

FAMILIES IN SOCIETY

The Journal of Contemporary Social Services

Dear colleague,

Families in Society is a remarkable social work journal. It is one of the oldest social work journals in the world and one with a distinct yet evolving voice. What *Families in Society* has become reflects the work of fine people, and it has been a rare privilege to collaborate with many of them during the past 25 years of my affiliation with the journal. Over time, there was the faint awareness that the editor's baton would eventually be passed to others. Just as I knew and succeeded Howard Goldstein in 2000, I will, in turn, pass the role along to another in 2011.

We expect the recruitment process to last several months, ending with an appointment for Summer 2011. To begin with, a [request for applications](#) has been posted. I encourage you to take some time to reflect on the posting, and consider whether the editorship is an endeavor that might fulfill a professional or personal interest, even passion, of yours. Or perhaps you could encourage a colleague to imagine what contributions she or he might make in this role.

The position of editor can open one's eyes to ways of growing and enhancing the knowledge we make available to one another. It is strengthened by good imaginative ideas and a clearer sense of newly emerging knowledge in many related fields of study. It also asks that one learn to see more broadly and deeply and know that knowledge must necessarily inform and reshape practice. If we do not change the world just a bit, what will we have gained? Thus, the position requires concrete work but also imagination. In the end it entails a necessary humility - it is the work of others, for the sake of others, that an editor tries to encourage.

So, this begins a bittersweet departure for me but one that can result in further growth for the journal that I have long since come to love. My regards and great appreciation to you - because of your support and efforts my life has been enriched and the journal much improved.

Sincerely,



William Powell, PhD, LCSW
Editor



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