



SOCIAL WORKERS ARE ESSENTIAL

LAVINA WARD

How long have you been a social worker?

Since May 2014

Please list any degrees, licenses, etc.

I have a Bachelor's in Social Work from Heritage University, Toppenish, WA

Why/How did you get into social work?

As a young adult, I wasn't sure what I "wanted to be," but I've always had a "social butterfly" personality, so I knew I wanted to work with people.

As a 27-year-old, single mother, I was in college, working toward a degree in radiology and this plan didn't pan out. When speaking with the college counselor about my next steps, he asked me what I wanted to continue studying. I told him I wanted to work with children and their families. He asked if I ever considered majoring in Social Work. I vaguely remember giggling when he said that, and then stopped myself, realizing this must be a sign. We discussed the different avenues that were available in the social work realm, and I saw the doors to my future open.

What motivates you to do social work?

Having been in a place in my life where I needed extra support, I understood how difficult it can be to make it through life alone. I want to help others be the best they can be and support them through their journey.

What advice would you give someone considering social work?

When you observe a situation between a disgruntled customer and the customer service employee, watch the employee's demeanor, facial expressions, and body language. Would you want to be in their shoes, dealing with that situation? Are you ready to help find the missing pieces to a puzzled life?

Be ready to create boundaries. Enjoy meeting people from all walks of life. You may be the most positive point in that person's life at that moment. You never know...be kind!