

# CATHERINE CASSINGHAM, MSW, LCSW

---

## EDUCATION

Loyola University Chicago, School of Social Work, Chicago, IL  
**Master of Social Work**

**Graduation: May 2015**

University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN  
**Bachelor of Arts in Psychology**  
Study Abroad, Vienna Austria

**Graduation: 2011  
Fall 2009**

## LICENSURE AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- **Licensed Clinical Social Worker** (Illinois License, #149.020522 )
- **Association of Oncology Social Work** (2015 - Present)
- **National Association of Social Work** (2015- Present)

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Solid Tumor Oncology Social Worker**, Northwestern Medicine, Chicago, IL

**2018-Present**

- Complete psychosocial assessments and provide needed resources to reduce barriers to care
- Provide psychotherapy to patients and families for adjustment, coping, grief, and crisis intervention
- Identify and utilize financial resources to fill in the gaps for underinsured and uninsured patients
- Collaborate with multidisciplinary teams to provide streamlined care throughout a patient's cancer journey

**Oncology Social Services Worker**, Mount Sinai Hospital, Chicago, IL

**2015-Present**

- Complete psychosocial assessments and create health care goals with new patients
- Provide supportive counseling to patients and families for adjustment, coping, grief, and crisis intervention
- Facilitate conversations and transitions to nursing homes, LTACH, palliative and hospice care as needed
- Coordinates patients' needs with community resources such as employment, housing, transportation, support groups, and nutritional services
- Identify and utilize financial resources to fill in the gaps for underinsured and uninsured patients
- Conduct Coleman grant funded research and projects

**Bereavement Coordinator/Grief Counselor**, Little Company of Mary Hospital, Evergreen Park, IL

**2015-2016**

- Co-organize and facilitate 8 week bereavement groups for children and adults
- Provide individual brief treatment therapy to adults following the death of a loved one
- Refer clients to individual therapists and additional support groups based on need
- Plan and provide training for volunteer facilitators about the topics of loss, grieving, and coping

**Graduate Assistant**, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL

**2014-2015**

- Graduate Assistant to Dr. Terry Northcut, 2014 NASW Social Worker of the Year award recipient
- Assisted faculty member with several research projects; engaged in literature reviews
- Performed a variety of administrative tasks including web site development, data analysis, collated lecture materials

## WORK EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

**Play Therapist Intern, Barr Harris, Chicago, IL** **2014-2015**

- Assessed and treated children, ages 4-15, individually and in groups, who had experienced the loss of a parent
- Co-facilitated an anger management group for 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys who had experienced multiple traumas
- Collaborated with families to facilitate their children's healing utilizing play and talk therapy
- Provided psychosocial education to parents/guardians about symptoms of grief and trauma
- Identified outside resources for clients as needed and assisted with educational workshops, organized by Barr Harris, for community educational purposes
- Managed billing when co-pays were required

**Social Services Intern, Mount Sinai Hospital, Chicago, IL** **2013-2014**

- Provided resources and brief therapeutic support to oncology patients
- Assess patients' needs and make appropriate referrals for housing and mental health services
- Allocate funds to help uninsured patients pay for their medications and services
- Cross-trained on floors including trauma, mother/baby, PICU, cardiac, NICU, psychiatric, and ED
- Collaborate with doctors, nurses, physical therapists, and social workers to formulate effective discharge plans
- Utilized Brief Treatment interventions with an emphasis on Solution Focused Therapy

**Housing Outreach Representative, Dorothy Day Center, Catholic Charities, St. Paul, MN** **2012-2013**

- Screened clients for program eligibility, and if not eligible, directed them to more applicable resources
- Managed a case load of 5-15 individuals experiencing homelessness
- Formed positive relationships between landlords and clients to support stable, safe housing outcomes
- Assisted clients with paperwork, allotted funds for damage deposits, provided transportation to appointments
- Cross-trained in all Housing First positions to foster a supportive team environment
- Skilled in HMIS, CMIS, Excel, Outlook, Publisher, and other data recording tools

**AmeriCorps Member/Housing Coach** **2011-2012**

- Researched and connected clients with valuable resources such as food shelves and other supportive services
- Collaborated with housing team to find best housing option for each individual
- Scheduled and transported clients to and from appointments

**Educational Assistant, University of St. Thomas Psychology Department, St. Paul, MN** **2010-2011**

- Maintained Psychology Department labs and classrooms
- Provided peers with individual and confidential sessions in various psychology subjects including research methods, statistics, and physiological psychology
- Implemented new programs for students such as a GRE study group and course study sessions
- Assisted professors in research and class by running research studies and assembling class resources

**Teacher's Aide, University of St. Thomas Child Development Center, St. Paul, MN** **2010-2011**

- Mediated conflicts and disputes between toddlers and preschoolers
- Communicated with parents about children's progress, needs, and concerns to maintain continuity
- Maintained a calm demeanor while multitasking effectively in a chaotic work environment

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Mount Sinai Hospital Cancer Center, Chicago, IL** **2015-2018****Coleman Foundation Initiative – Distress and Palliative Research**

- Designed and implemented data collection process for distress screening
- Collected data and submitted to Coleman Foundation for further analysis
- Made recommendations for process improvement based on findings

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

University of St. Thomas Psychology Department, St. Paul, MN

**Research Assistant – Qualitative Research**

**2011-2013**

- Studied gratitude and behaviors commonly associated with gratitude (i.e., prosocial behaviors) following the traumatic experience of breast cancer under the supervision of Dr. Jean Giebenhain
- Performed extensive literature research prior to development of project using Journal databases (i.e. Psych Info) and assembled surveys
- Analyzed the transcripts of 38 female musician survivors who had been interviewed using NVIVO 9 software

University of St. Thomas Psychology Department, St. Paul, MN

**Research Assistant – Cognitive Research**

**2009-2011**

- Collected and analyzed data in a research project, headed by Dr. Gregory Robinson-Riegler, which used the Stroop task to determine if preferential processing is given to unattractive (vs. attractive) faces
- Created testing materials using SuperLab software
- Performed statistics using SPSS and recruited participants through the SONA system

University of St. Thomas Psychology Department, St. Paul, MN

**Learning and Memory, In-Class Undergraduate Researcher**

**2011**

*The brighter side of life: How does gratitude affect your attitude*

- Developed an empirical research study based on gratitude studying the influence of emotions
- Collaborated with a team of students to design and implement the study under time and resource constrictions

## PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Association of Oncology Social Work Conference, Poster Presentation, Atlanta, GA

**June 2018**

**Are we almost there yet? Implementing a supportive care clinic in a under resourced hospital**

Association of Oncology Social Work Conference, Panel Speaker, Denver, CO

**June 2017**

**“We take care of our own” and other cultural barriers to saying yes to palliative care**

**Can I have some more sir?: Implementing a palliative program in a resource poor community hospital**

**Who’s at the door: How we can better provide palliative care in low-income, violence prone neighborhoods**

International Positive Psychology Association 3rd World Congress, Poster Presentation, Los Angeles, CA **June 2013**

**Gratitude and prosocial behavior following trauma: Lessons from musician breast cancer survivors**

Midwestern Psychological Association Conference, Poster Presentation, Chicago, IL

**May 2013**

**Trauma, Gratitude, and Prosocial Behavior in Breast Cancer Survivors**

Midwestern Qualitative Research Conference, PowerPoint Presentation, Minneapolis, MN

**2012**

**Singing a different song: Musicians’ thoughts on growth, gratitude, identity and “mattering” following breast cancer: A Symposium**

Minnesota Undergraduate Psychology Conference, Carlton College, Poster Presentation, North Field, MN

**2011**

**The brighter side of life: How does gratitude affect your attitude?**