

**SOCIAL WORK MONTH 2022 PROCLAMATION: “THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR SOCIAL WORK”**

WHEREAS, the Social Work Profession for decades has been dedicated to improving human well-being and enhancing the basic needs of all people—especially the most vulnerable among us particularly during the global pandemic;

WHEREAS, this year’s Social Work Month theme, “The Time is Right for Social Work” embodies how social workers rose to meet the most pressing challenges of all of our lifetimes, the COVID-19 pandemic, even as our nation continues to grapple with systemic racism, economic inequality, global warming, and other crises;

WHEREAS, Social Workers are the largest group of mental health care providers in the United States, and work daily to help people—whether in person or remotely—overcome substance use disorders and mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety;

WHEREAS, Social Workers have always helped people overcome issues such as death and grief and helped people and communities recover from increasing natural disasters such as fires, hurricanes and earthquakes brought on by climate change;

WHEREAS, Social Workers have helped this nation live up to its values by successfully advocating for equal rights for all, including Black, Indigenous, People of Color, those who are LGBTQA, religious groups and others;

WHEREAS, the Social Work Profession is one of the fastest growing careers in the United States, with more than more than 715,000 social workers today and nearly 800,000 professionals expected to be employed as social workers by 2028;

WHEREAS, Social Workers have continued to push for changes that have made our society a better place to live, including a livable wage, improved workplace safety, and social safety net programs that help ameliorate poverty, hunger, and homelessness;

WHEREAS, Social Workers possess the necessary expertise to assist our nation in some of its most demanding concerns, including their health and well-being not only during the pandemic, but at all times, ensuring equal rights, improved health care and mental health care for all; and immigration reform;

WHEREAS, Social Workers work in all facets of our society to meet people no matter their circumstance and empower them to live to their fullest potential;

NOW THEREFORE, in recognition of the numerous contributions made by America’s Social Workers, We, the Judson Independent School District Board of Trustees, proclaim the month of March 2022 as National Social Work Month and call upon all citizens to join the National Association of Social Workers and Judson Independent School District in celebration and support of the Social Work Profession.

Dated this 17 day of February 2022

By Renee G. Paschall Judson Independent School District