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Subject: A Message from NACSW to Come Together as We Respond to COVID-19



North American Association of Christians in Social Work
PO Box 121, Botsford, CT 06404
www.nacsw.org | info@nacsw.org | 888-426-4712

Dear Friend,

The outbreak and rapid spread of COVID-19 is a reminder of just how interconnected we are as a people and as a world. These times are filled with uncertainty and anxiety. We are also witnessing an amazing solidarity and community effort to do what we can and sacrifice in ways that together we hope are lessening the impact to the vulnerable among us and might support the focused efforts of medical professionals serving with their own God-given talents and abilities.

Whether you find yourself spending more time than typical at home or whether you are on the front line responding in your community, we support you and offer prayers for hope, health, and healing. When circumstances leave us feeling overwhelmed or powerless, we can remember that our hope and trust is in a living, loving God, who is not surprised by this and is near.

We hope you will use this unusual circumstance to be salt and light to the world. As followers of Christ and as social workers, we have a call to participate in God's kingdom work by showing love, lifting prayers, living with hope, and drawing together. You may find opportunity in your day to spend extra time with family, to rest from daily rhythms, or you may be exceedingly busy navigating uncharted waters and care for clients who are vulnerable, scared, and perhaps alone.

We want to support you at NACSW and would welcome knowing more about the impact of COVID-19 on your work and your community. Please join us on social media to share with the NACSW community your prayer requests, thoughts, and conversations.

To best support our staff and respond to the changing landscape we find ourselves in, the NACSW office will be on a limited functionality starting Monday 3/16/20- approximately 4/1/20. We will be answering calls, emails, and other requests through remote access during typical office hours. However, we will be postponing the shipping of book orders until early April. NACSW will carefully monitor CDC recommendations and make any necessary announcements about event or chapter meeting schedule changes at a later date if needed.

Many NACSW staff members have young children and so we are grateful to be able to equip our staff with the tools and technology to meet the needs of members while also tending to the needs in their individual families. Your ongoing support and membership in NACSW creates a safety net for the staff that serve us by maintaining best business practices and creating a safe and positive work environment.

We know you join us in expressing gratitude for the staff at NACSW and the ways they contribute their time and talents to undergird the work of Christians in social work across

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We appreciate this prayer from Bread for the World and wanted to share it with you as a reminder of God's presence with us:

God of Hope and Healing:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on all people everywhere so that anxiety might be transformed into assurance that you are with us.

Give strength to our public health officials, elected leaders, doctors, and nurses everywhere as they work to curtail the spread of COVID-19.

Protect those among us who are vulnerable in this time, those who will experience greater hunger, and those who do not have access to reliable and adequate healthcare.

We give thanks for first responders, who put their own health and safety at risk to save the lives of others. May they have every resource they need to do their jobs well and safely.

All this we pray, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our strength. Amen.

Your health and safety matter to us at NACSW and we are praying for your ministry through social work.

Peace,

Rick Chamiec-Case
Executive Director

Allison Tan
Director of Programs

Kim Cook
Director of Operations

& the Entire NACSW Staff