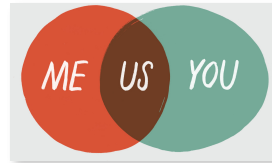


Included in this month's issue...

ABOUT SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK MONTH AND WEEK



SSW MONTH/WEEK CELEBRATION SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK FORUM



M-DCPS ESE PROGRAM AND M-DCASSW COLLABORATION

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER GAZETTE

This publication is dedicated to the memory of the February 2018 tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School that took the lives of 17 students and staff members and injuring 17 others. We encourage schools to recognize the widespread impact of trauma and understand the potential paths for recovery. This begins by recognizing the signs and symptoms of trauma in our students, families and staff and providing immediate response via the available policies, procedures and practices that guide prevention and intervention in our schools. Together, we can make a difference to prevent future tragedies and ensure a safer environment that promotes learning, well-being and safety of our students. We give thanks to the M-DCPS school social workers that provided crisis response to students and staff from MSD SHS, following this tragedy (from left to right): D. Maestre, D. Carmona, A. Gallego, V. Tejera, D. Oré, J. Restrepo, L. Ferrer and G. Collings.



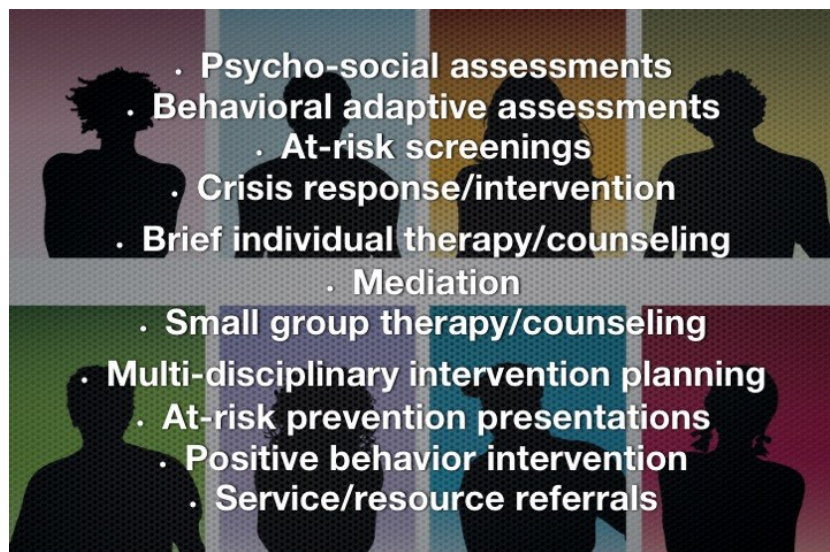
“School Social Workers are always there to give our students a helping hand.”

2019 School Social Work Month-Week

School Social Workers (SSWs) hold a vital role in schools, providing services to students, families, staff, and the school community. SSWs invest their time, training, and expertise to remedy barriers to learning. They work with teachers,



administrators, parents, and other educators to provide student assessments, coordinated interventions and consultation designed to keep students in school and help families access the supports needed to promote student success. The National Association of Social Work (NASW) recognizes Social Work Month in March. The School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA), Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and the Miami-Dade Association of School Social Workers (M-DCASSW) acknowledge School Social Work Week from March 3-9, 2019. Some of the specific functions provided by school social workers include:



M-DCASSW Families in Need (FIN)

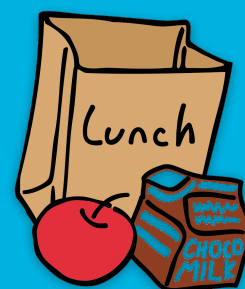
During School Social Work Month, the Miami-Dade County Association of School Social Workers (M-DCASSW) has established a tradition of providing special support to students whose families are going through a difficult time. School social workers are invited to submit applications highlighting the special needs of a student; M-DCASSW then selects those for whom we feel we can best assist through our *Families in Need (FIN)* program. Historically, we have been able to help families facing lack of basic necessities, homelessness, transportation issues, death in the family, money for school programs, and medical issues. We have offered this assistance to general and exceptional education students facing any of the aforementioned impediments to school achievement. This year, all applications must be submitted for consideration no later than March 7, 2019 with the award(s) to be distributed on March 21st at our School Social Work Forum. We look forward to continuing our tradition of providing students a helping hand at a crucial moment. Click here for a copy of the Families in Need (FIN) Nomination Form.

School Activities to Celebrate School Social Work Week



SET UP A DISPLAY AND POSTER

- Create a SWW theme/poster
- Provide information about the profession
- Describe the roles that social workers perform within your school
- Display photos of SSWs in action and a brief description of what they are involved in doing
- Set up display in a prominent area of the school



HOST A 'LUNCH AND LEARN' FOR OTHER PROFESSIONAL STAFF

- Invite your school SSW to lunch
- Suggest sharing of a topic that highlights the profession's relevance
- Topics could include: bullying prevention, reducing school violence, improving school attendance, value of counseling services; etc.

School Activities to Celebrate School Social Work Week



SCHOOL PSA TO PROMOTE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK

- Have your school’s student media program co-create a public service announcement (PSA) with your school’s social worker
- Include an image or video of the SSW in action
- Include a brief description of what they are involved in doing
- Encourage students to seek assistance from SSW if needed



RECOGNIZE YOUR SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

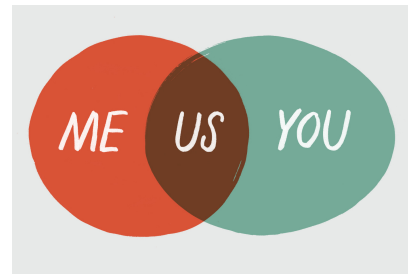
- Reach out to your SSW in person, e-mail or text to thank them for their support

SEND US YOUR SSW ‘MEMORY’

Submit any SSW Month/Week related story, photo or video-clip by tagging @OfficeofESE and include hashtag #SSWMonth

School Social Work Forum

In alignment with the District’s acknowledgement of our SB H-7 2019 School Social Work Month and Week, you are invited to participate in our upcoming School Social Work Forum to be held on Thursday, March 21st, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.



at Nova Southeastern University (Kendall Campus). As the theme of the National Association of Social Work (NASW) 2019 SSW Month is “Elevate Social Work”, and that of the School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA) *School Social Work Week* is “Lucky Enough to be a School Social Worker”, the M-DCPS SSW Program and Miami-Dade Association of School Social Work (M-DCASSW) will be facilitating an opportunity for all M-DCPS school social workers to participate in an interactive dialogue aimed at sharing best-practices, cultivating thoughts and ideas, fostering responsibility, ownership and accountability within the profession. The forum will encourage openness and cooperation among all participants. The goal of the discussion will be to generate recommendations and solutions that will be shared with our program office for adaptation into related policy, procedure and professional development that impacts the delivery of school social work services. The meeting will include dessert and coffee sponsored by our professional association, M-DCASSW. If interested in participating, please RSVP to our association’s corresponding secretary, Ms. Lisa Truby @ ltruby@dadeschools.net.

Cross Organization Collaboration

To foster and promote continuing professional development for school social workers, the M-DCPS Department of Exceptional Student Education (ESE), School Social Work Program in collaboration with the Miami-Dade Association of School Social Workers (M-DCASSW) have developed a yearly calendar of training sessions on an array of topics. This school year’s sessions have included topics on: *Restorative Justice, Collaborating with Parents to Design Effective Interventions, Adolescent Depression and Suicide Prevention, Youth Safety and Wellness, Youth Mental Health First Aid* as well as policy and procedure reviews related to the Miami-Dade Crisis Stabilization Units, M-DCPS Mental Health Program, Miami-Dade County Police Department, and State of Florida Office of Adoption and Child Protection.