

Meet Krystal Wiebusch, LSW Social Worker



When I was a student at St. Cloud State, my professors spoke about these “dream” social service agencies who make a real difference in the community. When I finally found my home at SCS, I knew exactly what they meant. Working for an organization that focuses on empowering older adults and their caregivers is a dream come true. I truly feel I am making an impact in my community.

As a social worker in a diverse metropolitan area, addressing language and cultural barriers is critical to connecting people with resources and programs, and providing emotional support. Sharing a little bit about myself when I meet a new client creates trust, helping us build a strong relationship so they feel comfortable taking action on my recommendations.

My West African clients warm up to me quickly when I share that I have family from West Africa too. My Spanish speaking clients appreciate my efforts to speak basic Spanish and connect with interpreter services when needed. My LGBTQIA+ clients warm up to me when they learn that I respect all types of relationships and identities.

**SOCIAL WORK
BREAKS BARRIERS**

I strive to empower my caregiver clients, especially the “sandwich generation” of female caregivers who are often highly stressed managing careers, raising children, and helping aging parents. Sharing a bit of my personal experience helps these caregivers feel seen as we work together on the barriers they face.

I currently provide caregiver support services in Minneapolis and both caregiver support and senior outreach services in Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Edina, Golden Valley, New Hope, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park.

I also help manage our award-winning [CareNextion.org website](https://www.carenextion.org) accessible from anywhere in the world. With CareNextion, caregivers, family members, and other loved ones can coordinate care and communication in one place.

Pro tips for caregivers:

My #1 tip for caregivers concerned about leaving their loved one alone: **consider a camera system**. Placing cameras in the main living space allows you to monitor for safety while you run errands, attend an appointment, or spend time with friends.

Second, **be kind to yourself**. We are not perfect people which means we're not perfect caregivers. Cherish the good times and don't dwell on the bad times.

Celebrating National Social Work Month 2023