



## **SOCIAL WORKERS** ARE ESSENTIAL

### **RONDA HANNESSON**

#### **How long have you been a social worker?**

I have been a social worker since 1991. I have mostly worked with people with disabilities throughout my career.

#### **Please list any degrees, licenses, etc.**

Bachelor of Social Work from Minnesota State University

#### **Why/How did you get into social work?**

When I was a child my favorite book was about Helen Keller's life. I taught myself the sign language alphabet from the back of the book. Helen's story was the inspiration towards a career in helping others. Also, when I was 13 years old, my sister was born without a hand. I spent many medical appointments with her at the Shriners Hospital for Children. I was amazed at the abilities of the children with missing limbs as they overcame their limitations and played like typical children. Their resilience and ingenuity was incredible. I was determined to work with people with disabilities to assist them in overcoming their barriers and achieving their goals

#### **What motivates you to do social work?**

I enjoy teaching people to be self-advocates so they are able to be as self-reliant as they want to be. One of my passions has been how assistive technology can change a person's life and give them independence.

#### **What advice would you give someone considering social work?**

Social Work is a challenging but rewarding career. There are many opportunities to work in various settings so you can make a difference to people of all ages.