



# SBWnotes

from the field of gerontological social work  
practice

## WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE CREATION OF A NETWORK OF GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE FELLOWS

Regular readers of *SBW Notes* are aware that commitment to quality social work practice with older adults and their families is the hallmark of our firm. It has been a difficult commitment to fulfill in today's workplace. MSWs rarely have opportunity to master the knowledge and skills that would help them translate "best practices" knowledge of the field into the day-to-day operations of their agencies. Front-line workers face more complex cases than ever before - often without the knowledge or supervisory support that would help them learn and grow on the job. Small wonder that recruitment and retention of direct practice staff – the very personification of "help" to their clients – are crucial issues in the field. Advocacy for aging clients and for those who serve them is needed on many fronts.

It is in recognition of the crisis in services to the aged that SBW Partners is pleased to announce a new initiative. With the generous funding of the Florence V. Burden Foundation, and under the auspices of the Fund for Advancement of Social Work Practice (FASS), we will establish and train a regional network of Gerontological Social Work Practice Fellows during the 2008-2009 year. Under this plan, fifteen to twenty MSWs in New York City social service agencies serving older adults will be prepared to assume leadership positions within their agencies and within the wider field.

The **SBW Resident Trainer Model**<sup>®</sup> – encompassing needs assessment, aging, advocacy, direct practice and supervisory content — will form the basis of seminars in which Practice Fellows will hone their abilities to blend online and agency-based training for staff of their own agencies. In a future round these fellows will prepare other MSWs to carry on the charge – a ripple effect of improved practice. Joining in this blended training will be our new Affiliate, the Institute of Geriatric Social Work of Boston University.

Watch for future issues of *SBW Notes*  
to keep you apprised of this exciting process.

**SBW Partners** is a fee-for-service firm devoted to advancing social work practice in aging. Services are provided by Dr. Barbara Silverstone and Dr. Ann Burack-Weiss, the firm's founding partners, and a group of associates. For more information, please visit [www.sbwpartners.com](http://www.sbwpartners.com) or call 212.337.2555.