



SHAWNA BRABANT

How long have you been a social worker?

I have officially been a social worker since April 2009--almost 11 years.

Please list any degrees, licenses, etc.

I have both my Bachelors and Masters of Social Work.

Why/How did you get into social work?

I have always loved helping people and thought at one point of being a teacher, but it didn't feel right. Then I took an Intro to Social Work class and was hooked. Everything I learned, from policy to social justice to familial structure and relationships, really resonated with me and that was it. I never looked back.

What motivates you to do social work?

People are always the motivation. As difficult as it can be at times when someone chooses another path, I love trying to help them find ways to make their lives better--whether it's clients/members, my friends, family, or others in the community.

What advice would you give someone considering social work?

I would suggest getting out and doing the work in whatever capacity you can. Volunteering is a good way to get experience and make connections with organizations and others doing the work. Focus on what areas interest you the most, but don't rule out working in other areas either because burnout happens and it's good to have other areas to fall back on. 2. Understand that as hard as you try, you cannot force someone to change unless they want and choose to change.