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Skokie Social Worker Recognized as Social Worker of the Year

Skokie, IL—There are nearly 720,000 social workers in our nation with roughly 20,000 in Illinois alone. That national number is expected to grow by 12 percent by the end of the decade, making social work one of the fastest growing professions in the nation. This is because the life-affirming services that social workers provide are needed more than ever. This is especially true as our nation continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, systemic racism, economic inequality, global warming, and other crises.

In continuation of this year's National Professional Social Work Month theme, "The Time is Right for Social Work," the National Association of Social Workers, Illinois Chapter (NASW-IL) is honoring the work of some exceptional Illinois social workers and individuals of every generation, whose work promotes social justice and social change with and on behalf of the people and clients they serve.

One such exemplary Illinois social worker being honored this year is 2022 NASW-Illinois Chapter Statewide Social Worker of the Year awardee Lynn R. Zakeri. **Lynn R. Zakeri** (*MSW, University of Illinois at Chicago; LCSW*) is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) in the Chicago area whose passion is to help people figure out what is wrong and help them feel better again. Previously working in the foster care system and then public schools, Lynn is now owner of Lynn Zakeri LCSW Clinical Services, PLLC, where she works closely with her associates and helps children, adolescents, adults, and families both clinically and practically. She enjoys assisting in the progress and achievement of attaining goals, and clients' needs are prioritized, addressed, and met. Lynn volunteers and serves on many committees, both with NASW and in the community.

In support of their nomination of Lynn, colleague Susan L. Adler, LCSW, wrote: "Lynn's refusal to accept a dead-end, her perseverance on behalf of worthy and dignified clients, her passion for progress, her joy in solutions, and her relationships, professionally and personally, make it clear: Lynn Zakeri does not simply practice social work; Lynn Zakeri truly is a social worker."

The NASW-Illinois Chapter is proud of the work of Lynn and others like her who work every day to effect positive changes in their communities and beyond. Lynn is one of four individuals being honored as this year's 2022 NASW-Illinois Chapter Statewide Awardees. To learn more about the other statewide awardees, please visit the NASW-Illinois Chapter website (www.naswil.org) or contact Joel L. Rubin, executive director, at jrubin.naswil@socialworkers.org.

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world. The NASW-Illinois Chapter is one of the association's largest chapters and advocates for over 20,000 social workers in Illinois alone. NASW strives to advance social work careers, grow social work businesses, and protect the profession while seeking to also enhance the well-being of individuals, families, and communities through advocacy.