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## PREFACE

*Generalist Practice: A Task-Centered Approach* is intended to be used in practice classes for undergraduate and entry-level graduate students. The first edition of this volume was prompted by the accreditation standards of the Council on Social Work Education which require that generalist practice methods be taught to these students. The accreditation standards present a challenge to practice instructors who must now teach students to work with a variety of systems without sacrificing skill mastery. It was hoped that by explicating the task-centered approach with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities in one volume, and with a numbering system that permits content to be studied by topic as well as by system, the challenge would be more easily met.

The book has now been used to teach thousands of students, and it appears that a task-centered approach can be applied successfully across systems and that teaching one method enhances students' skills. The integration of task-centered and generalist practice provides a practice model with specific, tested treatment directives and is responsive to environmental contexts.

In this, the second edition of *Generalist Practice: A Task-Centered Approach*, we have updated the literature, included more case examples, and modestly expanded content about systems and ecological theory as well as other approaches to practice. Most important, we have added chapter 16, which describes the use of task-centered practice with culturally diverse clients.

As noted, a numbering system is employed so that the content can be studied by topic and repetition is minimized. The numbering system is explained at the end of chapter 1. We have found that once readers understand this system, they appreciate its benefits.

Many colleagues and students have contributed to the task-centered approach. Although they are too numerous to name, we are grateful to each and every one of them. We are particularly grateful to those whose work with clients appears in this book: Monica Glaser, Denise Kane, Susie Merrihew, Nick Natale, and Ed Nieminen. Ronald H. Rooney provided case material, the group recording guides, and the task review schedule. We are in his debt. We also acknowledge the support and technical contributions of staff members at Columbia University Press for both editions of this book: John Michel (editor), Gioia Stevens, Anne McCoy, and Rita Bernhard.

## *Generalist Practice*

