Acknowledgments

This project took root over the last decade as the editors, several of the contributors, and other colleagues engaged in practice with and research on children and youth. Some of us were struggling with the everyday dilemmas and contradictions in our practice and finding that the theoretical frames and intervention strategies we had in hand were insufficient for the challenges we faced. Others were exploring novel terrain of theory and practice and posing different questions. The pioneering work of Sharon Stephens (1952–1998) on the anthropology of childhood was a profound influence in our developing thought and practice, and we honor her memory here. Sharon Stephens inspired many of us with her teaching and generous personal encouragement, as well as her groundbreaking scholarly work. Her edited volume Children and the Politics of Culture (1995a) is a standard collection in this area, and her provocative introduction to the book (1995b) opens up the line of questioning pursued by many contributors to this volume. Her articles on children, risk, and the environment (1994, 1995c, 1996), children at risk (in Finn and Nybell 2001), and children and nationalism (1997a, 1997b) raise profound and still generative questions for social workers and researchers. Over the years we have kept the dialogue going, engaged a diverse group of scholars and practitioners, and learned about the creative and critical

work of others who were also grappling with these questions, several of whom agreed to contribute to this volume.

The editors are indebted to the many mentors, both children and adults, who have shaped our thinking over the years. We pay homage to Rosemary Sarri, whose indefatigable force and dedication to the well-being of children around the world continues both inspire and challenge us. Ongoing debates with Rosemary have made us better thinkers, practitioners, and advocates. Janet Finn thanks Connie Waterman, Miriam Morgan, Vince Matule, and Dick Rosenleaf, remarkable social workers who have dedicated themselves to healing, empowerment, and advocacy for children and families of Montana, and she pays special tribute to Margaret Stuart (1926–2005) whose legacy as a social work educator and child welfare practitioner lives on through two generations of Montana social workers.

Lynn Nybell gratefully acknowledges her debts to the many talented and dedicated child and youth advocates in Michigan who so generously shared their concerns, critiques, and visions, including Ashley Gray, Michelle Williamson, Derrick Jackson, Greg Pratt, and Lori Fryzel. She recognizes her colleague Sylvia Sims Gray, whose vision and wisdom have enriched so many efforts, including this one. Lynn's work on this project was supported in part by a Sabbatical Leave Award from Eastern Michigan University, and she thanks the university for this opportunity.

Jeff Shook thanks his parents Carole and Jim and his sister Lori, whose tireless work on behalf of children and youth have helped shape not only his career but his commitment, and his nephews Devan and Eric, whose development has helped ground his thinking and motivation. He offers a special thank you to his wife Sara and their two children, Maya and Zack, whose support has provided tremendous inspiration throughout this project. Jeff would also like to extend additional appreciation to Rosemary Sarri, not only for the example she has set, but for the time and attention that she has dedicated to his training and career.

The editors also thank Lauren Dockett, Christine Mortlock, and Roy Thomas at Columbia University Press, and our copyeditor Anita O'Brien, for their professional, responsive support and guidance as this book came to fruition.

CHILDHOOD, YOUTH, AND SOCIAL WORK IN TRANSFORMATION

