



- WHEREAS, for more than a century, Social Workers have worked to improve human well-being, advocate for justice, and support everyone’s basic needs; and,
- 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; and,
- WHEREAS, Social Workers are on the frontlines defending vulnerable populations, including those facing discrimination or poverty, while uplifting vital social safety net programs and ensuring the rights of everyone; and,
- WHEREAS, Social Workers assist those navigating trauma, grief, and systemic biases, and help people recover from natural disasters, public health crises, and other issues while transforming their lives in encouraging ways; and,
- WHEREAS, Social Workers are at the forefront of pressing issues our nation is addressing, including increased needs for mental health care, substance use disorder treatment, and increased economic and political division; and,
- WHEREAS, Social Workers help protect millions of children and adults from abuse and neglect, provide services and support, which helps strengthen families that are under stress, and help create new families through adoption; and,
- WHEREAS, Social Workers advocate for human rights, and advancing fair policies for all persons by obliterating barriers that prevent individuals, and families from thriving.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED in recognition of the critical contributions made by Gaston County’s Social Workers, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners proclaims the month of March 2026 as

National Social Work Month

and calls upon all citizens to join in the celebration and support of the Social Work Profession.

Chad Brown, Chairman

Jim Bailey

Bob Hovis, Vice-Chairman

Cathy Cloninger

Tom Keigher

Allen R. Fraley

Scott Shehan