



**Bob Riley**  
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of  
**REHABILITATION SERVICES**



**Steve Shivers**  
COMMISSIONER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Kathleen McGehee  
334-293-7500 or 1-800-441-7607

## **ADRS recognizes national social work month**

When Treasa Nelson discovered her daughter has cerebral palsy, she did not know what to do or where to turn.

She learned about Children's Rehabilitation Service ( CRS ) and was assigned a social worker, Linda Graham, who was available to assist and guide her with the needs related to her child's disability – whether financial, medical, or emotional.

"My social worker was an angel," Nelson said. "I've never had any trouble with anything I've needed help with. When I ask about getting a wheelchair or leg braces, she tells me not to worry. I trust her. She has never let me down."

Graham is just one of the many compassionate and caring social workers the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Service ( ADRS ) wants to recognize during the month of March, which is National Professional Social Work Month.

The department's social workers work enthusiastically and tirelessly to improve the lives of people with disabilities, often going beyond the call of duty.

One social worker has donated furniture to a family. After a child died of an illness, another social worker carried the child's casket in her car to the funeral because the family couldn't afford a hearse. Yet another social worker sits down each week to help a family pay bills because they are not mentally able to do it themselves.

"The whole reason a person becomes a social worker is to help people have a better life and to reach their maximum potential," said Wanda Ross, who is a social worker and provides professional support and assistance to the social workers with Children's Rehabilitation Service, a division of the ADRS .

The theme for National Social Work Month is "Building on Strengths: Help Starts Here."

A social worker's goal is to help people help themselves, and the majority of their time – 96 percent, in fact – is spent providing direct client services, according to the National Association of Social Workers.

Social workers must have the appropriate education, experience, and licensure to practice social work. They earn bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees in social work and must have a minimum number of hours of supervised fieldwork. More than 600,000 people in the United States hold social work degrees.

At ADRS , social workers around the state provide services in all of the department's major programs, addressing the needs of babies, youth and adults with disabilities and their families.

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.