REACH OUT. RAISE HOPE. CHANGE SOCIETY.

OUR GOAL:
Everyone’s a Victor
FROM DEAN **LAURA LEIN**
KATHERINE REEBEL COLLEGIATE PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK
AND PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY

What began in 1921 as a bachelor’s degree offered in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts has grown into one of the world’s preeminent schools of social work, leading the profession in teaching, research, innovation, collaboration and service.

Working on society’s most pressing problems is challenging, and with your support, the School of Social Work can formulate new approaches to poverty, homelessness, mental illness, violence toward children and addiction. This is our legacy and our future and we invite you to be a part of our continuing work.

**OUR VISION FOR THE NEXT DECADE:**

- **Provide critical scholarship support to students who have the passion, intellect and drive to change the world.** Students come to SSW with great academic merit, many creative accomplishments, diverse backgrounds and commitment to community, often accompanied by considerable financial need. With scholarship support our graduates will be well-trained social workers and the future leaders in the field.

- **Transform the social work practice through innovative research.** Our research efforts lead to improvements in life opportunities and possibilities for children at risk, the unemployed, the elderly and those in our communities who are struggling with addiction, mental and physical health challenges and poverty.

- **Improve the quality of life for vulnerable populations.** Our faculty and graduates connect academia with social work practice, and these efforts create systems, policies and practices serving vulnerable populations.

- **Recruit and mentor faculty, students and researchers who represent the diversity of our global community.** Diversity at the School of Social Work strengthens the communities we serve and the social work profession. We are committed to recruiting diverse faculty and students, preparing our students to work in an increasingly complex, pluralistic society.

**OUR GOAL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK IS FOR EVERYONE TO BE A VICTOR.**

Together we can build partnerships, enhance collaborations and work toward new solutions. Your financial support helps ensure a world of promise, strengthening our ability to reach out, raise hope and change society.

With great appreciation for the contributions of all the members of our SSW community,

Laura Lein, Dean
REACH OUT. RAISE HOPE. CHANGE SOCIETY.

PROVIDE critical scholarship support to students who have the passion, intellect and drive to change the world.

TRANSFORM the social work practice through innovative research.

IMPROVE the quality of life for vulnerable populations.

RECRUIT AND MENTOR faculty, students and researchers who represent the diversity of our global community.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
PROVIDE CRITICAL SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE THE PASSION, INTELLECT AND DRIVE TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Your support of SSW scholarships and fellowships ensures that all qualified students, regardless of their economic circumstances, can attend without incurring crushing debt. SSW students are passionate about improving the human condition. They are not entering social work for the promise of a high salary or status. They need our help to launch themselves, unencumbered by large debts, into the work of addressing society’s most pressing problems. With your help, we can reach our goal — all MSW students will graduate with a debt load smaller than their first year’s salary.

Every week, MSW students work 30+ hours at their field placement while maintaining a full course load. SSW’s field placements translate study and scholarship into social work practice.

The need for social workers is expected to grow twice as fast as most occupations over the next decade.* Social workers are the nation’s largest group (190,000+) of mental healthcare providers, more than psychiatrists, psychologists and psychiatric nurses combined. Social workers are also on the frontline in our communities helping people grapple with life’s most difficult challenges — poverty, discrimination, abuse, addiction, mental illness and unemployment. Solutions and improvements depend on more social workers who are highly skilled, creative professionals.

To attract and support a diverse student body that draws on the top students in the nation, we need scholarships.”

To attract and support a diverse student body that draws on the top students in the nation, we need scholarships. With your financial support, we can continue reaching out to students who have a passion for the profession and provide them the combination of study, field experiences and research opportunities they need to reach their goals.

* U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

MORE THAN 310,000 HOURS OF SERVICE
Provided Annually by MSW Students

MORE THAN 190,000 SOCIAL WORKERS
Provide Mental Healthcare
Victor Andrews didn’t always know that he wanted to go into social work. In fact, as an undergraduate, he wanted to study mass media and eventually work as a reporter. Then there was that fateful day when Victor was robbed at gunpoint.

“It was the end of the term and a dude my age held a gun to my chest and said, ‘Give me everything you got.’ He had such a lost look in his eye. I gave him everything...phone, wallet, watch, and at that moment I realized that there was a reason why kids make the choices they do....I wanted to understand why I was going to school and he was turning to crime.”

Victor’s life-changing experience and the support of his family spurred him on to pursue a career in social work. Once Victor set his sights on social work, he knew he wanted to go to the very best school for an MSW. “I’m going to make a change in this world, and I can’t fail with an MSW from U-M.”

Victor’s field placement was with a mentoring program that provides an opportunity for underrepresented students to discover firsthand the benefits of a postsecondary education and to expose students to the information, knowledge and skills they need to complete high school and work toward social change in their communities.

“I’m going to make a change in this world, and I can’t fail with an MSW from U-M.”
GLOBETROTTING JOURNALIST STUDYING FOR PHD

As a former journalist for more than a decade, PhD student Athena Kolbe was a serious globetrotter covering international news for two preeminent wire services. “I liked exposing the truth and influencing debate,” she says. “But I knew it was time for a career change after a near-miss in the Middle East, and my editors told me not to be personally involved in the stories I was covering.”

She returned to the United States, where she completed her MSW at Wayne State University. Kolbe knew she wanted to pursue her PhD so she could continue research in underserved areas.

“I was accepted into nine doctoral programs, but U-M was very excited about my research, they were really interested in building relationships, and the faculty, staff and students were incredible,” Kolbe said. “Combine all of that with the School’s reputation, and it was an easy choice for me.”

Athena Kolbe has a very full plate in not one but two countries, as she finishes her PhD in social work and political science and serves as acting director of an independent university program in Haiti.

Kolbe’s dissertation focuses on evaluating interventions with former combatants and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration programs.
TRANSFORM THE SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE THROUGH INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

School of Social Work research transforms social work practice by attacking complex social problems, shaping policies and inspiring new generations of researchers. We engage in research with colleagues from a variety of disciplines and professions to develop best practices and extend service models benefiting communities across the United States and throughout the world.

YOUR GIFT SEEDS INNOVATION AND ACCELERATES SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY.

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH
Increasingly, research breakthroughs occur at the intersection of diverse fields of endeavor where new ideas are most likely to emerge. SSW faculty have joint appointments or working partnerships with 14 of the professional schools, research institutions and departments at U-M.

For example, Assistant Professor Luke Shaefer is working with Professor Kathryn Edin, Harvard University and the National Poverty Center to document the prevalence of extreme poverty among U.S. households with children. This is the first time the World Bank measure for poverty (an income of less than $2 per person per day) was used as a benchmark in a U.S. study. Even when counting food stamps as cash, Shaefer and his colleagues found that roughly one of every 50 children lives in such a household. Their research has implications for how social workers deliver services to the extreme poor, and creates new questions at the federal level about the strength of the U.S. safety net.
PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER U-M UNITS

MEDICAL CENTER:
- Medical Center

PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS:
- Stephen M. Ross School of Business
- Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning
- Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design
- Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
- School of Nursing
- School of Public Policy
- School of Nursing

DISCIPLINES:
- Economics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Anthropology
- Political Science

RESEARCH INSTITUTES:
- Institute for Social Research
- Center for Human Growth & Development
- School of Music, Theatre & Dance
COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH
Community-based research involves all key players as partners in the research process and capitalizes on the unique insights each brings. **Social workers identify the most salient research questions with community organizations and residents and study them in the context of community strengths and knowledge.** This approach empowers community members and leads to improved conditions in communities and neighborhoods across our country.

For example, SSW and the Community Health and Social Services Center (CHASS) of Detroit are evaluating the use of community health workers to support diabetic patients in southwest Detroit. Associate Dean Michael Spencer’s research documents the benefits of using community healthcare workers to support African Americans and Latino adults with Type 2 diabetes access healthcare services.

“We’ve demonstrated the effectiveness of a community health worker with rigorous research, and it works because the intervention is culturally tailored to the people in the community,” explained Spencer. “The best people to solve the problems are the people living with or being directly affected by the problem.”

“Community-based research reflects our mission and vision under which we value creativity, innovation, collaboration, discovery and community engagement,” says Dean Laura Lein.

LEARNING COMMUNITIES — SHAPING FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH
At SSW, innovation is valued and encouraged. Our new learning communities work toward inventive solutions to the problems of vulnerable and marginalized communities, aging in our society, the need for integrated health services, new approaches to child well-being, the globalization of social work and poverty and inequality.

Learning Communities:
- Provide strategic leadership for cross-institutional and cross-professional research and teaching
- Link innovative research with practice settings
- Develop new and relevant field opportunities for students
- Develop innovative course offerings

SSW LEARNING COMMUNITIES

- **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION**
- **CHILD WELFARE**
- **INTEGRATED HEALTH**
- **GLOBAL**
- **POVERTY AND INEQUALITY**
- **GERONTOLOGY**
THE CURTIS CENTER — SUPPORTING FACULTY RESEARCH TO IMPROVE LIVES OF UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

The Curtis Center is dedicated to advancing the understanding and treatment of behavioral and physical health conditions. The Curtis Center translates research findings into solutions, new practice methods, policies and inventions.

The Curtis Center:
- Consults with faculty members at every stage of the research process
- Nurtures new and emerging research partnerships
- Provides seed money for research to improve the potential for attracting external research funding
- Funds pilot grants that advance knowledge in the areas of mental health, substance abuse and health or improve the lives of disadvantaged populations
- Provides program evaluation services to nonprofit agencies, educational institutions and municipalities seeking to investigate the effectiveness of their programs and services
- Develops models of evaluation and assessment in the context of services for vulnerable groups
- Supports doctoral, postdoctoral, and post-MSW research training and experience

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, OUR RESEARCH FACULTY CAN DEVELOP THE NEXT SOCIAL WORK INNOVATION.

With your investment, we can encourage the design, implementation and dissemination of rigorous research that enhances social work practice and translates knowledge into action on critical social policy problems.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death (behind unintentional injuries) among Native American children and young adults, and is on the rise, according to the Indian Health Service. With help and guidance from the Curtis Center, Assistant Professor Sandra Momper found funding sources for her research on Native American young adult suicide prevention and for a community-based prevention project in southwest Detroit. She is developing a culturally competent and youth-specific screening tool for suicide risk called the Minobimaadiz Baagosendamaang: Hope & Wellness Screen. “The Curtis Center supported my interest in marginalized communities and valued my research.”

“Suicide—suicidal behavior—is preventable. The first step is making the community aware of the startling youth suicide rate in the Native community. My research and project with the American Indian Health and Family Services of Southeast Michigan will help our community recognize the signs, confront the possible causes and find solutions,” said Momper.

Screenings will begin with youth and young adults aged 10–24 at community events and Powwows.

“The Curtis Center supported my interest in marginalized communities and valued my research.”
Assistant Professor Sandra Momper (left) with Christy Bieber, program coordinator
IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

As social workers, we work to protect people’s health, well-being and human rights. We strive to create safe, healthy, productive communities free from harm, abuse and neglect.

We excel at opening doors and examining problems from different perspectives. SSW researchers, faculty, students and staff are discovering new opportunities to partner with hospitals, health clinics, schools and community organizations to deliver needed care to vulnerable populations.

Oral health care is the focus of a new collaborative effort among SSW, the U-M School of Dentistry and the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry. The group is creating a pilot program to train registered dental hygienists to provide an expanded scope of maintenance services. Oral disease affects millions of Americans, especially those living in poverty, the elderly and children. Registered hygienists trained in an expanded scope of services could potentially deliver much-needed dental care in impoverished communities.

Collaborations are challenging, but social workers defend the interests of vulnerable and underserved populations to move their needs higher on the agenda of all professional communities.

These joint efforts influence new legislation focusing on preventive services and promoting shared accountability for improving the quality of life for vulnerable populations.

This work requires resources to develop and test new ideas and build collaborations. Your gift provides SSW with the ability to engage in this work at the core of our profession—improving the physical and behavioral healthcare while protecting and meeting the basic needs of the most vulnerable in our communities.
VILLAGES — REINVENTING AGING FOR LOW-INCOME SENIORS

There is a growing body of research, policy and practice focused on transforming environments to improve older adults’ quality of life and their ability to age in community. Villages have emerged as a nationally prominent model of community aging initiatives. Villages are self-governing, community-based organizations that coordinate access to a variety of services to promote aging in place, social integration, health and well-being.

A new collaboration between the University of Michigan School of Social Work, Presbyterian Villages of Michigan and The Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation is seeking ways to expand the Village concept to low-income seniors living in Michigan.

The goal is to create a flexible model to provide:

- Access to community resources
- Affordable housing with services
- Options for seniors to stay active and healthy
- Social engagement
- Promotion of age-friendly businesses
RECRUIT AND MENTOR FACULTY, STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS WHO REPRESENT THE DIVERSITY OF OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY

As our country and the world continue to face political turmoil and economic uncertainty, the need for human services increases as financial support for critical services declines. The ability to address this increased demand for services depends on the efforts of a committed, highly skilled and diverse social work labor force.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT OVER THE NEXT DECADE, SSW WILL:

- Recruit, retain and graduate a diverse class of MSW and PhD students
- Hire, mentor, promote and retain faculty who represent our global community
- Work to eliminate disparities through solutions and practices that value our diverse voices

Educational excellence and research that shifts our approaches and paradigms incorporate diversity depending on mutual respect and effectively using the talents and abilities of all to foster innovation and train future leaders in the social work field.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP
At SSW, we work hard to create and sustain a learning environment where diversity is sought and valued across race, ethnicity, gender identity, nationality and socioeconomic class. Recruitment and retention of a diverse cohort of students is essential to SSW’s mission and the goals of the University of Michigan.

By supporting SSW scholarships and fellowships, you can sustain the academic achievement and potential of students who, with their passion, intellect and varied cultural perspectives, will enhance the education of all SSW students and the excellence of U-M.
FACULTY SUPPORT
A talented and diverse faculty allows us to collectively and effectively take on the issues facing our communities. Your support of Faculty Development Professorships will provide an opportunity for faculty early in their career to develop new approaches to social work practice, broaden or achieve greater depth in their research and design innovative approaches to preparing our students for our profession. Faculty support allows us to swiftly provide resources to new areas of social work research and education through our championing of faculty innovation.

WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN RECRUIT AND SUPPORT STUDENTS AND FACULTY WHO WILL CREATE TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE AT U-M, IN OUR COMMUNITIES, THE NATION AND THE WORLD.

PREPARING TOMORROW’S LEADERS

SSW and the U-M School of Nursing are working together to prepare students from underrepresented groups for a PhD degree from a research-oriented university. The Bridges to the Doctoral Program offers intensive research, coursework and mentoring experiences to master’s degree candidates from underrepresented groups that typically do not pursue careers in social or behavioral science and health disparities research.

“"The Bridges program provided me with the best guidance and support I could have asked for as a first generation college student.”

Joanna Barreras
MSW, California State University, Los Angeles
PhD student, University of California, Los Angeles, Luskin School of Public Affairs

The U-M Social Work/Nursing Bridges to the Doctoral Program is funded by grant R25-GM-089637 from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. Content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH.
When I started researching faculty at social work graduate schools I was interested in attending, I noticed everyone had a PhD from U-M. I wanted to be taught by the best; that’s why I chose Michigan.

Liz Gonzalez, MSW ’11, LLMSW

“When I started researching faculty at social work graduate schools I was interested in attending, I noticed everyone had a PhD from U-M. I wanted to be taught by the best; that’s why I chose Michigan.”

Liz Gonzalez, MSW ’11, LLMSW
TODAY’S LEADERS
U-M SSW ALUMNI ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Edwina Uehara
(MSW 1977)
Dean of the University of Washington’s School of Social Work

Marci Hovey-Wright
(MSW 1973)
State Representative, 92nd House District

Warde Manuel
(MSW 1993)
Director of Athletics
University of Connecticut

Angela VanSchoick
(MSW 2007)
Town of Breckenridge Municipal Court Administrator

Eileen Heisman
(MSW 1978)
President and CEO of National Philanthropic Trust
(Named to Nonprofit Times Power and Influence Top 50 list)

Leslie McGuire
(MSW 1997)
Director U.S. Medical Assistance
at AmeriCares

Jon Matsuoka
(PhD 1985)
President and CEO of Consuelo Foundation

Jeff Levin
(MSW 1993)
Chief Development Officer, Greater Miami Jewish Federation

Arturo Rodriguez
(MSW 1971)
President of the United Farm Workers Association
(Crafted historic legislation on immigration reform and worker rights)

Marci Hovey-Wright
(MSW 1973)
State Representative, 92nd House District

Warde Manuel
(MSW 1993)
Director of Athletics
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Visit our website to add yourself to our alumni map.
ssw.umich.edu/give

Our alumni are woven into a multitude of disciplines that make up the very fabric of society—from healthcare, justice and advocacy services, to education and programs for children and family.
TOGETHER WE CAN REACH OUT, RAISE HOPE AND CHANGE SOCIETY

WE ASK YOU TO JOIN WITH US.
Together we can work to build safe, healthy and more productive communities by addressing the need for integrated health services, identifying new approaches to child well-being, supporting the elderly and working to eradicate poverty and inequality.

Together, we can:

- Provide critical scholarship support to students who have the passion, intellect and drive to change the world

- Transform the social work practice by putting knowledge to work on complex social problems, fostering collaborations among different disciplines and nurturing new generations of researchers

- Develop new human service approaches that focus on community capabilities and potential

- Recruit and mentor faculty, students and researchers who represent the diversity of our global community

We aspire to make the world a better place—through the research discoveries of our faculty and the talents and contributions of our students and graduates. Your generosity will enable us to continue to lead the profession in teaching, research, innovation, collaboration and service. Your financial support strengthens our ability to reach out, raise hope and change society.
REACH OUT AND OFFER YOUR SUPPORT

Contact Development and Alumni Relations by phone at (734) 763-6886 or by email at ssw.development@umich.edu.