

**Text of a letter by Phillip W. Weiss, LCSW, that was published
in the October 2003 edition of the NASW News.**

In “Gala Focuses on Child Welfare” [May], Annie E. Casey Executive Director Douglas Nelson is quoted as saying, “The general public thinks of social workers as a special kind of postal worker, only nicer and more patient. Even more troubling is how little they know about social work.”

If anyone believes that the general public does not know about social work, then one need only remember that our clients – in hospitals, in schools, in shelters, in mental health clinics, and in foster care agencies – are part of the general public, and as recipients of social work services, they have full knowledge of what social work is about.

The issue is not whether the general public knows what social work is about, but whether the general public appreciates and supports the services that social workers routinely provide.