



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact
Jeff Koenreich
305.358.1640 ext. 114
786.999.4613 - Cell

NATIONAL SOCIAL WORKER MONTH

***** Interview & Photo Opportunity *****

The month of March is National Social Worker Month and Switchboard of Miami is offering media representatives the opportunity for an in-depth look into the work of various social workers.

Throughout the year and during National Social Work Month, social workers encourage individuals, families and communities to focus on the strengths and resources they have to solve problems and to achieve their goals. This year's Social Work Month theme – **“Building on Strengths: Help Starts Here”** – highlights the unique education and training of the nation's 600,000 social workers to work with individuals, families and communities to assist them during challenging times.

Switchboard's career staff and volunteer social workers **build on the strength of our 40 years of service**, and take on some of the more pressing social, physical, mental and human issues that exist, and it is they who address the fears of our youth, the anxieties of parents, and the reassurance of our elderly. They use their highly-trained skills and compassionate nature to hold families together, direct young people away from negative influences, and comfort the elderly.

Interviews and photo opportunities of Social Workers working with troubled youth, families and the elderly are available in public schools or at Switchboard's state-of-the-art Call Center. Pre-authorization is required for each venue to ensure client confidentiality and facility security. Client interviews can be arranged through appropriate Switchboard staff.

A list of available Social Workers and their area of programmatic expertise is outlined below.

Switchboard of Miami, Inc has been “answering the call” for 40 years, logging in 180,000 calls for help and referral last year alone.

Switchboard of Miami, Inc is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to connect people in need with community resources, strengthen and preserve families, and develop and provide services where none exist.

**Professional Social Worker Staff
Switchboard of Miami, Inc.**

Brendaliz Davila, MSW

Directs **Project PHASE** (Preventing HIV/AIDS & Substance Abuse Effectively) which targets African-American, Haitian, and Hispanic families that are having difficulties with their teenager's behaviors including school failure, truancy or suspensions, running away from home, peer pressure, risky sexual behavior, substance abuse and more. The program is a 12-session, research based group intervention that focuses on identified strengths within the family unit and assets that are needed for parents and youth to succeed together.

Doris Kitchen, LCSW

Twala Kelly, MSW

Jointly administer a comprehensive school based health program that provides primary health care services along with mental health counseling within the North Miami Beach feeder pattern including Greynolds Park Elementary, Fulford Elementary, Sable Palm Elementary, J.F.K. Middle and North Miami Beach Senior High. The goal of the project is to increase access to mental health services and identify and address issues related to peer and family relations, disruptive behavior, self-esteem, anger management, depression, and bereavement through weekly individual and group counseling as well as collateral contacts with families. The initiative also runs an after school, mentor, Spring break and Summer break program.

**For interview opportunities, please contact Jeff Koenreich
at 305.358.1640 ext.114
or 786.999.4613.**