Preface

In Search of Better Angels is a book about the challenges and possibilities we face in creating a more inclusive and welcoming society for children and adults with disabilities. It is about understanding and celebrating human diversity. It is also a book about the commonality of needs and aspirations throughout the human family.

The values expressed in this book are symbolized in the title by the image of “better angels.” I borrowed this symbol from Abraham Lincoln’s first inaugural address. He closed his address to the Union that was torn and filled with anger with an appeal to “the better angels of our nature.” He hoped that the better angels in America would lead to peace and solidarity.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks go to those of you who may read this book and know you were there when I needed enlightenment, encouragement, and confirmation. Thank you for caring for me and about my work.

Much of the credit for all of my work as a scholar belongs to Joyce Smith and our children Lincoln, Allison, and Sallie. Their love has sustained me in all that I have attempted over the decades. They have brought the greatest richness to my life.

In addition, Corwin Press would like to gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the following reviewers:

David Grapka
Project Coordinator, Technology Resources for Education (T.R.E.) Center
New York Council of Administrators of Special Education, Albany, NY

Note: Earlier versions of some of the chapters of this book were published in Mental Retardation and Remedial and Special Education, and in the author’s book Inclusion: Schools for All Students.