

Dr. Helen Deines

Dr. Helen Deines is a Spalding University Emerita Professor of Social Work. Prior to becoming a professor, Helen was a child welfare worker in Oregon and Arizona, worked with families with dying children at Hospice of Louisville, and later volunteered with people with HIV/AIDS at the start of the pandemic. As well as teaching social work, Helen lectured in family practice and psychiatry at the UofL Medical School.

While teaching at Spalding, Helen was an active community partner with Kentucky's child welfare program. She trained foster parents, supervised students, was a core team member of a major national grant they received, and a member of the leadership team of their Race, Community, and Child Welfare Initiative. In the past the director of the agency sometimes referred "knotty" cases to Helen, not to evaluate for protection, but to help pro bono in resolving conflicts between staff and clients.

Helen received numerous awards for community service with families of modest means, persons with HIV/AIDS, and advocacy for all whose voices are rarely sought by those making public decisions. Kentucky Chief Justice appointed Helen a founding member of the State Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission.