



## WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

With a generous gift from Purdue alumna Lorene Burkhart, in 1994 the Center for Families began to create a patchwork of projects that have helped to improve the quality of life for families in all their diverse forms. Since day one, the center has chosen to use quilt imagery as a metaphor for its work, as quilting — found among the traditions of many cultures and uniquely tied to family life — joins fragments that alone have limited use, into a whole that will last a lifetime and beyond.

Ms. Burkhart's gift set a precedent for additional endowments and a group of advocates who have ensured the center's longevity for future generations by supporting the work of students, faculty and staff. Every dollar of these gifts allows the center to be innovative in its pursuit of projects when grants aren't possible and provides resources to bring in additional funding.

Many center advocates also serve on the CFF Advisory Council, which oversees the center and its mission. Their continued support and dedication to family research is crucial to the success of the center.

For more information on supporting the work of the center or the CFF Advisory Council, visit [www.purdue.edu/cff](http://www.purdue.edu/cff).

HHS IS | CENTER FOR FAMILIES

**PURDUE**  
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### IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

Child. Mother. Father. Brother in arms. Sister. Grandparent. Friend. Family. The Center for Families (CFF) exists to help individuals by strengthening their families. We collaborate with academics, practitioners, policymakers, corporations and community advocates from around the world. We increase outreach, education and access to research-based information. We are a trusted resource on family policies and practices. We offer students opportunities, unique in the nation, to gain real-world experience. We help to ensure the continuing, positive presence of families in society. We are improving the quality of life for families.

### CULTIVATING NEW RESEARCH ABOUT FAMILIES

Families are the foundation of society, and we have the responsibility to ensure their continuing, positive presence for many years to come. What can we do? Promote the study of families from a cross-disciplinary, life course perspective by stimulating the work of faculty and students. CFF is able to do this through generous gifts that support annual awards to faculty and students. The center also supports students by providing multiple internship opportunities to work on all of its projects. Students are able to gain a real-world understanding of family policies, practices and research. [www.purdue.edu/cff](http://www.purdue.edu/cff)

**“FAMILIES, IN ALL THEIR DIVERSE FORMS, ARE THE FOUNDATION OF SOCIETY. NO CULTURE HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE ANYTHING BETTER THAN THE FAMILY FOR PRODUCING STRONG INDIVIDUALS FOR THE JOURNEY OF LIFE. FOR THIS REASON ALONE, WE MUST ENSURE THEIR CONTINUING, POSITIVE PRESENCE.”**

— DONALD FELKER, DEAN (1987-92)  
COLLEGE OF CONSUMER AND FAMILIES SCIENCES  
PURDUE UNIVERSITY

### SUPPORTING FAMILIES WHO SERVE

Military service brings separations, deployments and transitions — both to and from civilian employment — that are challenging for service members, veterans and their families. The hardship of deployment and transition back to civilian life is difficult; not just on service members, but also on families as a whole. What can we do? Work to extend and strengthen the ability of military and civilian organizations to help military families. The Military Family Research Institute (MFRI), a project of the center developed in 2000, designs and implements outreach activities that assist military families. MFRI also conducts research with and for military families that generates important new knowledge about their experiences. With funding from government, corporations, philanthropic organizations and not-for-profits, MFRI is sought out by local, state and national decision-makers for advice and collaboration. [www.mfri.purdue.edu](http://www.mfri.purdue.edu)

### ENGAGING EMPLOYERS

The balance between work and family can be overwhelming at times. What can we do? Raise the awareness of high quality work-family research among the scholar, consultant and practitioner communities. CFF and the Center for Work and Family at Boston College developed the Kanter Award for Excellence in Research on Work and Family to elevate the standards of quality for work-family research. Since 2000, the integrity of the award has allowed the actionable findings to become commonplace in business communities to inform policy and the best people practices across the globe. [www.purdue.edu/kanteraward](http://www.purdue.edu/kanteraward)

### HELPING POLICYMAKERS SERVE FAMILIES

Every day, legislators around the country pass laws that will affect our lives and our families. What can we do? Make sure that these policies are viewed through a “family lens.” Since 1999, Indiana Family Impact Seminars have shared with policymakers the most current research and data interpretation in order to facilitate legislation that positively impacts public policy and services. Supported by the Indiana Consortium of Family Organizations, the educational sessions are an opportunity to present the objective research; look closely at consequences of an issue, policy, or program; and illustrate the central role of families in addressing social problems. [www.purdue.edu/fis](http://www.purdue.edu/fis) and [www.purdue.edu/cofo](http://www.purdue.edu/cofo)

**LEARN MORE AT [WWW.PURDUE.EDU/CFF](http://WWW.PURDUE.EDU/CFF)**