Dear Friends,

Dave Roussell. Kate Hall. Nicole Maccarone. Susan Hoskins. Lisa Adler. And others that I have not had the pleasure of working with. Do you know what each of these extraordinary people have in common? Of course, they all have made outstanding contributions to the Princeton Senior Resource Center and the wider community for many years. They are also social workers. In March, as we recognize “National Social Work Month,” we lift up these amazing social workers, as well as others in our lives (such as my mother, Mollie) who have made a difference through their compassionate service.

Did you know that there are over 700,000 social workers in the United States? That number is expected to grow by twelve percent by the end of the decade, making social work one of the fastest growing professions in the nation. Social workers drive significant, positive change through advocacy and social action. Social workers offer compassionate care, guidance, and support through the various places on our life’s journey.

Social workers have been an integral part of our nation for decades. Social workers such as social reformer Jane Addams, former Labor Secretary Frances Perkins, and civil rights leaders Dorothy Height, Whitney Young, and Ida B. Wells have pushed for voting rights, equal rights, Social Security, unemployment insurance, and other programs, many of which we now take for granted.

Social workers today provide life-affirming services that are needed now more than ever as we continue to grapple with the Covid-19 pandemic, systemic racism, economic inequality, climate change, and other crises. For older adults, social workers provide companionship, guidance, case management, counseling, resource referral, and so much more. Here at PSRC we have been richly blessed by a legacy of social workers who have served our community throughout the years.

National Social Work Month gives us an opportunity to highlight and honor one of those

PHOTO: Dave Roussell at Chatham Fishing Pier, Cape Cod
social workers, Dave Roussell, as he retires at the end of this month after six years of service with PSRC. Dave is a wise, compassionate, and caring social worker who has been an incredible asset to our staff and community. Whether leading support groups such as *Let's Talk* or *Transition to Retirement*, coordinating the *HomeFriends* program, leading *Healthcare Decision Day* workshops, or providing counseling and case management, Dave led with heart and humor.

Dave will be missed as he himself “transitions to retirement,” and we wish him well and send him with our deepest gratitude and appreciation. Look further into this newsletter for a special feature on Dave’s work with PSRC as well as information on how to share your appreciation with Dave before he goes.

Each day, social workers empower millions of Americans so they can live life to their fullest potential. Social workers also work in communities and in politics to improve living conditions for all. We at PSRC have benefited greatly from the contributions of outstanding social workers — and I trust that your life has been positively influenced by social workers with whom you have encountered. During National Social Work Month I urge you to take time to thank the social workers in your life and offer encouragement and appreciation for the work they do each day.

All the Best,
*Drew A. Dyson, PhD*
*Chief Executive Officer*