**AVASW Social Worker of the 1st Quarter**
**Emma Meredith, LCSW**

AVASW is proud to announce Emma Meredith as the Social Worker of the 1st Quarter, 2014!   Ms. Meredith currently serves on the PACT team as a Primary Care Social Worker at the VA Clinic in Evansville, Indiana.  She was part of the genesis implementing the program at the CBOC, in which she states this was a “wonderful experience”.  She holds her ACSW, as well as her DCSW, her BCD designation, and is CSW-G and C-ASWCM certified. In addition to having consulted with outside Hospice centers, she shares her social work expertise as a supervisor for BSW and MSW students. She belongs to AVASW, NASW and the Patriot Guard of Evansville, IN. Most recently in 2013 she was elected NASW Social Worker of the year for the state of Indiana! She had been nominated in Region 8, won that award, and had no idea she would go on to be nominated and selected for the entire State.  She was humbly happy to be recognized.
For ten years Ms. Meredith had a “personal mission” to provide clothing and other items once a month to a local military base.  In recognition of her efforts she received a personal thank you note from General David Petraeus. She has also been actively engaged in connecting care packages to soldiers in war-torn areas. Ms. Meredith lives her values, and it shows by her volunteer work with the Ladies of Charity, Little Sisters of the Poor and developing a “prayer garden” for military and Veterans.  In a presentation for grief and loss, she wrote a reflection ‘Thirteen Wooden Crosses’, in memory of the Ft. Hood massacre, which was also published in a Social Work journal.  Ms. Meredith has been awarded the Mother Teresa Service Award for her commitment to our military and Veterans.
Ms. Meredith has already begun to look at ways to improve the Hospice and Palliative care services at her locality.  She took a workshop dealing directly with decisions on treatment for the newly diagnosed terminally ill, stating “I look for a way to better serve the Veteran”.  She views her passion to care for others as a way of life; stating, there is a “special place in my heart” for terminally ill Veterans.
When asked what roles she is most proud of, she answers “I love what I do".  She goes on to say she is very proud to be able to hear the Veterans stories and honored they “entrust me with that information”.

Congratulations Emma!