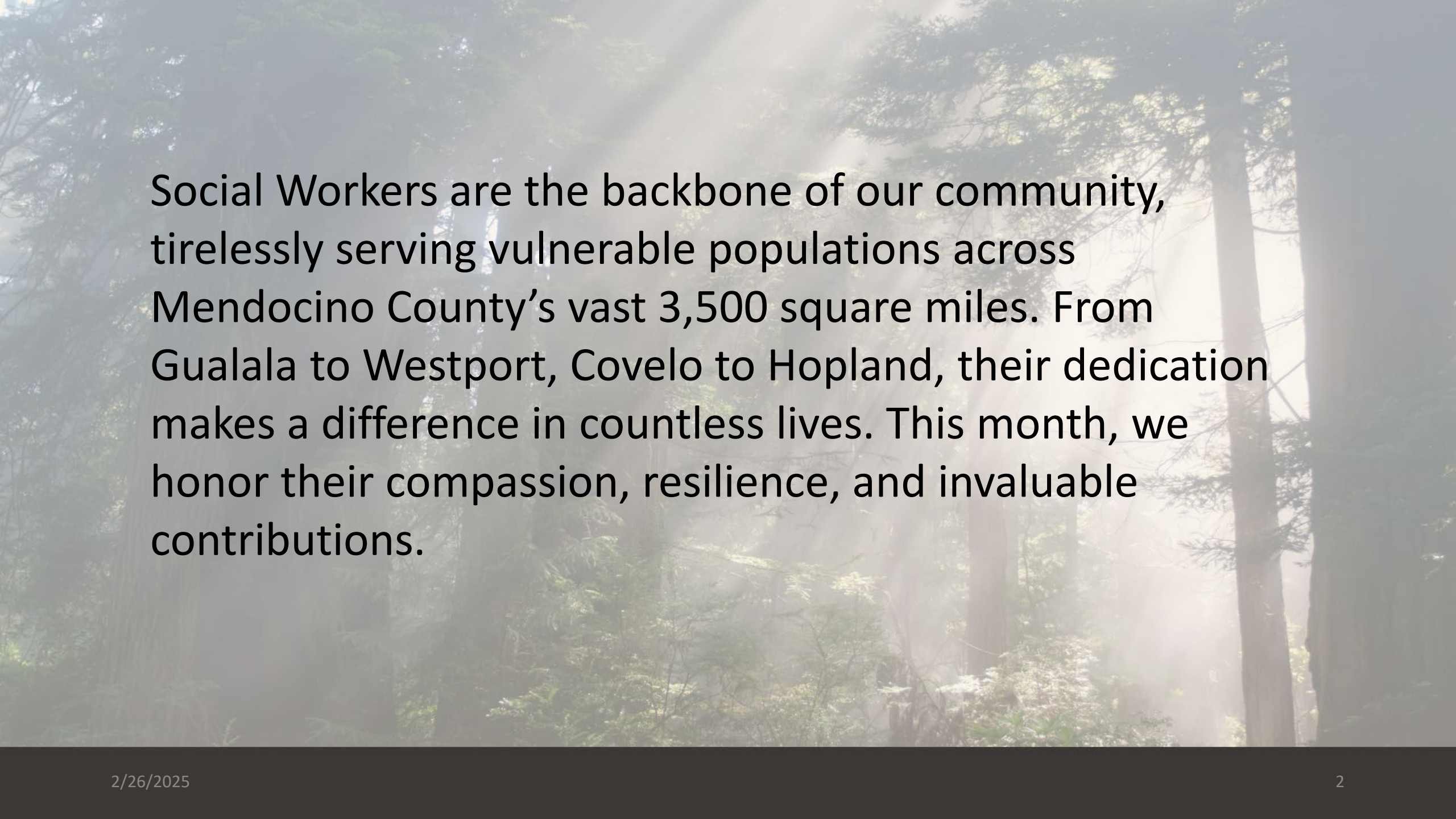




Celebrating Social Workers

Recognizing Social Worker
Appreciation Month - March 2025



A misty forest scene with tall trees and sunlight filtering through the canopy. The text is overlaid on this background.

Social Workers are the backbone of our community, tirelessly serving vulnerable populations across Mendocino County's vast 3,500 square miles. From Gualala to Westport, Covelo to Hopland, their dedication makes a difference in countless lives. This month, we honor their compassion, resilience, and invaluable contributions.

Programs and Services

Adult & Aging Services (AAS)

- In Home Support Services (IHSS)
 - Assesses needs and determines eligibility for In Home Care
- IHSS Quality Assurance/Public Authority
 - Compliance review for IHSS and support for IHSS providers
- Adult Protective Services (APS)
 - Investigate reports of abuse and apply interventions
- Public Guardian/Public Authority
 - Establish probate conservatorships and administer estates where family is unable to do so
- Bridge Unit – General Assistance
 - Social Security (SSI) benefit advocacy and Housing Support for the disabled

Family & Children's Services (FCS)

- Emergency Response
 - Social Workers are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Family Maintenance
 - Support to families for stabilization and to help parents with the tools and resources they need for children to remain safely in the home
- Family Reunification
 - Supporting families working toward reunification
- Wraparound
 - Strength-based, needs-driven approach including a child and family team (CFT) to help keep youth in the home
- Short Term Residential Treatment Programs
- Permanent Placement
- Non-Relative Legal Guardianship
- Supported Transition

Programs and Services Continued

CalWORKs Job Services

- Welfare to Work
 - Provides supports and opportunities to families progressing towards self-sufficiency through activities directly related to employment and education
 - Educational Activities and materials
 - Work readiness clothing
 - Transportation
 - Childcare
 - Cal-Learn
 - The component of CalWORKs to assist pregnant and parenting teens with the goal of encouraging participants to graduate from High School or the equivalent, become independent, and form healthy families
 - Intensive case management
 - Supportive services
 - Incentives (bonuses) to complete activities
- Family Stabilization
 - Assists Welfare to Work participants experiencing temporary crisis situations who need intensive case management and special supportive services
 - Homelessness
 - Domestic violence
 - Untreated or undertreated health needs including substance use or behavioral health issues
 - Sudden loss of transportation
 - Sudden change in circumstances which affects the ability to find employment or participate in assigned activities

2024 Snapshot

Adult & Aging Services (AAS)

- Processed 1,150 IHSS applications
- Completed 1,253 home visits for IHSS
- Responded to 1,592 reports of Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse
- Completed 977 Adult Protective Services (APS) investigations
- Provided SSI advocacy for 40 individuals



AAS Social Workers responding to the Creekside culvert failure ensuring safety and access to services.

2024 Snapshot

Family & Children's Services (FCS)

- Responded to 1,978 reports of child abuse or neglect
 - 340 Emergency Response investigations
 - 462 investigations within the 10-day requirement
- 134 Resource Families Approved
- Monthly average of 271 cases managed
 - 43 children in Family Maintenance
 - 108 children in Family reunification
 - 87 children in Permanent Placement
 - 33 children in Supportive Transition
- 31 families completed services as “stabilized”
- 48 children were successfully reunified with their parent or guardian



2024 Snapshot

CalWORKs Job Services

- Managed 17 Family Stabilization cases
- Assisted 3 Cal-Learn parents to meet their educational goals
- Worked with 11 chronic truant youth to reengage in school
- Provided Sanction Prevention Outreach to 27 families



*Connie Rodriguez, CalWORKs Job Services
Social Worker*

Impact of the Work

Adult & Aging Services (AAS)

- Responsible for Immediate Response, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Visiting people in their homes, making connections with clients, and assessing difficult situations
- IHSS keeps people out of nursing homes and in the community, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars and leading to improved health and outcomes
- Calling vulnerable residents during disasters and supporting evacuations shelters
- APS workers are first responders who collaborate with Law Enforcement on complex issues
- Responds to homeless encampments, hoarding situations, dilapidated structures, and remote areas

Impact of the Work

Family & Children's Services (FCS)

- Responsible for Immediate Response, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
 - A Social Worker inland, and another on the coast are available nights and weekends
- Responding to and visiting families in their homes, making genuine connections, assessing complex situations, getting to the root of challenges, and working with families to find solutions
- Connecting families with Community-Based Organizations to provide longer-term support and help families continue success
- Wraparound (WRAP) uses a strength-based, family-centered process collaborating with the Social Worker, youth, caregiver, and CBO team
 - Strategies and positive goals are established with youth and parent/caregiver voice and fit to the individual youth and caregiver needs that help families remain together

Hotline Numbers

Report Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse
(707) 463-7900
Or toll free at
1-877-327-1799

Report Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect
1-866-236-0368