

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Proclamation

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NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH

WHEREAS, Social Workers enter the profession because they seek to help empower individuals, families, communities, and our nation to overcome issues that prevent them from reaching their full potential; and

WHEREAS, Social Workers positively touch the lives of millions of Americans each day in many places, including schools, hospitals, the military, child welfare agencies, community centers, federal, state, and local government - including our Department of Human Services; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 theme of “*Social Work Breaks Barriers*” embodies how social workers help empower individuals, families, and our communities to overcome hurdles that prevent them from better well-being; 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, as well as working on the frontlines of the nation’s opioid addiction crisis, by assisting people to get the treatment they need to prevail over substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, Social Workers help people cope with death and grief, and help people and communities recover from natural disasters that are increasingly fueled by climate change; and

WHEREAS, Social Workers help this nation live up to its stated values by advocating for equal rights for all, including people of color, people who are Indigenous, LBGTQIA2S+, and people who follow various faiths; and

WHEREAS, Social Work is one of the fastest-growing professions in the United States, with about 708,000 social workers today and more than 60,000 more social workers expected to enter the profession over the next decade; and

WHEREAS, Social Workers continue to push for changes that make our society a better place to live, including a livable wage, improved workplace safety, and social safety net programs that help ameliorate poverty, hunger, and homelessness; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Christian Dorsey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia proclaim the month of March 2023 as

NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH

and call upon all residents to join the National Association of Social Workers and Arlington County in celebration and support of the Social Work profession.



Christian Dorsey
Chair