

# TOP THREE

MARCH 2024

Area Agency on Aging District 7



Welcome to our March 2024 news e-blast - sharing our "Top Three" focus items for this month. As always, reach out to us with any questions and follow us on our social media platforms!

1

## March is National Social Work Month

In every community, there are people who go above and beyond their usual work to make a significant difference in the lives of thousands. In observance of Social Work Month in March, the AAA7 recognizes social workers not only in our Agency, but also the many through our provider and community network. This year's theme, set by the National Association of Social Workers, is "Empowering Social Workers!"

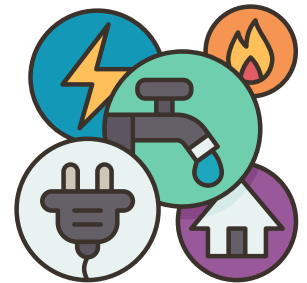
Social workers with the AAA7 wear many different hats and take on a variety of roles including advocate, assessor, case manager, consultant, information sharer, and referrer. Social workers recommend and refer individuals to services like personal care/homemaking, adult day care, assisted living, home repair, transportation, home-delivered meals, and client advocacy in order for them to remain safely and independently as possible in their home or community. We salute all social workers this month for the work you do daily to help those in our communities.



2

## Utility Assistance and Consumer Protection

Did you know that in Ohio there are utility assistance programs for those who qualify, in addition to payment plans and consumer protection education surrounding utilities such as electric, gas and water? Through the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC), information on assistance programs such as the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), HEAP Winter Crisis Program, Special Reconnect Order, Percentage of Income Payment Plan, and the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program is available. You or someone you know may qualify if eligibility criteria are met. For more information, contact the OCC toll-free at 1-877-742-5622 or email [occ@occ.ohio.gov](mailto:occ@occ.ohio.gov)



3

## Celebrating Senior Nutrition Programs

Since 1972, the national Senior Nutrition Program has supported nutrition services for older adults across the country. Funded by the Older Americans Act, local programs serve as hubs where people age 60 and over find healthy meals and vital services that strengthen social connections and promote well-being. Every March, the anniversary of this Program is observed and its many accomplishments at the national and local levels. Nutrition services help people stay independent as they age, and highlight critical senior nutrition issues. For more information about Senior Nutrition Programs in your area, please call the AAA7 at 1-800-582-7277 or email [info@aaa7.org](mailto:info@aaa7.org)

