the college of social work

CAROLINA’S PROMISE

THE CAMPAIGN for the UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
“The future of social work is taking the lead in tackling the problems of society. Our profession helps keep our society’s promises to its members, especially to those most vulnerable. The College of Social Work is one of the greatest examples of this University serving the state, the nation, and the world every day.”

Anna Scheyett, Dean, PhD
“The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.”

- Jane Addams

The University’s historic Campaign, Carolina’s Promise, perfectly describes the passion and the mission of the College of Social Work. Social workers, whether helping shape federal policy on health disparities or helping a family through times of hardship or trauma, help our society keep its promises to its members, particularly to those most vulnerable.

Every day, the College of Social Work improves the social, mental, and physical well-being of thousands of people in South Carolina and across the globe.

By investing in our social work students, faculty, and programs, you help and heal many lives. You help deliver on our promise each day through our students, faculty, and alumni. You help strengthen the common good and restore dignity to all.

Since our founding in 1969, our College has been dedicated to leadership, social justice and service to our state, the nation, and the world. The College emphasizes the preparation of social work professionals and the creation of social work knowledge, with the purpose of addressing the major challenges facing our society.

Through inspired education, relevant research, and engaged outreach, the College of Social Work’s core focus can be distilled down to this: to help individuals, families, and communities be healthy and productive. And the ultimate goal remains consistent: advance social well-being and social justice for vulnerable people around the world.
“Our graduates work in primary prevention – averting social problems before they begin – and they also bring light into the pits of despair, when people suffer from trauma, chronic health conditions, mental illness, discrimination, addictions, homelessness, economic poverty and a host of other social problems.”

Arlene Andrews, ’85, PhD; ’74, MSW
“I learned from my parents, who survived war and poverty, to believe in hope, mercy, and justice. The social work profession embraces these values and focuses on the fact that humans are social creatures – we thrive when we are surrounded by safe, stable, nurturing relationships. We know that world peace begins at home; people who grow up in supportive families, communities, and societies give back by responsibly serving society. We are what we learn. In the science of social work research and the wisdom of its practice, we learn to support families – all families – as they take responsibility for lifelong nurturing of their own. Our goal is the common good with dignity and respect for each person.”

- Arlene Andrews

We aspire to achieve full-circle community engagement, informed by society’s needs and driven by education and research, to create an environment in which students thrive, communities grow stronger, and faculty members focus their work where it can do the most good.

We’re proud of the positive differences our students, faculty, and alumni make in communities, often with little recognition or fanfare.

Older adults can live more independently thanks to innovative initiatives led by the College. More military members, veterans, and their families suffering from post-deployment challenges will find help as we graduate more social workers with specialized military social work training.

In South Carolina, our Institute for Families in Society is a catalyst for creating knowledge that helps vulnerable families and informs researchers, policy makers, practitioners, and the public about programs that work. And our College is making tangible differences globally – working to empower vulnerable women in Burma and making master’s level education accessible to students in South Korea.
“Social work has always been a part of me. I’ve followed in my mother’s footsteps and I want the influence of our work to be passed down from generation to generation – to live on from our memories together – while helping others. My mother would have been happy with this fellowship and proud that I chose to support the College.”

Sallie Campbell, ’80, MSW
“We are trying to construct a more inclusive society. We are going to make a country in which no one is left out.”

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

The Carolina’s Promise Campaign will elevate the entire University, but stands to make a major difference for the College of Social Work. With your support, we will help our nation keep its promises to society and to our most vulnerable populations.

Together, we can:

• Attract and Develop Promising Students – Increasing scholarship and fellowship support for students will attract more outstanding students to the College and social work profession, multiplying our impact on the most challenging problems facing our society.

• Support Faculty Teaching and Research – Our faculty are conducting innovative and important research on major issues in society. They’re also constantly exploring ways to best prepare tomorrow’s social work professionals.

• Accelerate Positive Change – Our programs, centers, and institutes make a difference. The College is driving critical action on research and programs that improve the lives of the most vulnerable.

Sallie Campbell believes in the College’s promise. Honoring her mother and the difference she made as a social worker inspired Campbell to establish the Sarah and Sallie Campbell Youth and Family Endowment Fund. Like this fellowship, your gift can help provide ongoing support for social work students who focus on mental health, youth, and families.
“Prospective donors should support faculty and students because through the College’s efforts, social work researchers, educators and future practitioners receive the tools necessary for addressing societal and global challenges.”

Kendra DeLoach, ’10, PhD; ’02, MSW
“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.”

-Marian Wright Edelman

Kendra DeLoach, a post-doctoral fellow in the University, says her education has equipped her with the research knowledge she’ll need to improve the lives of youth and their families.

“My education allowed me to participate in a federally funded, large scale randomized control trial study,” DeLoach says of her work with district and school level administrators, general and special education teachers, school psychologists, social workers, and school counselors to improve the social, emotional or behavioral functioning of high school youth. “I’d never worked on a project this large or with professionals from such diverse backgrounds.”

The experience enhanced her skills in managing an interdisciplinary team, developing procedural tools, conducting mental health and academic assessments, and working with school personnel to implement evidence-based interventions.

“All these skills will help me conduct clinical-based research, improving the lives of youth and their families,” she says.

Your support of the College of Social Work is an investment in our students and in the untold number of youth, families, and communities who will benefit from the work that Kendra DeLoach and others are doing to bring about positive, long-term change.
“Our faculty and students have passionate commitments to improving lives. We work with people facing all manner of difficulties in an incredible variety of professional settings. Many of these people experience overlapping economic, social, health, and educational disadvantages. They need and deserve the best assistance we can provide.”

Terry Wolfer, PhD
“Since new developments are the products of a creative mind, we must therefore stimulate and encourage that type of mind in every way possible.”

- George Washington Carver

Passionate educators form the heart of the College’s promise to students and society. Naomi Farber, PhD, and Terry Wolfer, PhD, are perfect examples, living that promise every day through their teaching excellence.

Farber, a recipient of the College’s Educator of the Year Award, brings her extensive expertise in rural and urban poverty, single-mother families, and prevention of adolescent pregnancy to her teaching and research on a daily basis.

She also co-directed a five-year, $2.1 million, multi-state grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to test effectiveness of behavior change strategies aimed at adolescents engaging in high-risk sex, and to increase STD testing and treatment.

Wolfer, honored with the Distinguished Recent Contributions in Social Work Education Award by the Council on Social Work Education, mentors students preparing to deal with end-of-life issues and palliative care in their professional work.

“As a social work educator, I want to help my students be more empathic, insightful, and skillful in their work,” says Wolfer. “No one can prepare them specifically for everything they’ll run into, so I try to help them develop flexibility, creativity and good judgment.”

Your support of the College of Social Work helps recruit and retain outstanding educators who inspire the next generation of social workers.
“The amazing experiences I have gained from my field placement at the Community Empowerment Center have provided me with the knowledge and skills necessary to be an effective and competent social worker. I am extremely grateful to the those who support the College of Social Work, because without them students like myself would not have access to these invaluable experiences.”

Kiesha Webb, ’13, MSW
“All that is valuable in human society depends upon the opportunity for development accorded the individual.”

- Albert Einstein

Students come to the College of Social Work seeking the knowledge and the experiences that will help them tackle the tough issues facing our communities.

They are passionate about making a difference. About working toward social justice for vulnerable populations. About exploring better ways to affect healthy, lasting change.

But they’re also concerned, understandably, about the financial costs of pursuing that knowledge and carrying a debt burden as they fight for those who struggle on the margins of society.

With state funding dwindling and now representing less than 10 percent of the University’s budget, private giving from donors like you is needed more than ever. We must keep the door to a social work education open and affordable.

With more than 450 social work students participating in important community field placements throughout South Carolina each year, the in-kind services they help provide total more than $2.5 million in annual impact to the state.

As the need for qualified, compassionate social workers grows in our state, across the country, and around the world, your support of students in bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral programs at the USC College of Social Work has never been more important.
“I came to the University of South Carolina because of the promise of working together with engineers, clinicians, and other disciplines in the development of products and services to enhance the ability of older adults to remain as independent as possible, and to grow old with dignity. It is only through strong teamwork that we can find solutions to the many challenges facing us with the aging of the population.”

Sue Levkoff, PhD
SeniorSMART™ Endowed Chair
“Our society must make it right and possible for old people not to fear the young or be deserted by them.”

- Pearl S. Buck

The work of Rob Hock, PhD and Sue Levkoff, PhD, both focus on different at-risk groups, leading exciting new explorations into how to enhance the lives of parents and children with autism, and older adults, respectively.

An assistant professor in the College, Hock’s research is aimed at developing effective family interventions, particularly in families with a child with certain developmental disorders.

“As a child and family therapist specializing in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), I saw first-hand the dramatic impact a child with an ASD can have on family life. I realized that while many professions play a role in treating the child, very little support is provided to the rest of the family,” says Hock. “I believe that bolstering the co-parenting relationship and family adaptability will lead to greater parent competence, increased adaptive behaviors for children with ASD, and better adherence to behavioral and medical treatments.”

The current Chair of the SmartState Center of Economic Excellence in SeniorSMART™, and endowed chair in SmartHOME™, Levkoff is among the world’s leading experts on geriatrics and aging. She brought her internationally recognized research from Harvard University in 2010 back to her native South Carolina and the College of Social Work.

Levkoff’s interdisciplinary SmartHOME™ team is focused on the development of new technologies and products as well as more effective social support systems that help older adults age in place in their homes and communities.

Public and private funding support helps sustain and accelerate the outstanding, leading-edge research and development being done at the College of Social Work by experts like Rob Hock and Sue Levkoff.

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“The work I’m doing allows me to rigorously train undergraduate and graduate students about health disparities and how to do interdisciplinary research in this area. Importantly, this will lead to our ability to help vulnerable South Carolinians access the healthcare services that will improve their quality of life.”

Teri Browne, PhD
“The good social worker doesn’t go on mechanically helping people out of a ditch. Pretty soon, she/he begins to find out what ought to be done to get rid of the ditch.”

- Mary Richmond

“I tend to be a problem solver,” says College of Social Work Assistant Professor Teri Browne, PhD, “and I always knew that I wanted to be in a helping profession.”

Today, Browne is exercising her problem-solving tendencies brilliantly, to the distinct benefit of a great many people right here in South Carolina. A dialysis professional for 13 years, Browne now trains the next generation of health disparities researchers at the College of Social Work.

“There are over 5,200 African-American dialysis patients in this state,” she said, “but the number who receive kidney transplants each year is barely in double digits. The numbers must improve. Those with transplants live longer, feel better, are less likely to be hospitalized, and their long-term care is less expensive than dialysis.”

Using an NIH training grant, Browne works with students to discover how social phenomena affect health outcomes. They conduct surveys at the dialysis centers across the state on African-American patient perceptions, attitudes, and their understanding of the multi-step process of getting a transplant.

“USC offered me a unique opportunity: to be a centenary faculty member focusing on health social work,” she said. “That means opportunities to partner with students and the community to improve health outcomes for the most vulnerable among us, and to work with students of all levels, from undergrad to doctoral.

Your support of the College of Social work enables us to continue to enhance our faculty with respected educators and researchers like Teri Browne, co-editor of the “Handbook of Social Work,” the field’s premier textbook, and contributor to the “Oxford Textbook of Palliative Social Work.”
“My current position as an advocacy program trainer for Burmese human rights activists is another step in my career as a professional social worker. Investing in the USC social work program is an investment in students who will work for a better community at the local, national, and international level.”

Amanda Martin, ’03, MSW; ’03, MPH
“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead

From Bamberg to Burma, students, graduates and faculty of the USC College of Social Work are changing lives. And few embody the ethos and spirit of life-changing social work like Amanda Martin.

Like many students pursuing a Master’s of Social Work degree at USC, she had prior professional experience in the Peace Corps and working with indigenous peoples in Bolivia.

“The master’s program was my formal introduction to macro social work, policy reform, and advocacy,” says Martin. “My current work on human rights for Burma is focused on policy reform, advocacy for internally displaced people in Burma, Burmese political prisoners, and Burmese women who have been victimized by the Burmese military.

“My previous position after graduating from USC was as director of the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission,” she says. “This also included a large portion of my time dedicated to support human rights for the people of Guatemala, particularly impoverished women and the country’s indigenous Mayans.”

Martin received the College of Social Work’s Alumna of the Year Award for her work in Guatemala and her service in the Peace Corps.

Your investment in social work students like Amanda Martin has a multiplying effect on many lives throughout our world.
“I took a picture of a mural on a corner building – it has a positive message, but when you turn the corner, uncertainty is there. Anything could be right around that corner waiting for you. Most of us in this project didn’t know each other. Now we’ve come together to make a difference in our communities.”

Floyd Cutner, Photovoice participant
“It is not more bigness that should be our goal. We must attempt, rather, to bring people back to ... the warmth of community ... and of individuals working together to better their lives and their children’s future.”

- Robert F. Kennedy

When communities in need and the College of Social Work join forces, powerful things happen.

A perfect example of community change driven from within is a multi-year project being guided by two of our faculty members, with help from a $650,000 Kresge Foundation grant. Darcy Freedman and Ron Pitner teamed up with local residents and the Columbia Housing Authority to create a stronger, safer community.

“Research shows that residents in low-income, high-crime areas tend to withdraw and not interact with each other. This can lead to neighborhood decay, a greater negative perception, and ultimately higher rates of crime,” Pitner says. “We want to reverse that by having residents identify their community concerns and helping them actively work together to change them.”

In the first year of a three-year grant, residents identified strengths and concerns through Photovoice, a method which documented their community in photographs and captions that were later exhibited at USC’s McKissick Museum.

The second stage includes creating a Community Empowerment Center and help for residents to apply for three $12,000 environment improvement mini grants, and in the final year, community members will implement the three ideas, working with Pitner and Freedman to make the healthy changes sustainable in years to come.

Your support of the College of Social Work empowers individuals and enables entire communities to build a better life today and a better tomorrow for their children.
“We welcome and support the best faculty and students, build strong partnerships with the community, collaborate with our colleagues across disciplines, and hold ourselves to the highest educational standards...all with the ultimate goal of promoting social well-being and social justice for vulnerable people around the world.”

Anna Scheyett, Dean, PhD
“It is change, continuing change, inevitable change, that is the dominant factor in society today. No sensible decision can be made any longer without taking into account not only the world as it is, but the world as it will be.”

- Isaac Asimov

Your generous support of the College of Social Work will help improve the well-being of thousands of people in South Carolina and around the world.

The University’s Carolina’s Promise Campaign provides a wonderful opportunity for those who believe that strengthening our society’s most vulnerable individuals and communities makes all of us stronger.

Please join with us and help our society keep its promises to its members, especially those most in need. Invest in our social work students, faculty and programs, and you will help sustain the common good and dignity for all well into the future.

To lend your support, please contact:
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