## Acknowledgments

We are deeply grateful to our baccalaureate, masters, doctoral students, seminar participants, practitioners and our clients—all from whom we have learned a great deal. We especially appreciate the remarkable richness and relevance of their materials to the social issues facing our society and to the struggles of our profession to meet increasingly complex human needs. We literally could not have written this book without these individuals' willingness to open up their work and themselves to appraisal and analysis.

Alex thanks Professors Toby Berman Rossi, Diane Drachman, Naomi Gitterman, Mary Funnyé Goldson, Ann Hartman, Nina Heller, Steven Holloway, Nancy Humphreys, Carolyn Knight, Joan Laird, Judith A. B. Lee, Jacqueline Mondros, Lawrence Shulman, Renee Solomon and Julianne Wayne for sharing their creativity and practice acumen over many years. Alex also expresses deep gratitude to his late, beloved, mentors, faculty colleagues and friends, George Brager, Richard Cloward, Carel B. Germain, Irving Miller, William Schwartz, and Hyman J. Weiner for their remarkable contributions to social work theory and practice. Their ideas continue to influence the profession and my own work.

Carolyn also thanks Toby Berman Rossi and Lawrence Shulman for generously sharing their practice wisdom. Most important she thanks Alex Gitterman

for providing her with the opportunity to work with him to update and revise this text. I taught my first social work practice course in 1985, which is when I was first introduced to *The Life Model of Social Work Practice*. This text quite literally opened my eyes to what it really meant to be a social worker. I had my MSW, was pursuing my PhD in social work, and had been a practicing social worker for several years. Intuitively, I was operating from an ecological and life-modeled perspective. Yet, I lacked a theoretical framework to guide me in my work. The *Life Model* provided me with a frame of reference that I desperately needed, allowing me to more purposefully and effectively intervene in clients' lives. It truly has been an honor to work alongside Alex, my friend and mentor. I hope that, like its predecessors, the fourth edition provides guidance to and inspires the next generation of social workers.

Finally, we are grateful to our families for their love and support.

Alex is grateful for the professional contributions of his wife, Naomi, as well as her abiding love and support and that of their children, Daniel and Sharon, daughter-in-law, Amy, grandchildren, Max and Claire. In their distinctive way, Alex's late mother, stepfather and father, (Fay, Pincus and Aaron), aunt, (Maria), and late mother-in-law, (Ilse), taught him the meaning of courage and the value of life.

Carolyn: I have been blessed to be surrounded by family and friends who have loved me and been by my side throughout my life. Writing this book has brought home to me in a powerful and poignant way how essential a supportive social network is for us as human beings. Memories of loved ones I have lost—my parents and grandparents—continue to sustain me and provide me with comfort. My close network of family and friends, particularly my husband, Herb, my son, Colin, and his new wife, Kristin, enrich my life every day. For that, I am deeply grateful.

Carel was always grateful for the love and devotion of her husband, William, and daughters, Adrienne and Denise. She was also extremely proud of her daughters' significant professional accomplishments, and most of all, of their humanity.

## THE LIFE MODEL OF SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE