Acknowledgments

The power comes from God and I am thankful. I am indebted to those who have gone before me and paved the way. Your work and your lives are quoted in these pages and etched in my heart. My arms are linked with and strengthened by leaders in social work throughout the ages and up until today. I am especially grateful to Rev. Melvin G. and Virginia Maniti Williams, Grace Thorpe-Brathwaite, Evelyn Thorpe, Violetta Bowman and Rev. David P. and Eleanor Ver Nooy, Jean Cornella Bauer, Dr. Danielle Nisivoccia, Dr. Robert Kavesh, Dr. Gail Bourdon, SSJ, Dr. Maxine Lynn, Dr. Felix A. and Ginger Delerme, Dr. Joseph and Pearl Cudjoe, Jill Bergner, Sr. Jo Wear and Sr. Marie McBride, Jean P. Low, Ruth P. Low, Martha Williams, Sook and John Liebert, Dr. Kasumi Hirayama, Dra. Daysi Mejia, Ella Harris, John and Carol Ramey, Theresa L. Held, Edna M. Davis, and Rose Gutman for being courageous role models of love, activism, wisdom, empowerment, and builders of the beloved community.

I acknowledge the excellence of the doctoral faculty of the Wurzweiler School of Social Work of Yeshiva University, New York City, in their challenging preparation of thinkers and scholarly practitioners. And I particularly thank colleagues and friends Alex Gitterman, Catherine P. Papell, Ruth R. Middleman, Gisela Konopka, Helen Northen, Ruby Pernell, Aaron Beckerman, Sylvia Aron, Toby Berman-Rossi, Ruth R. Martin, James Garland, Dr. Lorrie Greenhouse Gardella, Joseph Lassner, Margot Breton, Norma C. Lang, Betty Lewis, Carol R. Swenson, and Mary Bricker-Jenkins

for their strong encouragement, helpful dialogue, and friendship. William Schwartz and his wife, Ruth, and Hy Weiner, first mentors, provided a firm foundation and shoulders to stand on; their work lives in these pages, though their careers were all too short.

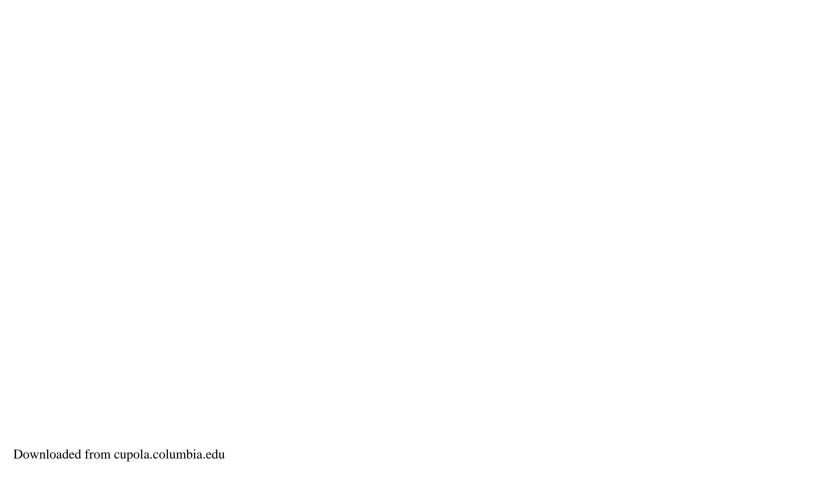
I deeply miss and continue to be grateful to Carel B. Germain, dear friend and mentor. I would not have attempted the original work without her confidence. I especially thank Professor Barbara J. Ballard, Ph.D. in American studies, for reading and discussing the sections on African American history. She and Dr. William D. Wallace, M.D., Ph.D., are my wonderful sister and brother for life. I also thank my cousins who are sisters to me, Jacqueline L. Marion and Lillian Ebner and their families, and my remaining uncle, Uncle John McGarry, and his wife, Aunt Millie, and my dear cousin Bobby Robinson and his wife, Barbara, who assure me that our family is looking down on us and that family is forever.

I acknowledge and thank the people who lived the empowerment stories I wrote about. Their lives shine forth. Some wanted to name themselves and own their empowerment openly: Laura Rubin, Stacey Miles, Vanessa Mason, Christy King, Alice De Cordova, and Roy C. Talbot. You have been my best teachers. I also thank my church families at St. Michael's Parish in Hartford, Connecticut, especially Fr. Al Jaenicke, and at St. Peter Claver AFCAAM in Fort Myers, Florida, especially Sr. Elaine Robbins and the children, for inspiration and the challenge to walk the walk.

I admire and appreciate the social workers who shared their practice with me. Jean Anmuth opened the world of New York's homeless women to me. In the practice examples the worker is often disguised because of confidentiality, but the following people have contributed substantive practice: Mary Bricker-Jenkins of Temple University and KWRU, Stella Odie-Ali, Lieutenant Colonel Christine King, Sharmin Prince and Sr. Jacinta Sukhraj of Guyana, South America, Sr. Helen Owens of Adelaide, Australia, Nuala Lordan and Mary Wilson of Cork, Ireland, Marshall Rubin of Tucson, Arizona and Madelvne S. Bailey, Dr. Gail Bourdon, SSI, Mary Beth Hammond-Cullina, Jessy Faubert, Lisa Galipo, Jean Konon, Evelyn Thorpe, Jennifer Ligner, Melanie Harrington, Margaret Hoefling, James O'Connor, Carol Sherman, Robin Taylor, and Marlene (Marty) Howard. I am appreciative of your work and grateful. Some of the examples are from my own practice. I extend my appreciation to the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness for initially challenging me to conceptualize and teach this approach and the Guyana Association of Professional Social

Workers (GAPSW), especially Lt. Colonel Christine King, Sybil Patterson, Patrice LeFleur, Venus Wayne, Patricia Gray, and Waveney Allen, Aaron Blackman who is also an inspiring poet, and Lecturer Stella Odie-Ali of the University of Guyana, Department of Social Work, and all the UG social work faculty and students for the opportunity for true cross-cultural fertilization of ideas and lives. My deepest thanks and love are to my partner in life and work, Judy Beaumont and to our chosen family of beloved and assorted people and pets, especially the loving and loyal Beau, Rafie, and gentlesweet Bartholomew Boots, who died suddenly this summer and lives in our hearts. Judy and I worked together with the Successful Women's Group, although the interventions are ascribed to one worker. She was my bridge to the women, my inspiration in activism and faith, my collaborator in the work in Guyana, Connecticut, and Fort Myers and my unfailing support in all I do and for the best of what I am.

My gratitude to the students, friends and colleagues at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work who supported me and rooted for this book. Special thanks to Cheryl Brown and Sandy Visco, and to Lenore Benefield for sharing her enthusiasm and able assistance in the final preparations of this manuscript. Special acknowledgment to the skillful readers of the manuscript: Meredith Hanson, Sue Henry, and Gretchen Cotrell. And to Susan Pensak, senior manuscript editor, and John L. Michel, executive editor of Columbia University Press, thank you for your confidence, help, kindness, patience, excellence, and support!



The Empowerment Approach to Social Work Practice

Building the Beloved Community

