Peace and NASW signed a memorandum of understanding which encourages the organizations to seek to conduct activities that complement and strengthen the work of both groups in developing countries. Efforts are focused on improving the health and
lives of children and their families. In 2010, after the Haiti earthquake, the NASW Foundation raised funds for the relief efforts. Fifty percent of the donations raised were allocated to Physicians for Peace so the organization could provide services to children who had lost a limb by providing them with prosthetics and additional assistance with recovering from the tragedy.

**Tanzania Social Workers Association (TASWO)**

NASW has been working with TASWO since 2011 on building the infrastructure and services of the Association, and leaders from the organization have visited the NASW office several times. Likewise, NASW participated in several trainings as well as the Annual TASWO Leadership Meeting and Social Work Conference to offer technical assistance.

*This partnership was made possible through the generous support of the American people with funding from the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and USAID Tanzania. Activities are carried out through a partnership between the Tanzania Association of Social Workers and the National Association of Social Workers in the US, managed by the American International Health Alliance’s HIV/AIDS Twinning Center, which is funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).*

**The One Campaign**

NASW is a partner of The One Campaign, which is an effort to rally Americans one-by-one to fight the emergencies of global AIDS and extreme poverty. As a founding partner, in the summer of 2005, representatives from NASW traveled to Scotland with organizers of the ONE Campaign to urge President Bush to advocate for human rights and other policies that will help achieve the Millennial Development Goals established by the United Nations.

**Memoranda of Understanding:**

- American International Health Association
- Armenian Social Work Association
- Cambodia Association of Social Workers
- Canadian Association of Social Workers
- Indian Society of Professional Social Work
- Institute of Social Work in Tanzania
- Korea Association of Social Work
- Physicians for Peace
- Union of Social Workers and Social Pedagogues (Russia)
United Nations

NASW secured Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) status through the United Nations in 2009.

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
  NASW has been involved in the Campaign for U.S. Ratification for the CRC, which is the first legally binding international instrument to incorporate the full range of human rights—civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights.

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
  The CEDAW Treaty helps women and girls go to school, own and inherit property, take part in public life, and fight violence and oppression, and NASW has been a firm supporter of the ratification of this effort.

International Social Work Disaster Assistance Fund

The Social Work Disaster Assistance Fund was established to provide financial assistance to social workers affected by disasters. Donations go directly to the social workers and/or social welfare organizations that can provide assistance to those who suffered loss and were in need of financial or other assistance due to the disaster. By assisting social workers directly, they, in turn, are able to serve others.

The Disaster Assistance Fund has assisted social workers affected by:

- Japanese earthquake and tsunami, 2011
  Following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, NASW contacted the Japanese Social Work Association and donated 100 percent of the funds raised to social workers to provide services to those affected by the disaster.

- Haitian earthquakes, 2010
  The NASW Foundation partnered with the National Hospice Foundation in supporting Holy Angels Hospice in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Deschapelles, Haiti, and
Boston-based Partners in Health. All three organizations provided palliative and end-of-life care to severely injured victims of the earthquake. Funds were also allocated to Physicians for Peace to provide services to children who lost limbs in the disaster.

- **Indonesian tsunami, 2006**
  Donations to assist social workers affected in the aftermath of the 2006 tsunami were distributed through the International Federation of Social Workers.

- **Hurricane Katrina, 2005**
  The NASW Foundation Disaster Assistance Program was launched after Hurricane Katrina to provide financial assistance directly to social worker affected by hurricane. Donations help them re-establish their lives, so they can continue to assist others.

**International Delegations**

NASW leads delegations of social workers to international destinations. These delegations have the opportunity to exchange best practices with social work colleagues in other countries and to assist with local social welfare projects. Countries visited have included:

- Costa Rica, 2013
- South Africa, 2012
- India, 2011
- Brazil, 2011
- Cuba, 2011
- Russia, 2010
- Egypt, 2009
- South Africa, 2008
- Cambodia, 2007
- China, 2006

**LEARN MORE ABOUT SOCIAL WORKERS ACROSS NATIONS (SWAN) AT NASWSWAN.ORG.**
MAP OF LOCATIONS SERVED BY SOCIAL WORKERS ACROSS NATIONS