

NPHF Monthly Newsletter



FALLON



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WWW.EXPLORING NEVADA.COM

Each month the main picture will feature a different city in Nevada. If you have a scenic picture of your county please email, andrea@nphf.org

Photo courtesy of ExploringNevada.com

Meet Chakri Suttiprapa, New MSW Grad

We asked Chakri if he would share a little bit about his academic and career journey.

Would you share about your background.

I grew up in Bangkok, Thailand, but I have had the opportunity to travel back and forth between Las Vegas and Bangkok for the past ten years. Currently, I have been living here since 2019.

My educational and professional background includes earning a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Anthropology from Thammasat University in Bangkok. After that, I pursued a Master of Social Work at UNLV and recently graduated in May 2025.

My work experience includes two years of practicum while I was a graduate student - one year with the State of Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) and another year with the Division of Healthcare Financing and Policy (DHCFP).



Where are you currently working and what population are you working with?



I am currently preparing to take my LMSW exam. However, I have already received a job offer from ADSD, which I am very excited about because it will allow me to work with a population I am passionate about - people with disabilities.

Personally, as someone who has Cerebral Palsy, I feel strongly about being an advocate for people with disabilities. I believe that sharing the same lived experiences as many of my future clients helps me understand more deeply what they face, what they have gone through, and the obstacles they encounter in their daily lives. ...Continued on Page 2

Upcoming Webinars

July 30th @ 1:30 - 2:00pm

BSW/MSW Scholarships - Virtual Info Session
(Open to anyone interested in learning about the program)

[Register](#)

August 27th @ 11:00 - 12:00pm

Get Ready for School; Work/Life Balance Techniques with Natalie Gautereaux

[Register](#)

September 24th @ 1:30- 2:30pm

Opportunities and Challenges of Social Work in Rural Communities with Tina Gerber-Winn

[Register](#)

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Why did you choose to get a degree in social work?

As I mentioned earlier, I have Cerebral Palsy and have lived my entire life as a person with a disability. For a long time, though, I hardly knew anyone else who was also disabled. During my undergraduate studies in Thailand, I had the chance to join a camp where I met a group of students with disabilities. That experience was the first time I thought, "if I could have a career that helps people like us live better lives, it would be truly meaningful".

Before I graduated, I started researching 'social work' from many different perspectives, and I realized this was exactly what I wanted to dedicate my life to. I believe I will find fulfillment every day working in this field.

In short, my long-term goal is to help improve the quality of life for people with disabilities on a macro level. Even though I may not be there yet, the path I am on now is the one where I can see the greatest possibility of reaching that goal.

What has been your most memorable experience in either your practicum or work?

I have many good memories from my time as a practicum student at both ADSD and DHCFP. However, the experience that stands out to me the most is hearing the joy in the voices of clients and their families when I could share positive news with them.

For example, while I was at DHCFP, I was assigned to the Katie Beckett unit. Katie Beckett is a Medicaid eligibility program that allows children with disabilities and complex medical needs to receive services and supports at home, regardless of their parents' income.

My primary role there was conducting intakes and notifying families when their applications were approved. I felt truly happy every time I was able to help a family gain access to the program. Making those calls to let parents know their child's eligibility had been approved was always a special moment.

It meant telling them that they would be able to care for their child more effectively and that they wouldn't have to carry the burden alone. That sense of relief and hope in their voices was something that stayed with me and reminded me why this work matters. ...Continued on Page 3



Congratulations Spring Graduates!

Desiree Floyd - BSW, UNR

Jared Russo - BSW, UNR

Annemarie Culp - MSW, UNR

Francisca Gad - MSW, UNR

Shannon Montez - MSW, UNR

Janea Peyton - MSW, Indiana Wesleyan

Chakri Sutthiprapa - MSW, UNLV

Meet Our New Workforce Development Coordinator

Andrea Surace has joined the NPHF team bringing 15+ years of experience in workforce development. Starting out as an Employment Specialist in the WIA program, she has held several positions



managing federal, state and non-profit work-related programs. Her expertise includes managing and developing programs in South Carolina, Idaho, and Washington giving her opportunities to see different models and funding structures. One of her most recent experiences includes working with the SW WA STEM Network to build pipelines and pathways to increase the workforce for the Vancouver, WA manufacturing industry. She is excited to settle down in the Carson City area with her husband and two dogs.

What are some of the things that you learned in school that have helped you in your work?

One of the most important things I learned in my WSW program at UNLV was the legal and ethical foundations of social work. I think this is crucial because, in this field, our actions and the services we provide have a direct impact on clients. Those outcomes can be either positive or negative.

For example, in my Legal and Ethical Issues in Social Work course, I learned about laws and regulations related to confidentiality, mandated reporting, and clients' rights. Understanding these legal frameworks is essential to protect both the client and myself as a professional.

In addition to that, I also learned about the importance of cultural competence and effective communication. These skills have helped me build trust with clients from diverse backgrounds and to advocate for their needs in a respectful and informed way.

How did you hear about the Social Work Workforce Development Scholarship?

I learned about the Social Work Workforce Development Scholarship through my academic field instructors and I am grateful to them for letting me know about this opportunity.

This scholarship means a lot to me and to many other social work students. It not only provides financial support but also feels like recognition - that someone sees the value in what we are working so hard to become. It encourages us to keep moving forward, even when the path is challenging, and reminds us that the work we are preparing to do matters.

Do you have any advice for those that are interested in getting their degree in social work?

If you are someone who feels drawn to working with people and wants to make a meaningful difference in someone's life in a holistic way, I highly recommend studying social work.

Pursuing a social work degree is not only a path to becoming a professional social worker - it also helps you see the bigger picture of society in ways you might never have imagined. It teaches you to think critically, to listen deeply, and to understand the systems that shape people's lives.



Quote of the Month

"Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it"
- Rabbi Tarfon

RESOURCE CORNER

If you need information regarding loan forgiveness or loan repayment programs, please email, andrea@nphf.org, for a list of programs and type "Loan Forgiveness" in the subject.