

# CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



## *Proclamation*

### **Social Work Month 2026 Uplift. Defend. Transform.**

**WHEREAS** Social Workers positively impact the lives of millions of Americans daily, in hospitals, schools, child welfare agencies, community centers, and within the federal, state and local governments nationwide;

**WHEREAS**, for more than a century, Social Workers have worked to improve human well-being, to advocate for justice, and to support everyone's basic needs, selecting this profession out of a deep commitment to help uplift, defend, and transform the lives of others, their families and communities;

**WHEREAS** the 2026 theme, "**Social Workers: Uplift. Defend. Transform,**" shines a light on the resolute spirit of social workers who transform lives while bringing hope, healing, and justice to the communities they serve - especially in times of profound change and challenges; they follow a Code of Ethics that calls on them to stand for equity, uphold human dignity, and fight injustice;

**WHEREAS** Social Workers stand on the frontlines supporting vulnerable populations, including individuals experiencing poverty, discrimination, trauma, mental health challenges, and substance use disorders, while strengthening the social safety net that supports our community;

**WHEREAS** Social Workers assist individuals and families as they navigate grief, systemic barriers, public health crises, and other life challenges, helping them recover and thrive; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in recognition of the numerous contributions made by Social Workers, the Charlottesville City Council proclaims the month of March 2026 as Social Work Month and call upon community members to join in celebration and support of the Social Work profession and this year's theme of Uplift. Defend. Transform.

Signed and sealed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

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Juandiego Wade, Mayor

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Kyna Thomas, Clerk