

## SOCIAL SERVICES

By Sharon Hurley, CVA

### Generations Strong

National Social Work Month is in March and this year's theme is "Social Work: Generations Strong."

Each day, nearly 800,000 social workers nationwide work to elevate and empower others, giving them the ability to solve life's problems, cope with personal roadblocks, and obtain the services they need.

One of these social workers is Dave Roussel, who celebrated his fourth anniversary at PSRC in November. Some of the things people have said about working with Dave are: "He is a good listener, very thorough, willing to go above and beyond." The one description that almost everyone uses to describe Dave is: "He is KIND." He is known to put people at ease immediately with his smile and easy laugh. When asked about his position at PSRC Dave said that no two days are ever the same and he loves the variety of people that he has the honor of meeting.

Dave's role as coordinator of the HomeFriends program has him matching volunteers with those that desire someone to come for visits to their home.

He has had some very successful matches, including people that in their first visit realized that they both enjoyed world travel and exchanged numerous stories about their adventures. Dave is



the facilitator for the popular Let's Talk group that meets on Wednesdays at Spruce Circle. This group discusses a variety of topics each week based on the participants life circumstances, current events, traveling and some heated discussions on politics. Twice a year Dave facilitates discussions around health care decisions/advance directives, and monthly he co-facilitates the Transition to Retirement group with John George, PhD. Dave also does baseline memory screenings and will follow up annually.

#### **Social workers are everywhere!**

You may not realize it, but wherever there's a need, social workers are there. They're in libraries, in hospitals, mental health facilities, and clinics.

They place the sick and mentally ill on the path to recovery. They support our courageous military personnel, veterans, and their families. They are in schools helping students overcome issues that prevent them from getting an education, and when warranted, they protect children who have been neglected or mistreated. According to the Bureau of Labor

Statistics, social work is one of the fastest-growing professions in the United States and is expected to rise 11% in the next decade.

This year's theme—Social Work: Generations Strong—highlights the fact that social workers have been working for generations to improve the lives of every single American. The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) marks its sixty-fifth anniversary, paying homage to social workers, many of whom are responsible for the countless benefits Americans enjoy today—including more



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and better access to health and mental health care, Social Security, and a minimum wage.

Social work is also a profession that allows people across many generations to make a profound, positive impact on the lives of millions of people daily. You will find social workers from the silent generation and baby boomers to millennials and Generation Z who are doing the hard, often unsung work,

to make our nation and the world a better place.

Reach out to one of the PSRC social services team members for assistance with an aging loved one, questions about senior benefits, transportation, decisions about what services are needed to age in place, and anything related to seniors navigating life transitions. Call 609.252.2362 or 609.924.7108.

Sharon Hurley, CVA, director of social services & volunteer coordinator  
 David Roussell, MEd, MSW, LSW, care coordinator & HomeFriends coordinator  
 Nicole Maccarrone, LCSW, LCADC, care coordinator & social service outreach  
 Fran Angelone, Crosstown coordinator & Spruce Circle office manager



PHOTO: PSRC social work team (L-R) Sharon Hurley, Dave Roussell, and Nicole Maccarrone

- Access Princeton**  
609.924.4141
- Affordable Housing**  
609.688.2053
- Arm-in-Arm**  
609.921.2135
- Central Jersey Legal Services**  
609.695.6249
- Community Without Walls**  
609.921.2050
- Cornerstone Community Kitchen**  
609.924.2613
- Funeral Consumers Alliance**  
609.924.3320
- Meals on Wheels**  
609.695.3483
- Mercer County Nutrition Program**  
609.989.6650
- Mercer County Office on Aging**  
609.989.6661 or 877.222.3737
- NJ Consumer Affairs**  
973.504.6200
- NJ Division of Aging Services**  
800.792.8820, ext. 352
- One Table Café**  
609.924.2277
- PAAD (Pharmaceutical Aid)**  
800.792.9745
- Princeton Community Housing**  
609.924.3822
- Princeton Housing Authority**  
609.924.3448
- Princeton Human Services**  
609.688.2055
- Princeton Police (non-emergency)**  
609.921.2100
- Princeton Public Library**  
609.924.9529
- Reassurance Contact**  
609.883.2880
- Ride Provide**  
609.452.5144
- Senior Care Services of NJ**  
609.921.8888
- Senior Citizen Club**  
609.921.0973
- Social Security**  
800.772.1213
- SHIP (Medicare)**  
609.695.6274, ext. 215
- T.R.A.D.E. (Transportation)**  
609.530.1971