

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**March Is National Social Work Month: Social Workers Change Futures
Wilmette Women Honored as Local Social Worker of the Year**

Chicago, IL—There are over 12,000 professional social workers in Illinois, all of whom dedicate their careers to either helping people transform their lives, or improve environments that make such progress possible. These individuals serve as agents of positive change in their communities, working to improve the fabric of society by serving as advocates for people who need help addressing serious life challenges and exploring their options.

This year's National Social Work Month theme, "Social Workers Change Futures," celebrates the many ways professional social workers make a difference for people every day. In honor of Social Work Month, the National Association of Social Workers Illinois Chapter (NASW Illinois) is honoring the work of exceptional social workers and individuals whose work promotes social justice and social change with and on behalf of the people and clients they serve.

One exemplary Illinois social worker being honored this year as the NASW Illinois Northeastern District Social Worker of the Year is **Stephanie L. Kutzen** (*PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago; LCSW*), is founder and director of Employee Consultation Services, a human resources consulting firm in Chicago. She specializes in designing, managing, and evaluating services related to corporate social responsibility, specifically the relationship between corporate activity and social issues. A nationally certified employee assistance professional (EAP), she also adjunct professor at the Jane Addams School of Social Work (University of Illinois at Chicago) and the Dominican University Graduate School of Social Work. During her forty years of professional experience as a trainer and consultant, Stephanie managed over twenty EAP programs in the private and public sectors. She consults actively on leadership, human system dilemmas, and change management.

The awards ceremony for the Northeastern District will take place on Thursday, March 10, 2011. For more information about the event, contact Northeastern District Chair Cheri Sinnott (northeastern@naswil.org).

To learn more about Stephanie Kutzen and the other individuals being honored during National Social Work Month, please visit the NASW Illinois Chapter website (www.naswil.org) or contact Nina Nguyen at nnguyen@naswil.org.

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world, with 150,000 members and over 7,000 in Illinois alone. NASW works to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards, and to advance sound social policies.

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