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**Contact:** Joel L. Rubin, Executive Director

**E-mail:** [jrubin.naswil@socialworkers.org](mailto:jrubin.naswil@socialworkers.org)

**Cell Phone:** 847.707.0549

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## **Springfield Social Worker Recognized as Emerging Leader**

**SPRINGFIELD, 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 Emerging Leader of the Year awardee Katherine Galloway. **Katherine Galloway** (*MSW, Widener University; LSW*) is a licensed social worker with a career foundation in public service. She felt the pull to use her advocacy and intervention skills to improve quality of life for individuals, families, and communities that led her to embark into social work. She puts these skills to use in the Office of the Illinois Senate President and as therapist. Katherine describes a good day as working with her colleagues at the State Capitol and then bouncing a few blocks away to meet with clients and witness their brave transformations. Katherine credits her family for a foundation toward public service and is continually motivated by her clients' vulnerability and fortitude.

In support of their nomination of Katherine, Illinois Senate President Don Harmon wrote: "Her desire to help people, whether it be through direct social work or juggling the responsibilities of a legislative session, is obvious. The constituents of the 39th Senate District, the members and staff of the Illinois Senate and the people of the great state of Illinois are all better for it."

The NASW-Illinois Chapter is proud of the work of Katherine and others like her who work every day to effect positive changes in their communities and beyond. Katherine 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](http://www.naswil.org)) or contact Joel L. Rubin, executive director, at [jrubin.naswil@socialworkers.org](mailto:jrubin.naswil@socialworkers.org).

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*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.*