A Social Work Buckeye You Should Know!

Sue Mocniak

**COLLEGE:** College of Social Work

**DEGREE:** MSW ’11, BSSW ’10, AA ’99

**CAREER:** Social Worker and Counselor

**NOTABLE:** Sue Mocniak earned her MSW from The Ohio State University College of Social Work, her BSSW from Capital University, and her associate’s degree in mental health from Columbus State Community College. She has worked in the mental health field for nearly 17 years, transferring from administrative and business roles to clinical and therapeutic services in 2010.

Spanning the course of her degree programs, Sue counsels a wide range of clients with diverse issues, always building hope and working to understand clients within a systems-based approach. As part of this approach, Sue enjoys combining research and theory to help clients empower themselves, acknowledge strengths, alleviate symptoms, and achieve their full potential in life.

One unique aspect of Sue’s career has involved working with pet owners and the grief they experience with the loss of a pet. After the death of Bosco, she and her husband Joe’s dog, Sue became very aware and concerned about the isolation that came with it. She refers to this as a disenfranchised grief because not only are pet owners grieving a loss, but they may also feel alone in their grief, different, or even silly for mourning. In 2012, Sue founded a pet loss support group and has facilitated it along with offering individual therapy for clients coping with the loss of a pet.