At the Indiana University School of Social Work, we remain dedicated to a mission we started more than 100 years ago: advancing social and economic justice, empowerment, and human well-being in a changing global landscape. Every day, our alumni are using their skills to help individuals and communities find what sometimes seems like a scarce resource: hope.

Today, our smart and compassionate students—wholly committed to bettering lives in Indiana and beyond—are in demand more than ever.

With your support, these students will use their passion and expertise to help people find the social and economic justice that eludes them. We invite you to please support our mission. Together we can alter the course of the lives of some of the most vulnerable among us.

As part of For All: The Indiana University Bicentennial Campaign, we at the IU School of Social Work are seeking to raise critical private support to sustain and expand this mission. Together, we can fulfill the promise of building stronger communities and creating a brighter future for all.
GOAL #1: INCREASE STUDENT SUPPORT

With each new class that arrives on campus, we renew our commitment to educating and preparing exceptional social work professionals. These compassionate individuals feel a calling to care for the needy, guide them through difficult situations, and point them toward success and recovery. The students at the IU School of Social Work are the future of our discipline.

However, there are many excellent candidates who have a passion for social work, but don’t have the means to finance their education. More than 80 percent of our students receive some sort of financial aid that must be repaid. Merit-based assistance through scholarships, on the other hand, doesn’t have to be paid back. For this reason, it’s one of the most powerful tools we have to bring these candidates to IU and to fuel their success, both as students and as social work professionals.

When you invest in student scholarships, you create more opportunities for talented students to gain a world-class education. You can enable them to graduate with more confidence and less debt. Together, we will provide them with the knowledge, experience, and training to start their careers and benefit countless families and communities in the years to come.

When Lisa and Mike Patchner’s son Christopher was 15 months old, he was diagnosed with major developmental disabilities. During their journey with their son, Lisa and Mike—who is now dean of the IU School of Social Work—realized how important it was to have good social workers to help families in situations like theirs. After Christopher died in 2014, they created the Patchner Family Scholarship Fund in his memory to help meet that need.

In a remarkable twist of fate, when the scholarship’s first set of recipients were named, one of them was Elizabeth Wilson—a former aide who, it turns out, had worked with Christopher for more than six years, and who had overcome homelessness and other challenges to enroll at the School of Social Work.

“For ALL WHO STRENGTHEN THE VULNERABLE

Undergraduate scholarships build a dynamic, highly talented community and help us equip students as competent, caring professionals who embody social justice.

Graduate fellowships and assistantships attract top scholars to IU, where they generate fresh ideas, assist faculty in teaching and research, and advance the discipline of social work worldwide.

‘By supporting students through scholarships, you further the practice of delivering thoughtful clinical care to our most vulnerable populations.”

—Michael Patchner, Ph.D.
Dean, Indiana School of Social Work
When you support the IU School of Social Work, you’re in the company of people like Irene Weinberg ’61, which inspired Irene to devote her life to social work, including veterans’ affairs, adoptions and foster care, nursing home counseling.

Today, thanks to Irene’s generous gift, more than 25 Theodora Allen Scholarships have been awarded to find homes for orphans, to counsel the hurting, and to settle displaced persons, continuing to enable students to improve human lives.
GOAL #2: SUSTAIN FACULTY EXCELLENCE

The landscape of many disciplines—mental health, child welfare, addiction treatment, counseling services, and nonprofit management—continues to be shaped by our exceptional faculty and their contributions to the next generation of social workers. These faculty are engaged in interdisciplinary research and federally funded projects designed to be taken from the lab and applied to everyday practice with at-risk youth and adults.

One major area of research for our faculty is transitional-aged youth—risk-prone men and women ages 16 to 25. James Hall, professor of pediatrics and social work (shown at left), is using a $1.4 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to increase the number of social workers trained to work with this population.

The purpose of the project is to expand the knowledge base of advanced clinical social work students, so they can work effectively with these youth and their families. As part of the initiative, the curricula for all academic social work programs (B.S.W., M.S.W., and Ph.D.) will also be improved to address the needs of this target population. Ultimately, the project will expand the number of M.S.W. students who have specific training to work with transitional-aged youth, and it will raise the awareness about these young adults with many existing agencies and organizations.

Another critical area of focus is mental and social health care for geriatric patients. Our faculty are part of a team working on a three-year federally funded grant to train students, practitioners, patients, and family caregivers in relation to interdisciplinary geriatric care.

When you give to support the work of our researchers, they can give back tenfold—creating new programs to lift up communities statewide and worldwide. With your financial assistance, you have the power to help create our first endowed chair or professorship, which will enable us to attract and retain esteemed educators and active scholars.

Together, we can recruit top faculty and students, sustain their excellent work, and promote our school’s strong research agenda—for the benefit of all.

“There are a whole range of young people who are unemployed, don’t have health insurance, and have severe mental illness. That’s who we are trying to reach.”

—James Hall

Professor of Pediatrics and Social Work
International service-learning opportunities extend our influence beyond the borders of Indiana and give our students new perspectives as they experience cross-cultural communication and thinking.

GOAL #3: DEVELOP GLOBAL LEADERS

The world needs advocates with a profound sense of empathy who can forge connections across international boundaries. One of the ways our future social workers are gaining a deeper understanding of other cultures is by working directly with them in other parts of the world.

Take Kristina Brenneman, MSW’13, who travelled to Croatia in 2011. Looking out a bus window at the passing Croatian countryside, she was surprised by how much the passing scenery reminded her of Indiana—until she saw the businesses and homes pockmarked by shrapnel and the signs warning of landmines in the woods.

That experience for Brenneman and other social work students who made the trip to Croatia brought new insights for understanding people from war-torn countries. Far from their comfortable homes and routines, they found themselves reconfirming exactly why they wanted to become social workers.

UNLESS YOU CHAMPION IT,
THE NEXT GENERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS WILL NEVER HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN WHAT THEY NEED TO KNOW TO WORK EFFECTIVELY IN INTERNATIONAL SETTINGS.

Kristina Brenneman, MSW’13
practicum with the Scalabrini Centre in Cape Town, South Africa. There, she’s helping the organization develop its Women’s Platform program, which will include workshops and training for women refugees.

### STUDENT OUTREACH CLINIC

Every Saturday, on Indianapolis’ east side, the School of Social Work staffs a free Student Outreach Clinic that provides social services to low-income residents. Community members receive assistance that can help them improve their physical and mental health and well-being. There, M.S.W. students readily sacrifice sleeping in on Saturday mornings to volunteer. On average, our students log more than 200,000 unpaid hours per year, helping rebuild the lives of individuals, families, and communities. But many of our students also need to earn a paycheck while they’re in school. With your generosity, we can improve case management and create paid internships to assist our students financially.

Ultimately, your investment will lift up not only these aspiring social workers, but the residents of Indianapolis as well—elevating our community and our state.

### GOAL #4: SUSTAIN COMMUNITY OUTREACH

At the IU School of Social Work, our wholly committed students are passionate about the well-being of all people in need. And in preparing these undergraduate and master’s students to improve the lives of so many children and families, we take them outside our classrooms and labs. To ensure that students gain new valuable insights, we offer a multitude of practicums and internships each semester, in partnership with clinics and agencies in Indianapolis and far beyond city and state borders. These experiences give students opportunities to work in agencies under the supervision of experienced social workers in a multitude of fields.

The direct effects of our faculty’s work are exemplified in communities, both in our state and in much more distant locales. Take Carolyn Gentle-Genitty, associate professor of social work (shown above), whose research of at-risk youth, middle school truancy, and social bonding has led her to develop leading-edge strategies against youth- and gang-related violence. Her work holds great promise for engaging more students in their education, reducing violence in schools and communities, and improving lives and societies around the globe. Already, Caribbean countries have called on Gentle-Genitty for advice on how to reduce violence in their communities.

Taking a cue from Gentle-Genitty is M.S.W. student Amy Shackelford, who is dedicated to empowering women at home and abroad. With a focus on reproductive and economic rights, Shackelford is spending a four-month practicum with the Scalabrini Centre in Cape Town, South Africa. There, she’s helping the organization develop its Women’s Platform program, which will include workshops and training for women refugees.

Community outreach allows our students to apply and refine their skills in real-world settings, equipping tomorrow’s social workers with the practical experiences they need to build stronger communities.
FOR ALL WHO HELP THOSE WHO SUFFER

Our students share a calling: giving generously of their time, empathy, and knowledge to help people cope with problems in their everyday lives, and to address mental, behavioral, and emotional issues. The next generation of individuals employed in our field will face local and global challenges that are increasingly complex. More than ever, the world needs social workers who are highly skilled and deeply committed. At the IU School of Social Work, we are developing these courageous, caring professionals for tomorrow.

They help veterans heal. They guide families through difficult medical decisions. They mend fractured families. And they share a selfless dedication to the health and well-being of others.

Your gift will embolden our faculty and students and strengthen their capacity to change lives. It will magnify the impact of their work across borders and generations. Through your support, you have the power to improve the human condition.

Together, we can fulfill the promise of stronger communities and create a brighter future for all.