



MSW monthly

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Getting to know our colleagues is an essential part of the graduate school experience, so each semester the MSW Monthly will introduce you to a student in the Master of Social Work program.

Student Spotlight: Stacey Garske



Stacey Garske is a Stow, Ohio resident and a micro social work student who expects to graduate in May 2021.

Background, interests and career:

I graduated from the University of Akron with a Bachelor's in Psychology, a minor in Child and Family Development and a certificate in manual communication.

I began my career at Child Guidance and Family Solutions in intake and then moved to intensive case management with emotionally disturbed youth.

In 2001 I began at Summit County Family and Children First Council and have been there ever since.

The FCFC exists because back in the 80's the governor decided that there needed to be a better way to meet the needs youth and it was incorporated into Ohio Revised Code. The simplified explanation is that it mandates collaboration between family and child serving agencies.

My current title is Program Coordinator & Family Team Facilitator. I provide wraparound service coordination for multi system multi need youth.

I facilitate meetings that include the families and all the professionals involved with the youth to develop plans of care to wrap services and supports for the youth and their families. I also coordinate and lead a 9 month long Cross Systems Training class.

What drew you to social work as a major?

I always knew I wanted to work with troubled youth.

What are your plans for after graduation?

We will see what doors open but at this time I enjoy my current position.

How do you manage balancing your time with schoolwork, field, and job and/or home life?

I would say this is the most difficult part of grad school. Last year doing my foundation internship, it felt as if my 16-year-old son was raising himself and living off frozen meals.

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I try really to always start my papers as early as possible and I depend on the support of my friends in the program.

What social issues are you most passionate about and have you done any advocacy for that issue?

Yes, my biggest passion is the fact that so many parents in the state of Ohio have to give up custody of their child to get them treatment. I have

advocated at the state and local level on this issue. Just a month ago, there was funding approved at the state level to try and avoid this from happening.

Any advice for incoming students?

Remember this is a temporary situation and you will get through it. Start your papers early! Rely on others for support. Find a balance for yourself so you don't burn out!

Five words friends would use to describe you?

Funny, free-spirited, kind, devoted mom!

Favorite quote or phrase?

Work hard, play hard! ■

Would you like to be the next Spotlight Student? To be featured in a future newsletter, contact Barbara Ferrell at bf2@uakron.edu



The United Way of America, based in Alexandria, Virginia, is a nonprofit organization that works with almost 1,200 local United Way offices throughout the country in a coalition of charitable organizations to pool efforts in fundraising and support.

The United Way's focus is to identify and resolve pressing community issues and to make measurable changes in communities through partnerships with schools, government agencies, businesses, organized labor, financial institutions, community development corporations, voluntary and neighborhood associations, the faith community, and others.

The Summit County office of the United Way offers internship opportunities in several key areas:

2-1-1 Services

Students can learn about a wide variety of resources available in the Summit County area with a field placement in the United Way's 2-1-1 Information and Referral Department.



United Way improves lives by mobilizing the caring power of community to advance the common good.

The United Way operates a database of approximately 7,000 services at over 1,200 agencies serving Summit and Lorain counties. Interns will learn how to interview clients, assess situations, and provide referrals and information

Housing Services

The Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Prevention programs work with landlords to help maintain housing and establish housing for Summit County residents in need, and case management once housing is obtained. Interns will interview clients, assess their housing situation, and provide referrals.

Community Impact Program

The United Way has established two "Bold Goals" for students in Akron Public Schools: by 2025, 65% of Akron Public School 3rd graders will be reading at or above grade level, and 90% of Akron Public School students will graduate on time, with 60% college/career ready.

To help achieve these goals, social work interns will provide direct and indirect individual and group services to children and their families, including family engagement activities, mentoring support and youth development opportunities.

They will also assist with community asset mapping, community engagement, neighborhood conversations and focus groups, resource identification, referral and navigation.

To learn more about these great internship opportunities and more about the United Way's Bold Goals for 2025, visit the United Way of Summit County at www.uwsummit.org/. ■

Upcoming Events

Toiletries Drive

Now – November 29

The MSWSA is collecting toiletries to benefit the Battered Women's Shelter. Please drop off new, full or sample-size toiletries at the Social Work office in Polsky 411.

Project GRAD Tabling

Saturday, December 7, 2019

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Buchtel Community Learning Center, 1040 Copley Road, Akron

Project GRAD Akron provides a system of programs, scholarships and supports for underrepresented students to achieve success. The MSWSA will be co-hosting a table with undergraduate social work students at Project Grad's 15th Annual Breakfast and Education Fun Day with Santa. Breakfast will be provided. RSVP to Barbara Ferrell at bf2@uakron.edu.

NASW Advocacy Day

Thursday, March 26, 2020

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Riffe Center, 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio

\$25 for students

The NASW Ohio Chapter hosts Advocacy Day to connect social workers to their state legislators. It's a time to promote social work and issues that impact our clients. Join over 600 social workers and social work students for a day of action. Learn how to be an effective advocate and meet with your state Representative's and state Senator's offices. To register or for more information contact Danielle Smith at dsmith.naswoh@socialworkers.org .

Interested in joining
the MSWSA?
Membership dues are
just \$1 for the semester.

For an application,
email Zia Schrader
at zjs17@zips.uakron.edu

Your 2019-2020 Officers:

Barbara Ferrell, President
James Ciotola, Vice-President
Zia Schrader, Treasurer
Emily Bowen, Secretary

Dr. McManus, Faculty Adviser



Connect with other MSW
students, and get involved
in fun events!

Next meeting:
Friday, December 13
5:30 p.m., Polsky 499

Licensure Exam Prep Question of the Month

You have been hired as a social work case manager for an urban agency.

Your mission is to assess the needs of the client, the client's family, and to arrange for, coordinate, monitor, evaluate and advocate for a package of multiple services to meet the specific client's complex needs.

Social work case management is distinct from other forms of case management because it addresses all of the following EXCEPT:

- A) the client's Biopsychosocial status and the state of the social system in which the client operates.
- B) the need for the client to accept the services provided because they are identified as necessary by the social work case manager.
- C) intervention occurs at both client (micro) and system (macro) levels.
- D) the need for the social worker to develop and maintain a therapeutic relationship with the client.

The correct answer is B

Social Work always allows the client the right of self-determination. Just because you (the professional social worker) believes the client needs a certain services does not obligate the client to accept or utilize that service.

The client is **always** in control. ■