ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In Their Parents’ Voices is a labor of love born out of the commitment to bring about greater understanding of U.S. domestic transracial adoptions. We hope that this book will be a useful resource.

In Their Parents’ Voices was made possible because of the involvement of numerous people, especially the parents in this book, the editors of Columbia University Press, and people who saw the project’s worth and were supportive from its inception. Rita Simon and I are very appreciative of that support. We are also thankful for the support of the adult adoptees from the first volume who also participated in this new book and remain committed to bringing about awareness of transracial adoption. Thank you.

I would be deeply remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank my friend and coauthor, the eminent scholar Rita J. Simon: Your contribution to the field of transracial adoption has been absolutely remarkable. She has tirelessly dedicated more than thirty-five years to researching this issue and has been willing to put her research alongside the emerging voices of adult transracial adoptees and their adoptive parents’. For any nationally and internationally known scholar, that takes heart and courage, but most of all it speaks to her commitment to ensuring that the study of transracial adoption is a priority in academia and in the political and social arenas. Thank you, Rita.

I am grateful to my husband, Floyd Brumfield Jr., whose encouragement is constant. Thank you, Floyd, for helping me to stay committed to this project and still find the time to have fun. I love you. To my family, thank you for giving me the gift of adoption. To my godfather, W. Wilson Goode Sr., thank you for being in my life and believing in me. To my friends and mentors, you too are a godsend. Thank you. It is difficult to list everyone who made this project possible. For those whom I may have omitted, please do not charge it to my heart.
I especially want to thank Columbia University Press for its team behind this project: Lauren Dockett, Anne McCoy, Christine Mortlock, and Polly Kummel.

I want to thank the following people for sharing their expertise in foster care and adoption and for holding me accountable throughout this project; you are absolutely wonderful for doing that: Amanda Baden, Phil Bertelsen, Annie Fischer, Dick Fischer, Beth Hall, Kim Phagan Hansel, Michelle Johnson, Ron Nydam, John Raible, Mary Smit, Sook Wilkinson, Joyce Loninx-Wright, Frank Wu, and Kathy Yates. And finally, to my family and friends, thank you for being my “midnight oil” and for being available to talk things out and make me laugh. You are very dear to me: Hank Allen, Juliet Allen, Suzanne Barclay, Ida Bergsma, Reynard Blake, Flora Brumfield, Floyd Brumfield Sr., Anita Edwards, Earl Edwards, Amy Espuet, Kiffi Ford, Mendel Ford, Jim Henry, Nicole Henry, Dennis Hoover, Ruth Melkonian-Hoover, Dan Lodge, Lisa Lodge, Charissa Los, Anja Mast, Chuck Mast, Mugs Mast, Ramona Moore, Vernon Moore, George Nichols, Kelly Nichols, Cyril Pinder, Ethel Pippin, Howard Pippin Jr., Elaine Pinson, Leo Pinson, Laverne Rens, Anthony Robinson, Vivianne Robinson, Esther Solomon, Carol Triezenberg, Don Triezenberg, Michael VanderBrug, Cindy VanderKodde, Gordon VanderTill, Joni Vander Till, Gary Visscher, Siyroush Visscher, Lee Washington, Sharon Wrice, Tyrone Wrice, and Charla Yingling.

Rhonda M. Roorda