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NASW and Pioneers Impact

The Social Work profession has led to the improvement of society, as it has influenced the lives of all within the United States. The National Association of Social Work, has been a stepping stone which has led to a major impact due to guidance, researches, advocacy and resources. As it contributes significantly to the wellbeing of families, individuals, and communities through its involvement in strengthening social support and opportunities to meet families and individual's needs. NASW and Pioneers passion for the profession have contributed greatly in shaping society, in making not only history, but continuing to improves one's life.

Addressing social issues have been fundamental since 1898 to present day, as social workers have challenged through advocacy for the public's attention. It all started with the creation and participation in charitable and private organizations, with its mission to serve the needy. Multiple Pioneers, in other words social workers played a fundamental role in shaping the profession such as Jane Adams, Ellen Gates, Ida B. Wells, George Edmund Haynes. Pioneer Jane Addams, known as the "mother" of the social work profession in 1889 provided social services to the large immigration population facing poverty and violence (*NASW Social Workers Pioneers Bio Index*) Due to the large population and need of immigrants, Pioneer Jane Addams contributed in changing the lives of immigrants and furthering the profession. Addams was against injustice and was interested in better understanding and improving the lives of those in

poverty. Addams lobbied Illinois lawmakers for legislation to benefit the poor, while serving as a neighborhood sanitation officer (*NASW Social Workers Pioneers Bio Index*) As well, she challenged those under power. Before the National Social Worker's Exchange which later become NASW in 1955, Jane Addam's activities demonstrated ethics and values which became the basis of such profession (Interactive Timeline of Social Work and NASW (socialworkers.org). Advocating was challenging and it continues to be difficult, but it's necessary. Without Pioneers advocating, there would be no change. For example, Ida B. Wells advocated for women's rights in 1899. Wells was a woman of color which challenged and stepped forward against social issues and injustice. By 1955, NASW was established in October of 1955, and its need for unity for the purpose of improving social welfare programs (*NASW Social Workers Pioneers Bio Index*). NASW led to impacting society, as it became involved in Civil Rights Movement, calling for equal rights for African Americans which became a reality in 1965. NASW supported laws for the wellbeing and rights that should be provided. In present day, members of NASW's mission, is to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards for social workers, and to advance sound social policies (*NASW*).

In my opinion, as members of society we often take for granted the efforts and challenges early social workers faced against injustice and don't understand the privileges we are born into, in present day. The needy such as immigrants and poor early settlement in the United States were not provided with benefits such as civil rights, unemployment benefits, human treatment for the disabled, Medicaid, Medicare, health care, or welfare programs to meet their needs, rather violence and inequality was faced. NASW members throughout history have helped serve communities regardless of gender, faith, religion, race, or sexual orientation. By providing use

with the opportunity to cope and overcome obstacles related with social issues, as well its importance to advocate for injustice to lead to social improvement for future generations. NASW continues to impact future generations with pioneers willing to challenge social issues in the United States. Pioneers such as Jane Addams and Ida B. Wells are role models to look after, after such influence they had in society.

Reference

NASW Social Workers Pioneers Bio Index. (n.d.). Retrieved January 28, 2023, from

<https://www.naswfoundation.org/Our-Work/NASW-Social-Work-Pioneers/NASW-Social-Workers-Pioneers-Bio-Index/id/44>

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<https://www.socialworkers.org/> (Accessed: January 28, 2023).