

Special Recognition Rural Robinson Tolbert, LCSW

When Robinson Tolbert contemplated having an empty nest, she decided to explore ways to use her knowledge and skills from 22 years of volunteer work. With a high school education and no employment experience, she worked in temporary jobs until she took a 3-day assignment at a council on alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Her observation of one homeless man's 2-week struggle from alcohol detox back to a functional business man sparked her desire to help others.

Four and a half years later, Tolbert had earned 3 degrees. After receiving her M.S.S.W. at the University of Texas at Arlington in 1996, she worked at the Department of Human Services in the Child Welfare unit in Pittsburg County as a Foster Care worker. Tolbert received her LCSW in 2000. With experience as a program director, coordinator, and in the private practice sector, in 2006, Tolbert accepted the position as Mental Health Director to develop the Mental Health Program at the Stigler Health & Wellness Center, which opened in 2005. Tolbert has also served as a Field Instructor for OU believing, "It is my responsibility to help young social workers build on their educational foundation. Nurturing MSW social workers into becoming ethical clinical social workers has been my passion," said Tolbert. In February of 2014, after much growth within the SHWC, Tolbert stepped down to a half-time schedule commenting, "I'm 65-years-old and I've been married 47 years. It's time to pass the baton and spend more time with my husband."