CELEBRATE FAMILIES
In 1993, Lorene Burkhart, a 1956 Purdue University alumna and Indianapolis media executive, pledged $1 million to establish the Center for Families (CFF) as a catalyst linking family research, outreach and teaching activities.

Burkhart’s lead gift inspired 40 individuals and couples to contribute a minimum of $10,000 each to become Center for Families Advocates. These donors collectively committed an additional $1.275 million in outright gifts and pledges. With their support, the Center for Families officially opened at Purdue in 1994.

A short time later — and a year before 9/11 and the global conflicts that followed — the Department of Defense tapped CFF to establish a separate research institute for studying military-connected families and sharing findings with policymakers and practitioners. Under the Office of Military Community and Family Policy, in 2000, the Military Family Research Institute (MFRI) was created.
Research you made possible revealed:

- How families are resilient during stress and transitions;
- How workplace policies affect families;
- How intimate partners affect each other’s mental and physical health;
- How wartime service affects military families.

With a Kontos Faculty Fellowship, Professor Xiang Zhou is building the first longitudinal dataset in the U.S. focused on risk and resilience in refugee youth and their families from Burma, one of the largest groups in the U.S. of 26 million refugees worldwide.
The Star Behavioral Health Providers program prepares professionals to serve military and veteran families. Now active in 24 states, SBHP has trained 20,466 professionals over the last 10 years.

ENGAGE

Your support helped:

• Human services professionals increase their use of evidence-based treatments;
• Employers to make workplaces more supportive;
• Military leaders improve family programs;
• Community leaders use data to make decisions;
• Legislators to understand policy impacts on families.
LAUNCH

You made it possible for students to:

• Gain marketable skills;
• Apply scientific findings to real-world challenges;
• Study in multiple disciplines;
• Engage with policymakers;
• Conduct their own research;
• Become the next generation of problem-solvers.

With a Research Enhancement grant awarded to Professor AJ Schwichtenberg, undergraduate student Amy Janis studied sleep and motor development in infants and toddlers. This sparked her interest in further study, and she now has applied to graduate school.
As the next era dawns, the challenges and opportunities of the future are already visible. Emerging conflicts, inequalities, technologies, environmental changes and diseases are posing new problems to solve.

Many families will face these challenges with resilience and creativity, providing scientists with insights that can be used to help others. The Center for Families and the Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University will respond with research, engagement, outreach, and learning opportunities all designed to improve the quality of life for families around the world.

Please help us to forge better futures for families.
Collectively, the Center for Families and the Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University have:

- Engaged 300,000 families, professionals, and communities
- Awarded $650,000 to faculty and students for research
- Provided over 400 learning opportunities to 400 students
- Received 117 grants for research and programming