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# 2004-2005 NASW Idaho Chapter Annual Social Work Award Winners

The Idaho Chapter had the immense pleasure of recognizing three well deserving recipients of our Annual Social Work Awards at our Social Work Month Celebration Dinner on Friday, March 4th, at the Idaho Hispanic Cultural Center in Nampa, Idaho. The special evening also included Hispanic entertainment, a silent auction, a Tex-Mex dinner buffet and an inspiring keynote address entitled “Working with Diversity” given by Sam Byrd, President of Diversity Works.

**KATHY TIDWELL, LCSW**  
*Social Worker of the Year*

Throughout her career, Kathy has made a difference in the lives of vulnerable populations through her tireless advocacy efforts and innovative program development. She demonstrates outstanding leadership skills and takes risks on behalf of the clients she serves to benefit their lives and the profession of social work as a whole. After working in the California mental health system for 10 years, Kathy received her Masters Degree in Social Work from California State University, Sacramento in 1989. She spent the next 12 years working in the public sector in children’s mental health, sexual abuse treatment, crisis response for the children’s and adult’s systems, and adult mental health. She held a variety of positions during that time, including clinician, clinical supervisor and manager.

Four years ago, Kathy started her own business, Tidwell Social Work Services and Consulting, in Boise. She provides clinical services to a mixed clientele, training, and consultation on a variety of projects. Her consulting role has included case consultation and training for Head Start and the Community Building Refugee Project and she has been one of the trainers providing the Red Flags training for Idaho State University, Institute for Rural Health. In September 2003, Kathy also became co-founder of a non-profit organization called Equine Partners Offering New Awareness, Inc. (E.P.O.N.A.), which helps cover the expenses related to using horses to assist with psychotherapy for low income patients.

Kathy is committed to social work education serving as an adjunct faculty member of the School of Social Work at Boise State University as well as supervising master level interns through both Boise State University and Northwest Nazarene University. She has also been a very active community volunteer and mental health advocate having served as President for the Idaho Society for Clinical Social Work, President of the LAMP Board of Directors, a Board member of NAMI and the Committee Chairperson of a statewide mental health stakeholder group which contributed its work to the Idaho Association of Counties



*Kathy Tidwell (with plaque) and her nominator, Stephanie Hadley.*

**Mental Health Work Group.**

Kathy’s colleagues describe her with words and phrases such as dedicated, positive, upbeat, high professional standards, fearless advocate, innovative, extremely talented, committed, responsive to client’s needs, energetic, tireless, creative, and passionate.

**ROGER SHERMAN**  
*Public Citizen of the Year*

Roger has been an activist, organizer and visionary in Idaho for a quarter century. A multi-issue, multi-constituency movement for social justice has taken root in this state in large part because of Roger’s leadership and dedication. He has been a mentor and strategist with most of the social justice organizations in southern Idaho initially working as a Vista Volunteer in Burley in the early 1980’s, eventually

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## Idaho Chapter

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### Editor's Note

In the interest of unbiased and accurate communications, THE GATEKEEPER subscribes to the importance of avoiding materials that might imply discriminatory language, sexual, racial, ethnic, or other kinds of stereotyping or bias. THE GATEKEEPER is committed to the fair and equal treatment of individuals and groups. Materials submitted should not promote discriminatory attitudes or assumptions about people. Views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of NASW.

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## NASW Idaho Chapter Leadership

### Elected Board Members – (voting)

**President:** Linda Burch, LCSW (208) 345-4060 (burchlinda@hotmail.com)

**President-Elect:** JR Seaman, PhD, ACSW (208) 292-2678 (jrseaman@lsc.edu)

**Vice President:** Don Pierson, DSW, ACSW (208) 282-3377 (pierdona@isu.edu)

**Secretary:** Lesa Huff, LMSW (208) 265-1179

**Treasurer:** Jacquie Drake, LMSW (208) 344-5442 (jacquie@jhecker.com)

**Far North Branch Chair (Coeur d'Alene):** Chris Hartley, LSW (208) 699-4486  
(chartley1@cs.com)

**North Branch Chair (Lewiston):** Ruth McQuinn, LSW (208) 743-5580 ext. 213  
(r.mcquinn@acomunityactionpartnership.org)

**Southwest (prev Central) Branch Chair (Boise/Treasure Valley):** Lorrie Sloan Breshears,  
LMSW, LSW (208) 841-8256 (lorrie@apeboymonkeygirl.com)

**South Central (prev Southwest) Branch Chair (Twin Falls):** Sue Sanden, LMSW  
(208) 734-7714 (susieq9999@hotmail.com)

**Southeast Branch Chair (Pocatello/Idaho Falls):** Linda Sharp, LCSW (208) 478-2050  
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**BSW Student Representative:** Allison Burton (208) 777-1889  
(alburton@lcwarriormail.com)

**Legislative Committee Chair:** Carolyn Eardley, LMSW, LSW (208) 466-7024  
(lceardley@aol.com)

### Elected Leadership – (non-voting)

**Chapter Committee on Nominations & Leadership Identification (CCNLI) Chair:**  
Cheryl Simpson-Whitaker, MSW (208) 429-1203 (cheryls-w@cableone.net)

**CCNLI Far North Representative:** Chris Magera, LSW (208) 666-2939  
(cmagera@imbris.com)

**CCNLI North Branch Representative:** Wendy Nunez, MSW, BSW (208) 843-7330  
ext.2123 (wendyn@nezperce.org)

**CCNLI Southwest Branch Representative:** Deme Dellairo, LMSW (208) 336-5533

**CCNLI South Central Branch Representative:** Sheryl Ford, MSW, LSW (208) 733-2274  
(srford@cableone.net)

**CCNLI Southeast Branch Representative:** Judy Deffinger, LCSW (208) 239-1631

**Delegate Assembly Alternate Representative:** Andrea Leeds, LCSW, ACSW (208) 322-6775  
(aleeds@msn.com)

### Appointed Leadership

**CEU Committee Chair:** Lois Malpass, LCSW (208) 426-5938 (lmalpass@boisestate.edu)

**PACE Committee Chair:** Currently Vacant

**Committee on Inquiry (Ethics):** Elizabeth Allen, LMSW, ACSW, Esq (208) 798-3215

**United Vision for Idaho Representatives:** Bill Simpson-Whitaker, Ph.D., ACSW  
(208) 426-2579 (wwhitak@boisestate.edu) and Ralph Shay, MSW, LSW  
pager (208) 769-5747 (rshay@adelphia.net)

**Idaho Women's Network Delegates:** Robin Allen, Ph.D. (208) 426-1568  
(rallen@boisestate.edu); also Chapter President and Executive Director

**Mentoring Program Chair:** Maureen O'Leary, LMSW (208) 466-7771 (moleary@qwest.net)

**End-of-Life Committee Chair:** Cheryl Simpson-Whitaker, MSW (208) 429-1203  
(cheryls-w@cableone.net)

**Better Way Coalition Representative:** Kennette McWilliams, LMSW, LSW (208) 381-2721  
(mcwillik@slrnc.org)



## Letter from the President

by Linda M. Burch, LCSW, NASW Idaho President

Spring Greetings:

Spring 2005 sets the stage for my final letter to you as President of the Idaho Chapter (term ends June 30, 2005). NASW National President Gary Bailey's presence and presentation at our Legislative Advocacy Day (February 21-22, 2005) in Boise was empowering for me. What a privilege for me to participate and transport Gary to meetings at Health and Welfare, the Governor's Office, lunch with several Idaho legislators, a meeting at United Vision for Idaho, on to the workshops at Ahavath Beth Israel Synagogue on Monday afternoon and evening followed by a full schedule Tuesday at the Statehouse and City Hall.

Thank you to our Lobbyist, Delmar Stone, and NASW MSW Student Intern, Sunny Reed, for their participation in the Monday meetings, and to the Lewis-Clark State College Social Work Program students and faculty for their creativity, commitment and work in developing and co-sponsoring this event with the NASW Idaho Chapter.

My recent trip to Washington D.C. included a meeting with the Council of Chapter Presidents (March 16, 2005), participating in Social Work Congress (March 17-18, 2005), attendance at NASW's 50th Anniversary Celebration in the International Trade Center (evening of March 17, 2005), and attendance at the National Board of Directors' Board meeting (March 19, 2005) providing an opportunity for me to increase the visibility and presence of the Idaho Chapter through participating, networking, and collaborating with our colleagues. We face common challenges as social work professionals across the country and globally as evidenced by the discussions and agenda of the Social Work Congress. The goal of the two-day meeting involved the "development of a set of guiding imperatives for the next decade." I felt honored to participate with the other 409 attendees in the deliberations. A summary report will follow from National NASW and the co-sponsors of the event.

I appointed and serve on the Executive Director Search Committee with Executive Director Wendy Cary's resignation (see article at right) targeted for mid-May. Richard Loomis, National NASW, serves on the Committee as we move forward in identifying the final two candidates the NASW Idaho Chapter Board will interview May 6, 2005, prior to the Board meeting May 7, 2005. Wendy will provide consultation to the new Executive Director to ensure a smooth transition for the Chapter and information about the new Executive Director will be posted on our Chapter website at [www.naswidaho.org](http://www.naswidaho.org).

My responsibilities as Co-Chair of Western Coalition for Delegate Assembly 2005 (August 5-7, 2005 D.C.) include a spring meeting in Santa Clara May 13-14, 2005 with President-Elect J.R. Seaman and guaranteed Alternate Andrea Leeds also attending.

I encourage each of you to consider your leadership interests as members of NASW Idaho Chapter and contact the Chapter for more information. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President these past 3 years, on the Executive Committee for the past 6 years and the Board for 7 years.

Your President,  
Linda M. Burch, MSW, LCSW



Wendy Cary, NASW Idaho Executive Director, with Linda Burch, NASW Idaho President.

## NASW Idaho Executive Director says Goodbye

As many of you may already know, I have made the difficult decision after 4 years with NASW Idaho to step out of my role as Executive Director. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with NASW and leave only due to changes in my life that necessitate I "redesign" my career pursuits.

I want to sincerely thank all of you for the opportunity to help grow your professional support organization and hope that I have positively contributed to the valuable work that social workers do each day. I have gained personally from the experience in so many ways and will always treasure the many wonderful people I have met. I wish NASW Idaho and each of you my very best as the Chapter continues to move forward.

Best Wishes!!  
Wendy Cary

NASW Idaho is participating in a national pilot project to evaluate the length of term for Chapter Board Members. Members of the Idaho Chapter Board of Directors are elected for 3-year terms (not 2 years).

Please exercise your right of self-governance **and vote today!**





# Chapter News

by Wendy Cary, Executive Director

## NASW IDAHO SOCIAL WORK MONTH WORKSHOPS A SUCCESS

Immense appreciation to all of those individuals who attended our recent conference in Nampa entitled "The Power of Social Work: Meeting the Unique Needs of Diverse Populations." Over 90 participants attended one of three tracks either focusing on: Sandplay Therapy; Long-Term Care Planning, Reminiscence Therapy and Palliative Care; or Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Youth. The training offered 6 CEUs for all three levels of social work licensure and attendees had the following to share about their experience:

### SANDPLAY THERAPY

*"Really enjoyed slides illustrating the sandplay process."  
"Great examples of techniques."  
"Clear explanations!"  
"I got a sense of what a session looks like."*



Barbara Labovitz Boik, MA, MEd, Presenter for Sandplay Therapy

### END-OF-LIFE

*"Good information for social workers in facilitating communication on an interdisciplinary team and for facilitating the educational process to the family/patient."  
"Liked the examples and activities, really brought home how to bring into practice."  
"Enjoyed all three presentations - excellent topics."  
"Appreciated emphasis on advocacy, dignity of pts, compassion, listening skills."*



Dr. Kevin Clifford, Presenter for Palliative Care

*Please let the Chapter office know about a valuable resource you have discovered or special news about you or another member that you would like to share with fellow colleagues. Send information to naswid@qwest.net or NASW Idaho, P.O. Box 7393, Boise, ID 83707.*

## BEST WISHES TO OUR STUDENT INTERN – SUNNY REED

Congratulations and best wishes to our NASW Idaho Student Intern – **Sunny Reed**, as she completes her MSW degree at Boise State University this May. Sunny has been an invaluable resource to the Chapter since September. She has contributed so much in so many different areas and we are grateful that she chose NASW as her practicum site. Sunny will be an incredible asset to any organization!

## HELP NEEDED!

Our Chapter Political Action for Candidate Election Committee needs representatives in the Far North (Coeur d'Alene area) and North (Lewiston area) Branches to help identify candidates in the next election cycle who will support issues important to social workers. Ida-PACE endorsed 24 candidates in November 2004 and 15 of these were successfully elected. The candidate election process starts well before the actual election, so help us design and implement a strategic campaign plan. Let's make sure our policy makers reflect the best interests of the citizens of Idaho. Please contact the Chapter office for more information at (208) 345-4060 or naswid@qwest.net.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

**Cheryl Simpson-Whitaker** has been appointed to the National Advisory Committee for The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's Program, Caring Connections. Caring Connections continues the work previously done by Last Acts and Rallying Points by promoting compassionate end-of-life care in the United States. National NASW Executive Director Betsy Clark has also been appointed to the Committee.

## GLBT YOUTH

*"The youth panel was touching, informative, and compelling."*

*"The youth panelists were very courageous to share their personal stories with us."*

*"I really liked the tools identified to approach local school boards and provide training."*

*"All the speakers were great."*



Ray Mullenax, LCSW, Presenter for GLBT Youth

A special thank you to our Event Planning Committee: Lori Watts, Cheryl Simpson-Whitaker, Lorrie Breshears, Wendy Perez and Sunny Reed. They did a fabulous job not only organizing the workshops, but also the Celebration Dinner the night before!!

We are also grateful to the Social Work Department at Northwest Nazarene University for partnering with us this year to provide these trainings and to the ISU SeniorHealth Mobile who generously helped underwrite our end-of-life track!!

## AA IN SOCIAL WORK NOW AVAILABLE AT THE COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN IDAHO IN TWIN FALLS!

This is the first year for the new Associates of Arts in Social Work available at the CSI campus in Twin Falls, Idaho. The AA was developed by Twin Falls native, Susan McFarland (BSW from ISU and MSW from Walla Walla), and currently

has almost 35 students enrolled. CSI is a comprehensive community college located on 300 beautifully landscaped acres in the city limits. CSI has doubled its enrollment in the past eight years making it the fastest-growing institution of higher learning in the state of Idaho. Eighty-five percent of the student body comes from the eight Magic Valley counties the College is charged with serving.

The new AA in Social Work will help meet the high demand for licensed social workers in the area by preparing students to transfer into an accredited BSW program (with particular emphasis on encouraging students to attend ISU or BSU social work programs). For more information go to: [www.csi.edu/14.asp?socialwork](http://www.csi.edu/14.asp?socialwork) or call Susan McFarland at (208) 732-6878.

## TACO BELL BOYCOTT PROVES EFFECTIVE

At their January Board meeting, the Idaho NASW Board approved a resolution to support a nationwide Taco Bell Boycott. The Board also sent a letter to Boise State University President Kustra communicating our concern that BSU had signed a contract with Es-O-En, a Taco Bell franchisee that operates 54 Taco Bell outlets in three states, to accept \$4 million over 15 years in exchange for renaming the campus basketball pavilion "Taco Bell Arena".

The boycott was initiated in response to Yum/Brands (the parent corporation of Taco Bell, Long John Silver's, Pizza Hut, KFC and A&W) failing to provide working conditions and wages that meet minimally acceptable standards for farm workers in Florida who supply the corporation with needed produce items such as tomatoes.

It was recently reported that the demands of the workers had been successfully negotiated and that the boycott had been lifted. NASW member, Don Schweitzer, BSW, who is doing his MSW practicum with United Vision of Idaho, also organized multiple protests at Taco Bell restaurants here in Boise and we commend his persistent grassroots lobbying efforts.

This targeted campaign to improve the working conditions of farm workers is an inspiring reminder of how effective concerned citizens can be when they organize and speak out. For additional information about this issue and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, visit their website at [www.ciw-online.org](http://www.ciw-online.org).

## SUPPORT THE BOB LEBOW BIKE TOUR AND TERRY REILLY HEALTH SERVICES

Ride for a great cause on Saturday, June 11, 2005!! The proceeds from the bike tour are earmarked for the Terry Reilly Health Services Zero Pay Fund. This fund was created to benefit the poorest of their patients; those for whom even the highly discounted

# NASWJOBLink

THE SOCIAL WORK CAREER CENTER

## Make the most of your job search

Find the job you're looking for on JobLink, NASW's online social work employment network.

**Take control of your job search and career today!**

- Personalize your job search and find the right job for you.
- Get an extra edge over the competition.
- Join NASW to post your résumés and attract top social work employers.
- Quickly apply for your favorite jobs online with just one click.
- Set up job search agents and have new listings emailed directly to you.

Go online today at [www.socialworkers.org](http://www.socialworkers.org) to take advantage of the new NASW Joblink Career Center.

**NASW**  
National Association of Social Workers

750 First Street NE, Suite 700  
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[www.socialworkers.org](http://www.socialworkers.org)  
888-491-8833



fees for which they qualify are too much. The Zero Pay Fund was a long-time dream of Terry Reilly's former Medical Director, Dr.

Bob LeBow, who died in November, 2003. Terry Reilly Health Services (TRHS) is a 33-year old private, not-for-profit primary health care organization headquartered in Nampa, Idaho. TRHS serves over 23,000 adults and children annually from its five medical clinics, 4 dental clinics, and 8 behavioral health sites in Canyon, Ada and Owyhee counties. Services are provided on a sliding fee scale, based on family size and income. NASW Idaho MSW Student Representative, **Deanah Messenger**, is integrally involved in planning this year's event. Call (208) 331-3204 or visit [www.trhs.org](http://www.trhs.org) for more information and registration materials.

## Welcome New Members!

As of the first of April, we have 651 Idaho Chapter members. We extend a warm welcome to those of you who have joined since January!!

### Far North

Lynn Russell  
Nora Faram  
Mark Cornett  
Kelly Hurt  
Julie Davis

Josephine Halfhide  
Jessica Anslinger  
Louis Massoth  
B R Calhoun  
Paula Marcotte  
Kimberly Thompson

### North

Ann Marie Ridinger  
Kathy Ward  
Cynthia Harris-Lindauer  
Pamela Wieters  
Amy Brandal

Stan Zuckerman  
Richard Leonard  
Janet McCarthy  
Ebany Jorgensen

### South Central

Dawn Dill  
Jennifer Rushing

### Southwest

Becky Marks  
Kimberly Bickley  
Patrick Neeser  
Keri Morgensen  
Joshua Bode  
Tiffany Darrington  
Barbara Thompson  
Rodney Dotson  
Jennifer Newman  
Richard Hachtel  
Janelle Stauffer-Boothby

### Southeast

Jennifer Litchfield  
Lisa Litchfield  
Cathy Anderson  
Michelle Sangray  
Christine Hesse  
Amy Gallagher  
Ruben Guajardo  
Amy Oh  
Therrill Owens

# RESOURCES...

## New Idaho Immigration Guide/Guia Para Immigrantes

The Idaho Human Rights Education Center has determined that many immigrants in Idaho do not have ready access to basic survival information that they require in order to live in Idaho. Previously, no single source was available for immigrants with fundamental information and facts about emergency services, legal rights and services, drivers' licenses, public benefits, health care and so forth. To meet this need, the Idaho Human Rights Education Center and Centro de Comunidad y Justicia have published the *Idaho Immigrant Orientation Guide*. This wonderful new resource can be accessed at [www.idaho-humanrights.org](http://www.idaho-humanrights.org).

## Designing Programs for Co-Occurring Disorders

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) "Strategies for Developing Treatment Programs for People with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Disorders" provides methodology and highlights main issues related to developing services for adults with co-occurring disorders. This resource also includes training curricula. For more information, contact (800) 729-6686.

## Employment Help for People Facing Mental Illness and Homelessness

SAMHSA has also published a new guidebook entitled "*Work as a Priority: A Resource for Employing People Who Have Serious Mental Illness and Who Are Homeless.*" The information is directed towards service providers, policy makers, case managers and employment specialists who need practical information to assist their clients in locating employment. For more information, contact (800) 789-2647.

## Advocates for Youth

This organization is dedicated to creating programs and promoting policies that help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and provides information, training and advocacy to youth-serving organizations, policy makers, and the media in the United States and internationally. To access this resource, visit [www.advocatesforyouth.org](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org).

## Used Equipment Exchange for People with Disabilities

The Idaho Assistive Technology Project offers a valuable list of used medical equipment ranging from adapted vehicles to tub benches that are offered at significantly reduced prices. Check out their website at [www.educ.uidaho.edu/idaech](http://www.educ.uidaho.edu/idaech) or call (800) 432-8324.

## Self-Rescue Manual

Ever wish you had community resources at your fingertips? This self-rescue manual is a great tool for anyone providing services to families in the Treasure Valley and can be downloaded at [www.boiseschools.org/schools/franklin/self-rescuemanual.pdf](http://www.boiseschools.org/schools/franklin/self-rescuemanual.pdf).

## Loan Forgiveness for Social Workers

Visit [www.socialworkers.org/advocacy/updates/2004/120304.asp](http://www.socialworkers.org/advocacy/updates/2004/120304.asp) for current loan forgiveness programs available.

## CHANGE IN VERIFICATION PROCESS FOR NASW IDAHO ELECTIONS!

Your ballot will be counted only if you write in your city of residence. This makes it possible for us to tally your vote for the appropriate Branch. Thank you! *Your CCNLI Reps*



# 2004-2005 NASW Idaho Chapter Annual Social Work Award Winners

*Continued from Front Cover*

becoming the Executive Director of the Idaho Citizen's Network, and serving as key organizer of the Idaho Progressive Student Alliance and the Interfaith Alliance of Idaho. He is currently the Program Director at United Vision for Idaho and through his work exemplifies the values of the social work movement. Roger has fought for issues that are close to the hearts of social workers such as affordable housing, access to healthcare, and fair wages.

Roger is a hands-on, nuts and bolts leader with an extensive set of organizing experiences. He has a talent for connecting people from where they are and then supporting and challenging them to stretch their talents and invest themselves more deeply in social change work. He is an excellent process person and understands the importance of bringing diverse groups of people together around common values to take on concrete actions. Roger makes organizing look easy and is comfortable talking with students, an elected official, or the media.

Roger is committed to social justice and is an inspiration and role model to other seasoned and aspiring grassroots organizers. He is willing to take the time to teach others and has been the reason that many people have made community organizing their own life's work.

The forward movement of progressive social and economic policy in Idaho has benefited greatly from Roger's analytical mind and selflessness and he has, and continues to make, our state a better place to live for all citizens.

## **SHEILA SORENSON**

### **Former State Senator and Current Congressional Candidate**

#### *Elected Official of the Year*

Sheila was appointed to the Idaho House of Representatives in 1987 and was subsequently elected to that office in 1988 where she served three terms. She was then elected to the Idaho State Senate for six consecutive terms from 1992-2004. During her legislative tenure, Sheila served in many leadership roles including Chairman of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, Majority Caucus Chairman, and Chairman of the Senate State Affairs Committee.

In addition, Sheila received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from Loretto Heights College. She was certified as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner from the University of Colorado Medical School. Sheila was the recipient of the Nathan Davis Award from the American Medical Association as the 1994 National Legislator and was selected by the American Legislative Exchange Council, a national organization, as Legislator of the Year in 1998.

During her service as a legislator, Sheila served as one of the experts on health care policy in our state and was a leader in advocating for women's health care, an area that is often marginalized in the Idaho Legislature. In addition, Sheila single-handedly prevented an extremely destructive and discriminatory attempt at amending Idaho's constitution in 2004 to re-define marriage. This was a bold stand and because of her efforts, it was easier this year for her colleagues in the Senate to stop a similar bill, SJR101.

Sheila demonstrates what makes a good policy maker – a person with integrity, who works hard and collaborates with others, encourages those around her, and maintains a sense of humor – no matter how difficult the going gets.

Upon her resignation from the Senate, Governor Kempthorne called her, "a leader of the first magnitude among her colleagues in the Senate." The Governor also stated, "I know her insightfulness will be missed by her fellow lawmakers and the people of Idaho. I will miss her effective leadership and strong voice in the Senate."

Her service as a pediatric nurse, efforts for social justice in Idaho's House and Senate, understanding of the dignity and worth of every person, and the importance of human relationships makes her a public official reflecting the core values of the profession of social work.

We look forward to Sheila's campaign for US Congress! 

## **YOUR NASW VOTE MATTERS!**

How many times have we heard this statement? "Your vote matters!" Perhaps first from students running for high school class office, and during campaigns for local school board elections, and state government. Last year NASW members turned out to vote in record numbers! We believe this is the highest turnout in the history of NASW Idaho – and perhaps one of the highest turnouts among NASW Chapters! Over 200 members took time to review the ballot, vote their preference and send the ballot to the Chapter office. That was 30% of our membership.

Let's not slide back into a position of apathy. While the stakes are high and futures dependent on good leadership, we often hear people say, "I'm just too busy," or "My vote doesn't matter," when they comment on why they choose not to exercise their right of self-governance.

But, in truth, your vote does matter. You care enough about your chosen profession – social work – to be a member of the National Association of Social Workers. As a member of NASW, you have the opportunity to select the leadership of your organization at a national and local level.

The Preamble from the NASW Social Work Code of Ethics addresses our responsibility to become involved, to take action, and if I may take this one logical step further – to vote!

*"The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. An historic and defining feature of social work is the profession's focus on individual well-being in a social context and the well-being of society. Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living."* NASW Code of Ethics, 1999

So, we simply ask you to take a few moments and cast your vote in the NASW Idaho 2005 election. Members of the Idaho Chapter Committee for Nominations and Leadership Identification (CCNLI) contributed hours of volunteer time and significant effort to prepare a slate that meets the affirmative action guidelines for our Chapter.

We have completed our task. Now we pass the baton to you. Please remember, your vote does count. *Vote today!*

### **NASW Idaho CCNLI**

Chris Magero, Far North Branch

Wendy Nunez, North Branch

Deme Delliaro, Southwest Branch

Sheryl Ford, South Central Branch

Judy Deffinger, Southeast Branch

Cheryl Simpson-Whitaker, Chairperson

# Social Work Students and Practitioners Attend NASW Idaho Legislative Advocacy Day 2005

by Sunny Reed, BSW, NASW Idaho MSW Student Intern



*Bill Whitaker, PhD, shares NASW's views at Social Security Press Conference.*



*Left to right: Chapter ED, Wendy Cary; Chapter Lobbyist, Delmar Stone; National President, Gary Bailey; Chapter President, Linda Burch.*



*National President Gary Bailey delivers an inspiring keynote address.*



*Social work activists gather on the Statehouse steps.*



*Social work activists participate in Social Security press conference in front of federal office buildings.*

It was W. Edwards Deming who said: "What we need to do is learn to work in the system, by which I mean that everybody, every team, every platform, every division, every component, is there not for individual competitive profit or recognition, but for contribution to the system as a whole on a win-win basis." The NASW Idaho 2005 Legislative Advocacy Day event was an excellent example of what this statement means.

Housed in the newly constructed Ahavath Beth Israel Community Center, social work students and professionals from across the state came together on February 21st to learn more about how they could influence policy and make Idaho a better place for the clients we serve. The day started with JR Seaman of Lewis-Clark State College who emphasized why we are ethically obligated to involve ourselves in political processes. Delmar Stone, NASW Idaho Lobbyist and Member Mobilizer, followed with a moving story of his grandmother's life and how we, as social workers, must strive to make our voice heard for the citizens in Idaho and our nation with experiences much like those of his own family. Attendees then learned how they could do so by hearing the details

regarding two different bills being presented to the Idaho Legislature this year as well as the changes to Social Security proposed by President Bush.

The evening concluded with an inspiring keynote address delivered by NASW National's President, Gary Bailey, who reminded us that through initiating needed programs, much as two social workers did 70 years ago with Social Security, or simply letting our representatives know how we feel about the issues before them and the decisions they make, we can be a catalyst for change. Mr. Bailey also discussed the importance of understanding our opponents' point of view and focusing on the issues verses the divisiveness that can be caused by partisan politics.

The Advocacy Day event concluded on the 22nd with a photo opportunity, attending legislative committee hearings, grassroots lobbying at the Statehouse on SB 1140, a press conference regarding Social Security, and lunch and closing presentations at Boise City Hall. Overall, attendees reported learning a great deal during this event and, even more important, finding a new comfort zone for voicing their opinion to impact policy change. ●



# Social Work Students and Practitioners Attend NASW Idaho Legislative Advocacy Day 2005



*LCSC social work students assembling table decorations.*



*Bill VonTagen, Deputy Attorney General, addressing participants regarding proposed Advance Care Directive legislation.*



*Lucinda Hormel, MSW, providing information about the proposed Social Security changes.*



*Student volunteers serving dessert.*



*NASW Chapter Lobbyist, Delmar Stone, discussing key issues with Senator David Langhorst.*



*Participants on the first day at Ahavath Beth Israel Synagogue.*



*Representative Nicole LeFavour talking with students during dinner.*



*Jim and Julene Knapp, both social workers, provide evening entertainment at the synagogue.*

Immense appreciation goes to the Social Work Program at Lewis-Clark State College. Their faculty and students did an amazing job helping NASW Idaho plan and organize our 2005 Legislative Advocacy Day Event!!

## NASW Idaho's affirmative action goals:

76% women and 4% persons of color for all elected and appointed leadership. This is based on our Chapter membership of 76 % women and 4% persons of color.

*Please participate –  
vote today!*

### BE CONNECTED TO YOUR NASW MEMBER BENEFITS & RESOURCES

**Quick Member Benefit & Reference Guide**  
For additional member benefit information, please refer to the membership kit at [www.socialworkers.org/membercenter](http://www.socialworkers.org/membercenter)

**Member Services Specialists**  
800-742-4089 • 202-408-8600 ext. 499  
[membership@naswdc.org](mailto:membership@naswdc.org)

**Membership Cards**  
[www.socialworkers.org/membercenter](http://www.socialworkers.org/membercenter)

**NASW Specialty Practice Sections**  
202-408-8600 ext. 499  
[www.socialworkers.org/sections](http://www.socialworkers.org/sections)

**Professional Liability & Group Insurance Questions**  
NASW Insurance Trust Programs: 800-355-3869  
[www.NASWInsuranceTrust.org](http://www.NASWInsuranceTrust.org)

**Career Opportunities**  
JobLink • [www.socialworkers.org/joblinks](http://www.socialworkers.org/joblinks)

**NASW Publications**  
NASW Press  
800-227-3590 • [www.naswpress.org](http://www.naswpress.org)

**NASW Merchandise and Social Work Apparel**  
800-759-6614  
[www.socialworkers.org](http://www.socialworkers.org)

**NASW Credentials & Specialty Certifications**  
202-408-8600 ext. 447  
[www.socialworkers.org/credentials](http://www.socialworkers.org/credentials)

**NASW Clinical Register**  
202-408-8600 ext. 447  
[www.socialworkers.org/register](http://www.socialworkers.org/register)

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For more information visit  
[www.socialworkers.org](http://www.socialworkers.org)

# The Bottom Line...

by Jacquie Drake, LMSW, NASW Idaho Treasurer

... for the prior fiscal year (ended June 30, 2004) was finalized in January by independent auditors Gunther, Tondrick & Goode, Chtd. of Boise as required by national NASW. The auditor's report and the annual information filing with the IRS will be reviewed by the Board of Directors at the May meeting.

The audit report shows that assets of \$61,144 exceeded liabilities and deferred revenue by \$35,239 as of June 30, 2004. Revenues from all sources for the fiscal year totaled \$103,553 while expenses were \$97,082, for a net increase of \$6,471. The auditors found no exceptions to acceptable accounting principles in Chapter bookkeeping.

So far this fiscal year, the Chapter continues to be financially healthy. Strong attendance at the various Chapter-sponsored events held throughout the state has created positive cash flow. This "non-dues" income allows us to do much more than just the basics of staffing an office and mailing out quarterly newsletters.

Again this year, for example, we were able to underwrite the expenses for the Advocacy Day event that brought nearly 150 students and practitioners to Boise in February. An added bonus this time was attendance by NASW national President, Gary Bailey, whose participation underscored the value and significance of this annual event in the education of social work students and practitioners across the state.

Yet another investment in social work education that we plan to make this fiscal year is the annual contribution to the student stipend fund. We are getting ever closer to our goal of \$10,000 which is needed prior to issuing disbursements.

The Chapter was also able to invest in new equipment to enable our office to function more effectively and efficiently. Purchases included a professional tabletop display (previously borrowed displays from others), new computer and related software allowing both the Executive Director and Administrative Assistant to have their own desktop computer, digital camera to take pictures for publication in our newsletter and on our website, and a new desk and chair for our Administrative Assistant.

Be assured, your continued support of CEU offerings, conferences and workshops, attendance at special fundraising events, and even direct donations are essential to the growth and health of our professional organization.

Thank you!



# New Statewide Organization Strives to Protect Children

by Sunny Reed, BSW, Executive Director of Idaho's Heart



April was Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. And there to help spread the word was **Idaho's Heart** – Idaho's new and unique Statewide Child Abuse Prevention Center.

In July 2002 and again in October 2003, there was a meeting between Prevent Child Abuse America and several leaders from around the state regarding needs in child abuse prevention. As a result, Idaho's Heart was formed in September 2004. We are a new organization initiating novel, innovative methods to combat our state's most alarming public health issue while supporting existing best practices. It is the only private, statewide, community-based nonprofit organization with the sole mission of preventing child abuse and neglect.

We envision a state where the safety and well being of our children is the number one priority for all citizens. Our strategy is designed to mobilize the entire community: human services, child care, medical, child protective services, law enforcement, legislative, parent/caretaker, media, and the business sector – to come together in partnership to protect our children.

We believe we can best accomplish the prevention of child abuse by focusing on four specific areas of service or need: strengthening the Idaho Child Abuse Prevention Coalition, providing program development and administration, offering training and technical assistance, and partaking in research and advocacy.

## ICAP Coalition

Idaho's Heart serves as the coordinating agency for the Idaho Child Abuse Prevention Coalition. This coalition is a collaborative effort of more than 25 public, private, non-profit groups, and individuals working together for the purpose of using combined strengths and resources to promote the visibility of programs designed to promote family well-being. The priority of the coalition is to create and maintain a statewide primary prevention campaign.

## Program Development and Administration

Idaho's Heart is committed to making Idaho a safe environment for all of our children. We serve as the starting point when gaps in services are identified. Idaho's Heart seeks to support agencies and organizations struggling to provide needed services to children and families. Coordinating with existing organizations whenever possible, Idaho's Heart focuses on assisting with statewide administration of programs, creating programs where needed, and expanding services where the need exists.

## Statewide Training and Technical Assistance

Primarily, Idaho's Heart acts as a facilitator to coordinate statewide child abuse prevention efforts and activities. A major focus of our work includes educating professionals, paraprofessionals, parents and others about child abuse and neglect indicators, mandated reporting laws and procedures, and prevention strategies.

## Research and Advocacy

Only through understanding child abuse and neglect and evaluating the services intended to address the issue can Idaho's Heart really meet its goal. Our research efforts include investigating the causes and correlating factors of abuse and neglect as well as the effect of maltreatment. We evaluate programs on a local, state, and national level to ensure the best practices are being used. All research projects are conducted with the intention that results will increase services to children and families as well as the level of funding for those services.

Children must depend on adults to ensure their protection. Idaho's Heart is committed to promoting legislation, policies and programs that help prevent child abuse and neglect, support healthy childhood development, and strengthen families. Our advocacy efforts operate on the local, state, and national levels. We monitor and advocate for critical legislation that impacts children and families; work to obtain and maintain funding for prevention programs; and collaborate with organizations, community leaders and public policy makers to influence policy.

Contact Sunny Reed, at (208) 424-0943 or visit our website: [www.idahosheart.org](http://www.idahosheart.org).

# IMPROVING END-OF-LIFE CARE IN IDAHO

by Kennette McWilliams, LMSW, NASW Idaho Representative, A Better Way Coalition Partners' Leadership Team

NASW-Idaho continues to be one of five partner organizations in A Better Way Coalition – Life on Our Own Terms offering education and information related to provision of end-of-life care for Idahoans. THE GATEKEEPER is a great forum to keep you informed of the status of Advance Care Planning legislation (SB 1068a).

Pete Sisson, Elder Law Attorney, explains the SB 1068a Advance Care Planning legislation as follows: "The bill was designed to address some problems and confusion that arose secondary to prior language. The new law is an effort to simplify and make more understandable the Living Will and Durable Power of Attorney in the Natural Death Act."

Definitions of "artificial nutrition and hydration" are included – an area of confusion for many people. Pete goes on to say that the goal of the changes is to combine the two documents into one and make it user friendly. There will no longer be a need for a notary or witness and the person would just need to sign and date it. He explains that it would still be wise to seek the professional assistance of Social Workers, Elder Law Attorneys or Health Care Providers to explain the document in full.

At this point, the legislation has been signed by the Governor. NASW Idaho's Legislative Committee selected SB 1068a as one of their priority items this year and focused on it as a "front burner" issue during the 2005 Legislative Advocacy Day which was attended by more than 150 social work students, educators and practitioners. This sent a strong message that NASW is vested in statewide efforts to improve end-of-life care for Idaho citizens.

Deputy Attorney General Bill von Tagen provided a briefing on the bill and answered questions during the Advocacy Day program. For the full text of SB 1068a, go to [www.legislature.idaho.gov](http://www.legislature.idaho.gov), then use the quick bill search.

If you are interested in learning more about A Better Way Coalition contact Cheryl Simpson-Whitaker, Executive Director, at [abetterway@cablone.net](mailto:abetterway@cablone.net).

The Right Choice is a program sponsored by A Better Way Coalition to promote advance care planning in Idaho. They are pleased to provide information to assist you in making your wishes or your clients' wishes known about end-of-life care. Please email the Coalition at [abetterway@cablone.net](mailto:abetterway@cablone.net).



# Protecting and Preserving SOCIAL SECURITY

by Bill Simpson Whitaker, PhD, ACSW - NASW Idaho Representative to UVI

In his State of the Union address President Bush proposed building “a better world for our children and grandchildren.” Unfortunately, his proposals for “strengthening” and “saving” Social Security are inappropriate and misleading.

Social Security is much more than a retirement program. Social Security provides guaranteed economic security for more than 47 million persons nationwide. By sharing the risks of loss of income from retirement, disability or death of a bread-winner, Social Security protects all of us throughout our lives. Today about 211,000 Idahoans receive Social Security checks each month.

Social Security is a highly successful anti-poverty program. Without Social Security benefits, 48 percent of Idahoans over 65 would be living in poverty. Social Security lifts 63,000 of our neighbors above the poverty line and reduces the poverty rate for Idahoans over 65 to 5.1 percent.

President Bush exaggerates when he says Social Security is “heading toward bankruptcy.” Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projections show the Social Security Trust Fund able to pay all benefits until 2053. Beginning that year, 81 percent of inflation-adjusted benefits will be paid. Far from going bankrupt, Social Security is a healthy, successful program requiring relatively minor adjustment to meet future needs fully.

The CBO says the full-funding gap over 75 years will equal about 0.4 percent of our gross domestic product (GDP). If the Bush tax cuts to the top 1 percent of taxpayers were rolled back, savings would be 0.5 percent of GDP, more than enough to fully fund Social Security indefinitely. We can secure the future of Social Security by just saying “NO!” to permanent tax cuts for the super rich.

Alternatively, we can raise the cap on which Social Security taxes are paid from the current \$90,000 to \$140,000. This would make Social Security taxes fairer. At present those with incomes below \$90,000 – that is most of us in Idaho – pay a higher percentage of our income for Social Security than do the rich and super rich.

Instead of fixing Social Security, President Bush weakens it by draining Social Security resources into private accounts. The devil is in the details not included in the President’s speeches.

Bush administration officials admit that private accounts would do nothing to improve program solvency.

Instead, private accounts would create a crisis, siphoning more than \$4.5 trillion from Social Security in the first 20 years of operation. The money would have to come from raising taxes, reducing benefits, or cutting other essential programs.

The Bush privatization proposal will reduce Social Security retirement benefits to all beneficiaries, not just those with private accounts. Persons born between 2000 and 2009, for example, are projected to lose up to 50 percent of currently scheduled benefits.

The President’s plan would have a devastating impact on the economic security of Idaho’s families. It would saddle young workers with the cost of a crippling national debt and with severe reductions in the amount they can expect to see in their Social Security checks. A report released February 22nd by the Institute on America’s Future shows how, under the Bush proposal, a typical 20-year-old Idahoan who has begun paying into the system could expect to lose \$152,000 in Social Security benefits during retirement.

The President’s proposal does not address how disability and survivor’s benefits would be funded.

Finally, the President promises that we will be able to pass along to our heirs the money that accumulates in private accounts. Once again, he misleads us by failing to note that money in private accounts must be used first to purchase annuities large enough to bring the owner above the poverty line when combined

with Social Security retirement benefits. Few people would accumulate enough to meet that requirement. Very few would have anything left over for inheritances.

The President’s proposals would undermine the well-being of our children and grandchildren and create a crisis where none currently exists.

*Bill Whitaker is Professor of Social Work and Coordinator of the Graduate Program at the Boise State University School of Social Work. He can be contacted at [wwhitak@boisestate.edu](mailto:wwhitak@boisestate.edu) or (208) 426-2579.*

## Here are some useful links for additional information:

NASW has posted talking points on  
Social Security

[www.socialworkers.org/advocacy/  
grassroots/toolkit/talkSS.asp](http://www.socialworkers.org/advocacy/grassroots/toolkit/talkSS.asp)

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities  
[www.cbpp.org](http://www.cbpp.org)

Center for American Progress  
[www.centerforamericanprogress.org](http://www.centerforamericanprogress.org)

Institute for Women’s Policy Research  
<http://womenandsocialsecurity.org>

Moveon  
[www.moveon.org](http://www.moveon.org)

AARP  
[www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)

## NASW IDAHO END-OF-LIFE COMMITTEE

by Cheryl Simpson-Whitaker, MSW  
NASW Idaho EOL Committee

NASW Idaho continues to provide opportunities for end-of-life professional development and it is being received with great enthusiasm. In fact, the end-of-life tract during the March Social Work Month Conference had the largest turnout with participants attending sessions on advance care planning, life review and palliative care.

Committee members Lori Watts and Cheryl Simpson-Whitaker were part of the workshop Planning Committee sharing training needs identified in the Chapter survey of social workers providing end-of-life services. End-of-life materials in Spanish were distributed as well as a variety of information on Medicaid and Medicare. Stay tuned for future opportunities to learn more about providing compassionate end-of-life care for dying people and their families. Questions? Contact Committee Chairperson, Cheryl Simpson-Whitaker, at (208) 429-1203 or [cheryls-w@cableone.net](mailto:cheryls-w@cableone.net).

# IDAHOANS UNITED TO PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY

by Lucinda Hormel, MSW, NASW Idaho Member and UVI Staff

Since beneficiaries of Social Security are members of such wide-ranging groups of constituents, a coalition of groups representing these diverse populations organized themselves nationally into **Americans United to Protect Social Security**. Lead organizations are AFL-CIO, Campaign for America's Future, USAction, and American Federation of State and Municipal Employees.

Almost 200 other national groups have joined the coalition, including the National Association of Social Workers. (If you would like details regarding NASW's position on Social Security privatization you will find it on the national website at [www.socialworkers.org](http://www.socialworkers.org).) State affiliates of the national coalition are forming to work in coordination with the national effort at the grassroots level.

*The system is a good one; it has functioned effectively for 70 years; there is no reason to believe that it cannot continue to do so.*

Here in Idaho, we quickly gathered to form **Idahoans United to Protect Social Security**. Seniors and young people, the disabled, widows and widowers, workers, women and children, people of color and people with low income are represented in our coalition.

Both national and state coalitions have a simple goal: we are asking our federal lawmakers to pledge not to support (1) privatization, (2) increasing the federal deficit by carving out private accounts, or (3) cutting guaranteed benefits.

We contend that the only difficulty facing the Social Security system is a possible shortfall in the mid-21st century (by no means a guaranteed shortfall – many factors could lead to it never occurring).

This shortfall may be addressed and eradicated by EITHER increasing the payroll tax cap to \$140,000 OR rolling back the tax cut given to the wealthiest 1% of the population. Neither of these solutions requires quick or drastic action. That is why we are United to **PROTECT** Social Security. The system is a good one; it has functioned effectively for 70 years; there is no reason to believe that it cannot continue to do so. Most importantly, it is the most successful anti-poverty government program *ever*.

One of the most important functions of our coalition is to educate. We believe that the information being disseminated by the Administration has been intentionally misleading in an effort to drum up support for privatization and quickly move through legislation. Yet since January, polls consistently show that the more people learn about the privatization proposal, the less they support it – in other words, we don't need to "sell" our position; we simply need to present adequate information for individuals to see and decide for themselves that privatization is a bad idea and will ultimately dismantle Social Security.

Idahoans United to Protect Social Security seeks to educate by making presentations to groups all over the state, by printing and distributing factual information, and by holding public actions. An example of a recent action was the National Day of Action on March 31st, when coalition members across the nation picketed the local offices of Charles Schwab asking the corporation to withdraw its support for privatization. Charles Schwab has been a strong supporter of privatization since the mid-90's, financing work on this issue by conservative think tanks like The Cato Institute, funding lobbying efforts, and participating in other coalitions and alliances of the financial services industry that have formed to encourage privatization.

## As a social worker, what can you do?

**Advocate for your clients.** Recognize that the most vulnerable populations are poised to be most severely affected – the poor, women and children, the disabled, people of color.

**Advocate for yourself.** Don't think that you won't be affected. Write your Representative and both Senators, and encourage everyone you know to do the same.

**When opportunities arise to present information, take it.** Prepare yourself to share with others, or call on the coalition to provide the presentation.

**If you are a member of an organization other than NASW,** encourage that organization to join the coalition. Someone is available to make presentations to your Board or general membership.

**Provide stories.** We are creating a story bank, and we're encouraging everyone with a story related to Social Security to share it.

**Organize.** Maybe you didn't realize that you are an organizer, but when you talk to your friends and bring them to an event, guess what? You've just organized!

Similar actions were taken against Edward Jones and Waddell & Reed, both of whom subsequently dropped their support for privatization. Other actions will be generated as opportunities arise. As part of our work, Idahoans United to Protect Social Security will go door to door to talk to individuals about the issue. We'll be there to answer questions and distribute information and we will work to put pressure on our Congressional Delegation not to support the plan as well.

There comes a time in all of our lives when it is necessary to speak out on an issue. I believe that time is now. Social Security is the soul of this nation. It is the promise that generations have made to each other. It represents a collective decision by the people of this nation to take care of each other. It represents the best of our intentions toward each other. We cannot afford to lose that.

*More links and information can be accessed on the website of United Vision for Idaho, [uvidaho.org](http://uvidaho.org). Lucinda Hormel, MSW, is helping to coordinate activities for the coalition, and she is available to set up presentations, provide literature, answer questions, collect stories – and whatever else is needed. She can be reached at (208) 331-7028 or by email at [wilhormel@rmci.net](mailto:wilhormel@rmci.net).*

# SOCIAL WORKER HELPS TSUNAMI VICTIMS HEAL

by Erika Wittkind, Writer for Prior Lake American Newspaper (Idaho social worker's hometown of Prior Lake, Minnesota)

Many people have sent food, money and other aid to victims of the Asian tsunami, but Michael Benjamin had his own way of helping out: play with them.

Benjamin, a licensed [clinical] social worker who specializes in helping children, traveled with a group of play therapists to Sri Lanka to help children, particularly orphans, cope with the trauma caused by the natural disaster.

"To me, this was a more personal way of giving humanitarian aid - a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I did not want to let pass me by," Benjamin said. "Providing humanitarian aid and play therapy to the tsunami children was a way for me to volunteer and use my expertise in a direct way, where I knew how my money would be used."

Benjamin, a resident of Caldwell, Idaho, [and member of NASW] grew up in Prior Lake, Minnesota. His parents, Carolyn and Larry Benjamin, still live in Prior Lake, and Carolyn said her son's decision to go to Sri Lanka didn't surprise her a bit.

"That's just my Michael," she said. "He's a wonderful human being."

She said Benjamin dreamed of being a doctor but changed his mind after an [LDS] mission to Ecuador. "He called us up and said, 'What makes me happy is serving people. I want to be a social worker.'"

Benjamin now works for Terry Reilly Health Services in Idaho, which provides medical, dental and mental health services to uninsured, low-income, migrant or seasonal farm workers from Mexico who work in the fields, dairy farms and orchards there.

He provides bilingual therapy and counseling services at two rural clinics, specializing in working with children through play therapy, which uses the therapeutic powers of play to help children resolve psychosocial difficulties or achieve optimal growth and development.

"The basic premise is that small children lack the verbal language skills and/or insight to express their thoughts, feelings, worries, concerns, etc.," Benjamin explained. "Therefore, toys, drawings, games, art, puppets, music, books and sand are used to help children express their emotions and problems. Through play therapy, children are able to make sense of their world, explore their fears, problems, frustrations, and work through these as well."

When the Association for Play Therapy asked for volunteers to provide relief to children in orphanages or community centers in Sri Lanka, Benjamin leapt at the chance. He was one of 17 therapists from around the world selected from 80 applications to go on the trip.

Benjamin traveled with a group of 10 play therapists from Feb. 4

to 14. The group split into three smaller parties, each going to a different part of the country. Benjamin traveled with three other therapists to the southern tip of Sri Lanka, near a city called Galle, for two days, then moved to the northern tip in the area of Jaffna for four days.

Benjamin's small group visited six orphanages and relief camps, working with more than 700 children. Overall, the entire group of play therapists visited 15 sites around the country, reaching thousands of children.

At each stop, they used play therapy techniques to try to increase the kids' coping skills, instill in them a hope for the future, increase their ability to seek social support, and restore developmentally appropriate activities to their lives Benjamin said.

The therapists also tried to correct children's misconceptions about the disaster, like the idea that it happened because they were bad, and taught them about the science of tsunamis. They also were able to train local caregivers, teachers and counselors in play therapy techniques, providing a more long-term solution to the children's needs.

Being with the children was a memorable experience for Benjamin.

"It was humbling to be in their presence," he said. "They exhibit such resiliency and strength in light of such horror."

He added that he will always carry with him the memory of a particular play activity in which children symbolically rebuilt their villages in the sand or dirt using materials around them, like stones, sticks, leaves, coconuts, cement pieces or wood.

"It was amazing to see the children's enthusiasm [and intentness]," Benjamin said. "Together they constructed elaborate new villages with homes, schools, religious buildings, bridges, gardens, and plenty of trees and flowers. It was a powerful tool in moving the children forward with hope, strength, and giving them a sense of control over something [which] they had no control, the tsunami."

Benjamin also has a special place in his heart for the adults - the local counselors and social workers in Jaffna who became fast friends.

"I think we became so close so quickly because we all had one vision, one goal in mind, to help the children in this desperate time of need," he said. "It was comforting to know that when I came back to the U.S.A., that we were leaving a group of educated, talented and passionate individuals to work with children on an ongoing, long-term basis."

During his brief time there, Benjamin had a first-hand look at the scenes most only witness on television. More than a month after the tsunami, the country was still in "complete devastation" when he was



At the Thelwatte relief camp, Benjamin leads children in an activity that had them symbolically rebuilding their villages in the sand or dirt using materials around them, like stones, sticks, leaves, coconuts, cement pieces or wood. (Photo by Kristi Cash White)



there, he said. Rebuilding efforts have yet to take place, and many families still are living in tents or temporary wood shacks provided by international relief organizations.

Because of the lack of machinery to move the rubble, cleanup has been slow, he said. Piles of bricks, personal belongings and boats still mar the shorelines as assembly lines of people remove them one piece at a time.

"It is difficult to describe both the physical destruction and emotional trauma caused by the tsunami's powerful waves," Benjamin said. "As we drove along the coast, there was mile after mile after mile of total annihilation of homes, stores, hotels, railroads, bridges, trees and fishing boats."

He said the images seen in newspapers or on television can't do justice to the "total obliteration" of homes and lives.

"When I saw it for the first time on February 8, I was awestruck that anyone survived and humbled at the strength and hope of those that did," he said. "I will carry these images in my head forever."

Many children were obviously still suffering from the psychological damage, Benjamin said, with many clinging to their mothers' sides, having nightmares or wetting the bed, or experiencing psychosomatic symptoms like headaches or stomachaches.

Many kids avoid looking at the ocean; some are withdrawn, while others have become overly aggressive. The effects have been so widespread that some doctors working there have started to call the symptoms "tsunami stress syndrome."

With so much to be done and so many children in need of help, Benjamin said he wished he could have stayed longer.

"It feels like we only put band aids on some very large emotional wounds," he said. "I would like to see, and maybe even be a part of, a more long-term project with the children."

*Used by permission from the publisher. Content ©2005 Prior Lake American. Words in brackets added for clarification.*

*I never look at the masses as my responsibility; I look at the individual. I can only love one person at a time—just one, one, one. So you begin. I began — I picked up one person. Maybe if I didn't pick up that one person, I wouldn't have picked up forty-two thousand... The same goes for you, the same thing in your family, the same thing in your church, your community. Just begin — one, one, one.  
Mother Teresa.*

## How to Talk to Children About War

*reprinted from the national NASW website — [www.socialworkers.org](http://www.socialworkers.org)*

Many families have concerns about the war in Iraq. Adults have skills that allow them to talk and share their feelings more easily while children may need special attention. With visions of war on the nightly news like "reality TV," many children may have heightened sensitivity to the images, and to others it may not seem quite real. Regardless, families need to know the steps to take in order to cope with emotions in a healthy manner.

### *What should parents consider before talking to their children about war and terrorism?*

Pay special attention to remaining calm when talking with children. Many families here and abroad are directly affected by the war, with either family members or friends fighting in Iraq. It is important for parents to keep their distress and anxiety under control and reassure children that they are there to help with any difficult emotions the child may be feeling.

Children, in general, may have many questions about the war that should be answered simply and directly. Help them understand that our country's leaders are making decisions to ensure safety for all of us. Perhaps enlist the help of children to assist military families in your neighborhood. When children feel they are helping, their levels of stress are decreased.

Let children know and understand that war is serious, that it is not a game, and that it is meant to prevent bad things from happening in the future. Be sure to speak in age appropriate language.

### *In what type of setting should the discussion take place?*

Parents should create a safe space for a child to openly talk about feelings of anxiety or fear — for example, at home where they feel secure.

Young children should understand war is very serious, but they should not worry about anything happening close to home. Younger children need to be reassured that they are safe and secure at home.

Many children, especially those in school, are already aware of the war and its implications. Parents and other adults who come into contact with children throughout the day should monitor rumors and correct misconceptions.

Use the opportunity of increased exposure to news to discuss war and make the discussions educational. Let older children express their views and opinions related to the events. Parents should listen in a respectful manner to the concerns of children, especially adolescents.

### *How should parents explain the current war?*

Explain that this is a war against the oppressive regime of Saddam Hussein and not against all Iraqi people. Parents should emphasize no person is an "enemy" simply because of their race, religion, culture, or ethnicity, and all people should be treated with respect.

### *When should parents be concerned about their children?*

Some children are particularly vulnerable to stress and anxiety regarding war, either because they have experienced prior trauma or loss, or they already suffer from depression, anxiety, or other mental health needs. Those children who have experienced prior loss may have increased worries about separation.

Children of refugee or immigrant families may also experience increased anxiety related to war. Parents of children of Middle Eastern descent may need to take some extra time to discuss the war's impact on relationships with their peers.

Parents and other adults should always keep each child's vulnerabilities in mind when responding to concerns about the war and terrorism.

Children's viewing of TV news coverage of the war should be monitored as it can bring about distress and fear in children. If children are watching coverage, parents should be available to answer questions and concerns about what they are seeing.

If young children experience persistent bedwetting, fear of sleeping alone, night terrors, sadness, or eating problems, professional help should be sought. Older children may need a professional if school work begins to suffer, or they



# Legislative Committee

by Carolyn Eardley, LMSW, LSW, NASW Idaho Legislative Chair

Whew! By the time this newsletter reaches you, the Legislative Session for 2005 will have adjourned. This first year as Legislative Chair has been an education with a large learning curve. I studied the process of how a bill becomes law in school, and I have visited the statehouse over the years to show my son the process, and now my granddaughter. I still did not fully appreciate all the effort supporting or opposing a specific bill would entail.

At this writing, some of the laws had not been voted on or had been sent to a committee for a slow death. The bills that were a primary focus for the Legislative Committee are listed below. Some we opposed, some we supported.

- **SJR 101** – Marriage Amendment to State Constitution - failed (opposed)
- **HB 321** – Medicaid Co-Pay – stalled in Committee (opposed)
- **SB 1140** – Medicaid Waiver for Extending Family Planning Health Care – tabled in Committee, no return for this year (supported)
- **SB 1143** – Medicaid Buy-In - stalled in Committee (supported)
- **SB 1089** – Affordable Rx Program through H&W - stalled in Committee (supported)
- **HB 224** – Qwest Deregulation – passed and signed by Governor (opposed)
- **SB 1068a** – Advance Care Directives – passed and signed by Governor (supported)

There were other issues we could have addressed that would have had an affect on our clients, communities, or social workers. The Legislative Committee is small and the decision was made at the beginning to not take on more than what we could realistically accomplish.

I have also taken some time to speculate on the reasons I wanted to become involved with advocacy. In 2002, while attending a conference in Chicago, I made it a point to visit the location where Jane Addams began her social work career. Standing in the same room that was used at that time to feed many of the immigrants, and visiting the actual Hull House, which is now a museum, helped me to reflect on why I had become a social worker in the first place.

Jane Addams and the other reformers who assisted her gave much of their lives and energy to helping the less fortunate, and righting the wrongs that had been caused by the early industrial revolution. In one of the rooms at the Museum are pictures of each worker with words describing what they did and who they were. It was truly inspirational. I knew then when I returned to Idaho I wanted to get involved on a larger scale. Sitting in my own office or driving around the rural parts of Canyon and Owyhee counties helping my individual clients did not seem to be enough any longer.

Prior to this experience, I found myself becoming disillusioned and frustrated with the enactment of “welfare reform” in 1996. I knew the future of social work was about to change. Removing federal funding from states, and encouraging each state to be responsible for its own citizens would reduce the monetary capabilities for social service programs in Idaho.

Many in our state believed the poor and vulnerable should just pull up their bootstraps and do better on their own. Now in 2005 the same ideology continues. At the federal level, we face large budget cuts to programs that help families and weaker citizens. As health care costs continue to be a concern for every person, you can be sure the Idaho Legislature will look to cut spending for Medicaid. This will reduce funding for many programs our clients need.

Working mostly in a rural part of Idaho left me out of the loop in terms of connecting with others. This created a feeling of isolation. That has changed by becoming a member of the Legislative Committee. Now I meet with other great

social workers. It is inspiring to know others who have similar ideas as me. We don't always agree on every topic, but it is stimulating to have discussions on issues. I feel part of a larger community of committed social workers and activists who want to make a difference for members of our state. It is also fun. We work hard, but we also laugh and have moments of levity.

It has surprised me that so few social workers have the desire to get involved in state and federal advocacy. But I believe this can change. WE NEED YOU!

I am hoping to grow the Legislative Committee. Having more input from others would be helpful. Don't let just a few members make decisions for the majority. We need to hear how specific policies will affect your clients. We need you to speak out and let others know the importance of becoming involved.

By coming together and creating a larger voice we can make a difference for all Idahoans. You can do this by writing letters. You can do this by making a phone call. You can do this by speaking out on social injustice. It can be empowering to attempt to make a difference on a larger scale. If you can give 1 hour per week, or 1 hour per month, it all helps.

Let me hear from you. Join the United Vision for Idaho's Progressive Movement in your area. I encourage you to be part of the change for Idaho. It will be invigorating!!!!

You may reach me at (208) 466-7024 or lceardley@aol.com.

## Children and War

*Continued from page 15*

become isolated or withdrawn and these symptoms persist.

During wartime, it is important for all families to stay connected and spend extra time together, even if daily routines are not directly affected. In a democracy, it is probable that adults will have differing views and opinions about war; however, those disagreements should never be discussed in front of children. Parents and other adults should discuss war concerns directly and calmly.

Parents and families should review emergency plans during this time of heightened national security. Parents should also familiarize themselves with school preparations and plans.

Overall, try to maintain a normal routine and address children's concerns in a caring and respectful manner. In this uncertain time in our country, many children will have questions and concerns about what is happening. It is important that adults address any concerns or feelings of anxiety that children may feel. Parents and other adults need to realize that children react to stressful situations in ways sometimes different than adults.

### References:

- Fraser, Mark W. (1997). *Risk and Resilience in Childhood: An Ecological Perspective* Washington, DC. NASW Press.  
Pender-Greene, M. (2003, March 21). [Personal Communication].

# The Truth about Planned Parenthood of Idaho: How Misinformation Hurts Idaho's Families

by Delmar Stone, NASW Idaho Lobbyist

Perhaps the most controversial policy we have in Social Work Speaks is the "Family Planning and Reproductive Choice" policy. Like any large human service or professional organization we will never have 100% of our membership agreeing 100% with each other. In fact, I've never even met a family that agrees 100% with one another.

Yet, unlike any other professional association we are guided by a large Code of Ethics that not only charges us to be involved in the political arena, but also mandates we advocate for every person's "self-determination" even if their choice is against our own personal belief. Many social workers are frequently placed in value conflicts between the professional self and the personal self.

So, it was a particularly easy decision for the Legislative Committee to support Senate Bill 1140. This bipartisan bill sponsored by Senator Keogh(R-Sandpoint) and Representative Henbest (D-Boise) would have reduced abortions, improved healthcare for women and men, reduced sexually transmitted infections, and saved Idaho's Medicaid budget millions of dollars.

Unfortunately, testimony and lobbying efforts opposing the bill contained misinformation including that this legislation would end up funding abortions (via money being funneled through Planned Parenthood) and ultimately resulted in SB 1140 not making it out of the House Health & Welfare Committee.

The truth is... Planned Parenthood of Idaho, in its 30 years of existence, has NEVER performed an abortion. And, the funding for Senate Bill 1140 would have only given a small percentage of funds to Planned Parenthood with the bulk of the money going to a woman's physician and the public health districts (which also DO NOT perform abortions).

Although the legislation passed the Senate by one vote, several representatives on the House Health and Welfare Committee (Rep. Sali - Kuna, Rep. McGeachin - Idaho Falls, and Rep. Nielsen - Mountain Home) made it impossible for the bill to get to the floor of the House of Representatives for a vote. It was an unfortunate battle of ideology versus science and common sense.

Judy Last, NASW member, gave our testimony in support of this bill and Carolyn Eardley, NASW Idaho Legislative Committee Chair, had an opinion piece in the Idaho Statesman the day before the House Health & Welfare Committee hearing. But, neither our efforts, nor the many physicians, nurses, and others could convince the Committee of the wisdom of Senate Bill 1140 which is already in place in 21 other states.

Please help us continue to strive to educate our Idaho legislators with sound information. Misinformation is a huge barrier to establishing good policy. One by one we must encourage family, friends, and clients to learn about how our laws are made, the actual impact of proposed bills and how our legislators are voting.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions.

Delmar Stone  
Lobbyist/Member Mobilizer  
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(208) 466-0511



*The path to understanding  
is steep, but those who  
brave the climb share a  
glorious view.*

Author Unknown

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# NASW NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN NEEDS OUR SUPPORT

by Wendy Cary, NASW Idaho Executive Director

Please join me in making a \$50 contribution to the NASW Foundation for NASW's National Social Work Public Education Campaign. You can make your donation online at [www.socialworkers.org](http://www.socialworkers.org) or tear this contribution sheet out of THE GATEKEEPER and mail it directly to the national office.

Our financial support will help fund a campaign to facilitate the public's enhanced understanding of the specialized training a social worker has and the unique and beneficial services a social worker can provide. This media campaign is being kicked off in conjunction with NASW's 50th Anniversary and is a wonderful way to celebrate the many contributions made by the social work profession.

## Key Public Education Campaign Goals:

- Increase awareness and respect for the social work profession.
- Educate the public on the breadth and depth of social work practice.
- Expand the perception of who can benefit from social work services.
- Improve employment opportunities for social workers.

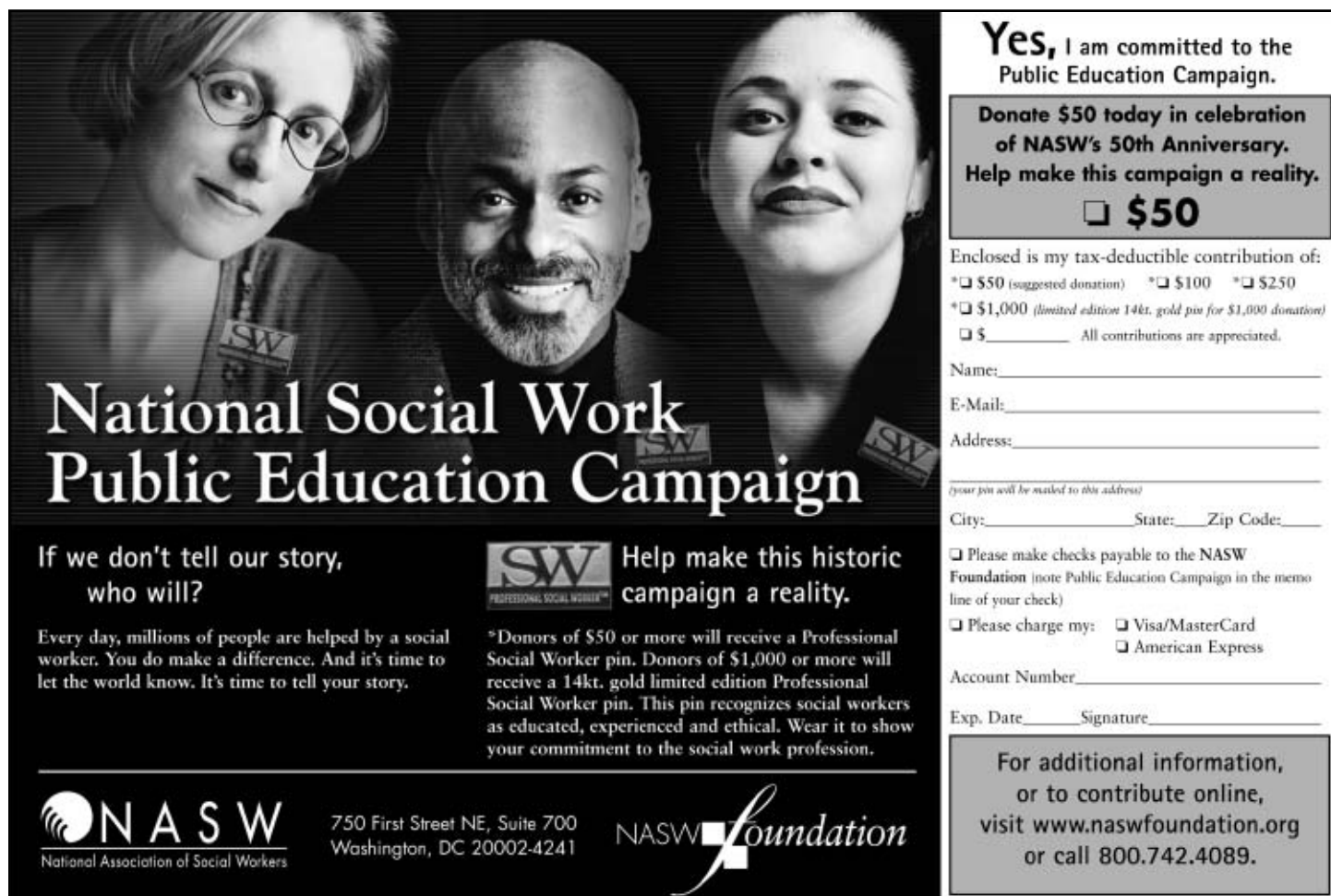
## Public Education Campaign Strategies:

- Advertise in national magazines.
- Build a new consumer website to showcase social work success stories and provide valuable resources to the public.
- Increase positive media stories. Ensure journalists represent social workers accurately.
- Invite all social workers to get involved in building and promoting this historic campaign.

## Social Workers... help starts here!

You are educated and experienced. You have passion. You have tremendous value. You do make a difference. And it's time to tell your story.

Please give today and help ensure the success of this National Public Education Campaign!!



**National Social Work Public Education Campaign**

If we don't tell our story, who will?

Every day, millions of people are helped by a social worker. You do make a difference. And it's time to let the world know. It's time to tell your story.

**SW** PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKER™

Help make this historic campaign a reality.

\*Donors of \$50 or more will receive a Professional Social Worker pin. Donors of \$1,000 or more will receive a 14kt. gold limited edition Professional Social Worker pin. This pin recognizes social workers as educated, experienced and ethical. Wear it to show your commitment to the social work profession.

**NASW** National Association of Social Workers

750 First Street NE, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20002-4241

**NASW Foundation**

**Yes, I am committed to the Public Education Campaign.**

**Donate \$50 today in celebration of NASW's 50th Anniversary. Help make this campaign a reality.**

**\$50**

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:  
\*  \$50 (suggested donation) \*  \$100 \*  \$250  
\*  \$1,000 (limited edition 14kt. gold pin for \$1,000 donation)  
 \$\_\_\_\_\_ All contributions are appreciated.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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(your pin will be mailed to this address)  
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Please make checks payable to the NASW Foundation (note Public Education Campaign in the memo line of your check)  
 Please charge my:  Visa/MasterCard  American Express

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

For additional information, or to contribute online, visit [www.naswfoundation.org](http://www.naswfoundation.org) or call 800.742.4089.

# How to Reinvent Your Career

Today new technologies, increased competition and downsizings have eliminated many jobs. Managed care has severely impacted the way medical and mental health services are provided. With fewer people to do the work and increased competition for jobs, we are putting in more hours than ever before.

Besides burnout and depression, other job stresses come from doing work you are not suited for, or working in an environment that is not conducive to your temperament, values and the quality of life that you desire.

If you think you need to find another job or change the direction of your career, it is important to first go through a process of self-assessment, focusing on your options, and lastly, developing a specific action plan to get you where you want to be.

## Assessment

What are the values, ideals and ethics that you hold near and dear? You need to display these in your work if you are to feel satisfied and fulfilled. Be clear about the compromises you can make without suffering. What are your special abilities and skills? What do you consider to be your best traits and characteristics? What are your areas of interest in your work and in school? How do you make decisions? Are you a “big picture” person or one who likes to focus on the details? Personality assessments often can help with this process.

## Environment

What kind of environment do you want to work in? This includes geographic location and proximity to home, hours that you work as well as clothes that you wear to work and a description of the organizational culture. Do you want flex-time or would you like to work from home? Do you want to be self-employed? What does your office space look like? What kind of people do you want to work with? Do you prefer to work independently or within a team environment?

## Focusing

After you have completed a thorough assessment of your values, skills, abilities and the environment that you want to work in, consider the content of the work itself. Do you like to counsel others? Do you like to teach? Do you like to write or conduct research? Is administration and policy-making your passion? Do you want to manage others or work independently? Make a list of the things you like about your work and the things you don't like. Be specific. The Strong Interest Inventory is a good instrument to help focus your interests.

Next you need to match your abilities and skills with the needs of the marketplace. The competition for jobs today is very stiff. Brainstorm the general career areas that fit your interests. Conduct informational interviews to determine what it is really like to work in those areas. What kind of skills and experiences do you need to have to secure a job in those fields? Are you willing to do what it takes to make that happen? What about salary requirements?

Perhaps after conducting the self-assessment and focusing, you decide you really like the work you do and only need to change the environment. If you leave a particular career and decide you don't like your new job, it will be more difficult to return to your former career. It is crucial to go through the self-assessment and focusing process before you make a move.

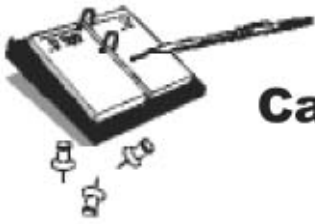
## Action Plan

Once you know what you want to do, develop a specific plan to get there. If you decide to stay put, create a career development plan that includes acquiring the skills and experience you need to further your career. Write your goals and objectives. Update your resume. Network with those in positions to further your cause. A career consultant can help keep you motivated, focused and in pursuit of your goals.

## Summary

If you want success in your career, you must have confidence in your ability to solve problems, practice independent thinking and decision-making and be determined to find the answers. Don't give up! Start with a thorough assessment of your values, skills, interests and abilities. Focus your efforts on your areas of interests and abilities, and develop an action plan by specifying goals and objectives. It is only by focusing on your strengths that you can truly obtain fulfillment and success in your career. A professional career consultant can provide objective feedback to help keep you motivated and on-track.

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## Calendar of Events



### Adlerian Professional Studies

May 20-21, 2005 – Pocatello

Part 1 – “Adlerian Theory of Personality Development and Family Functioning”

All NASW members in the central and eastern part of Idaho should have received a brochure in the mail. If not, you can access one on our website at [www.naswidaho.org](http://www.naswidaho.org) or call the Chapter office at (208) 345-4060.

### NASW Idaho Chapter Board Meeting

Saturday, June 25, 2005 – Boise

Please contact your Branch Chair with concerns, suggestions, or information. See Page 2 of this GATEKEEPER issue for contact number or email address. Your voice is important!!

### New Web-based Statewide Continuing Education Calendar for Healthcare Professionals

This new interactive calendar can be searched by discipline and location of CE event. Log on to [www.IdahoAHEC.org](http://www.IdahoAHEC.org) and click on the Continuing Ed Calendar feature at the left. For more information, contact Nancy Bardsley at [nbardsley@mtnstatesgroup.org](mailto:nbardsley@mtnstatesgroup.org).

Congratulations to the 30% of the membership of NASW Idaho who CHOSE TO cast their vote in last year’s Chapter elections? Can we increase the vote in 2005? *Cast your vote today!*

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