

Planning Events – Community Social Services Awareness Month

When it comes to raising awareness about the value of social services in our communities, grassroots networking and outreach events are our best opportunities. Whether your local municipal council designates March to support Community Social Services Awareness, our unions are targeting March as a key time for local members to organize community-based activities. Where possible, team up with fellow union members, people you support, their families, and employers.

Here are some examples of activities you can do in your community:

- Mount a display, using local and provincial campaign materials, in your local library, recreation centre or another community venue.
- Host a breakfast or lunch for community leaders active in social service agencies, faith groups, employer organizations, your local labour council, and so on.
- Work with your employer, where possible, to offer tours of agencies and projects in your community.
- Mount a photo exhibit at a local gallery or cafe.
- Organize a musical event, poetry reading or street theatre.
- Host a potluck or picnic.
- Set up an information table in your local mall or at another community event.
- Get in touch with your local media through letters, media events or news releases (see campaign material entitled *Working With The Media*).
- Show a film or documentary related to one or more of the services we provide.

The possibilities are great. What's most important is that you choose activities tailored to your community and that provide opportunities to meet and connect with other members of your community. Start planning as soon as possible. Those on Facebook can join the Friends of Community Social Services group.

The www.CommunitySocialServicesMatter.ca website will also be a resource. It will contain profiles of community social services workers. Personal stories and pictures of you, your community and your work are an important part of the Community Social Services Matter campaign. All local activities will be supported by provincial campaign material such as posters, postcards and stickers. To get more information, material or other assistance, and to keep your union informed about what is happening in your community, contact your union steward, staff representative or area office.



[CommunitySocialServicesMatter.ca](http://www.CommunitySocialServicesMatter.ca)