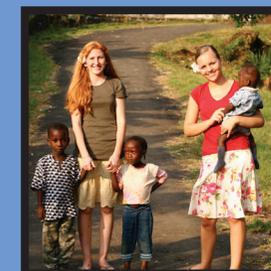




*"We are players on the field  
not the spectators in the stand.  
We have much to give  
even as we continue  
to have much to learn."  
~ Ruth van Reken, Founder*

## Families in Global Transition

For information on any of FIGT's programs or opportunities contact us at  
Families in Global Transition, PO Box 3363, Warrenton, VA 20186  
Phone: (202) 360-4916 | Fax: (202) 962-3939  
Email: [execdirector@figt.org](mailto:execdirector@figt.org) | Website: [www.figt.org](http://www.figt.org)



## Families in Global Transition



**“The fundamental mission of  
Families in Global Transition, Inc.  
(FIGT) is to serve the needs of families”**

Families in Global Transition (FIGT) continues to gain momentum as we move toward enhancing our mission of bringing together those involved with the unique world of global transition.

FIGT is the only US-based conference where representatives of the corporate, diplomatic, academic, military and mission sectors come to share cross-cultural coping strategies. This unique forum allows everyone to recognize the universal challenges of relocation and strategize on new methods and research.

FIGT has been referred to as the grassroots “think tank” for families transitioning globally. Today’s major relocation challenges include: career employee retention, personal and corporate/organizational financial losses, third culture kids adjustment challenges, educational balance, working spouses and elder care responsibilities.

The conference has set a standard in the relocation industry by addressing these and other significant transition issues. With an agenda that is continuously at the leading edge of new research and programs, our audiences included representatives from around the globe.

# About FIGT

## ABOUT Families In Global Transition (FIGT)

From early discussions around Ruth van Reken's kitchen table, with three other associates from an international women's group in Indianapolis, about the lack of support for those dealing with adjustment issues relating to international relocations, a plan was formulated around two questions:

- How to get families the help they needed
- How to get those who work with these families to understand their issues

Over the next twelve months a name, a logo and a commitment to hold a series of one-day workshops that brought together these families with experts who could help them was envisaged.

This organization was to be called Families in Global Transition.



FIGT has, for over ten years, led the worldwide community in empowering families and those who serve them in global transition. FIGT is the premier advocate and educational resource for families, organizations and service providers. We build our global community by bringing together corporate, diplomatic, academic, military, missionary and NGO sectors to share and develop leading edge research and concepts that address international relocation issues.

In recognition of that first kitchen table meeting in 1998, the Conference offers not only panel discussions and concurrent sessions, but also shorter "kitchen table" talks that give attendees a brief introduction to topics relevant to them.

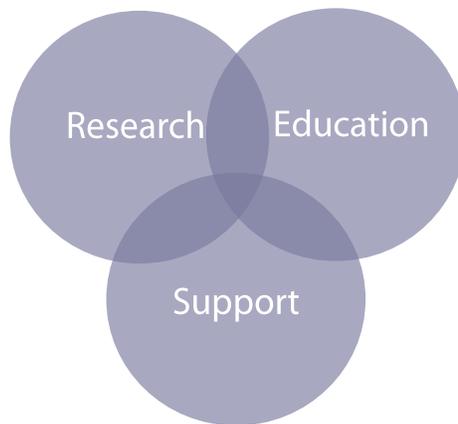
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At FIGT, we believe:

- Employees whose families are well supported will be more productive and engaged on assignment and beyond.
- The positive value of the international experience maximises both human and global potential.
- A global community is only complete when all elements are involved.
- Resilience can be learned.



*"It is thrilling to be part of a multi-sector community of life-long learners who enthusiastically share the same commitment and curiosity to see families succeed in their expatriate journey. The result is a distilling of shared expertise that contributes to a greater understanding of overseas effectiveness and endurance."*

Dr. Duncan Westwood, PhD  
Clinical Director of Expat Care and Development  
International Health Management,  
Toronto, Canada

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# Research

FIGT's goal with regard to research is to cultivate, support, and disseminate rigorous research pertinent to families in global transition. FIGT is a forum for researchers to come together with practitioners involved in assisting those in worldwide relocations. Service providers benefit from being the first to hear the latest findings about families in global transition, and researchers benefit from the input and wisdom of those they study.

FIGT, through research into international and intercultural issues, pledges:

- To build relationships among researchers, and between researchers and those they study
- To encourage and assist researchers by facilitating the sharing of solutions to methodological challenges
- To increase awareness about emerging research
- To support and guide research using best practices and ethics
- To promote multi-disciplinary research and literature

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*"I found the Families in Global Transition conference to be right on the mark both personally and professionally. From new research to new perspectives, each of the many workshops I attended was excellent. I gained new insights into the impact of transition on military, corporate, and missionary organizational systems and I feel that I can now better serve the needs of those communities. I had the opportunity to take away many new ideas that I was able to share with my colleagues when I returned to Argentina."*

Brad McClain  
Elementary School Counselor Lincoln,  
The American International School of  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

# The FIGT Conference...making a difference

Held annually in March, and in Washington, DC, for the first time after five years in Houston, Texas, the FIGT Conference 2011 promises to once again be a forum for presenting new research, exchanging ideas, the meeting of old, and making of new friends across all sectors.

The FIGT Conference specifically offers a wide view on significant global transition issues, and addresses the developmental impact of transition on employees, families and children. The universal challenges of relocation for individuals, sponsoring organizations and relocation advisors are discussed, with the exchange of ideas paving the way to successful global transitions.

**What's on at the FIGT Conference?**

**Washington, DC, March 17 – 19, 2011**



**Opening Keynote Speaker:** *Dr. Anne Copeland*, Ph.D. Founder and Executive Director of The Interchange Institute, a non-profit organization focused on the understanding and support of people and organizations in intercultural transition. She will be speaking about her formal research in that field, but also about her personal encounters, both of which, she believes, are ways we can make a difference in understanding the lives of global families.

**Closing Keynote Speaker:** *Joanne Grady Huskey*, author of "The Unofficial Diplomat" will discuss her premise that all who travel internationally bear the responsibility of acting as diplomats through "The Power of Soft Diplomacy" as the title of her talk suggests.

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**Panels to include:**

- Overview of Successful Programs of Support
- STARS – Spouses Travelling and Relocating Successfully
- Adult Third Culture Kids – Into the Future

Choose from 25 concurrent sessions covering topics as diverse as:

- Best Practices in International Assignee Cross Cultural Training and Support
- Crossing Sectors for Good Practice: Practical Lessons for Transversing Domains, Disciplines, and Deserts.
- Living the Life: developing and nurturing a globally mobile career



*"We are the players on the field, not the spectators in the stand. We have much to give even as we continue to have much to learn. "*

Ruth van Reken, Founder

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# Education

FIGT takes pride in offering opportunities for all sectors to learn from each other, and to share research and information for the greater understanding of the issues facing those in global transition.

The annual FIGT Conference provides a forum for this exchange of information through educational and non-commercial discussions on:

- Promoting professional development
- Exchanging research findings with colleagues in similar fields from different parts of the world
- Encouraging the exchange of information between expatriates
- Networking through social media
- Educating children - on location, at home, or boarding
- Caring for the elderly from a distance
- Repatriating



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The FIGT Community provides an environment where open discussion and learning lead to a broader knowledge and understanding for all those concerned with international relocation. It recognizes that cross-cultural education and awareness are paramount to both the successful expatriation, and repatriation, of employees and their families.



*"I have never learned so much readily applicable information at a conference, nor met so many people I liked in one room."*

Laura Saylor, Boston College

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## Support

FIGT values the global experience. The belief that the expatriate and repatriate family can transition successfully, and can leverage the benefits of an international experience, both tangible and intangible, is fundamental to FIGT's core principles.

As the leader of a global network, FIGT promotes the positive value of worldwide transitions, and empowers the employee, the family unit and those who serve them before, during and after international relocations by uniting theory and practice.

Through their commitment to fostering research and education FIGT supports sponsoring organizations, employees, and families from the corporate, diplomatic, academic, military, missionary and NGO sectors.

*"As a corporate relocation professional I find FIGT is the only place to get the real human side of global assignment issues. Having an opportunity to share insight with each of the sectors: Foreign Service, military, missionary, corporate and education is very valuable."*

Carl Burke  
Manager Global Services  
Guidant Corporation

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Support is offered through:

**Our annual international conference**

- Highlighting effective programs on global employee and family support
- Providing access to international expertise
- Networking opportunities, both professional and personal

**Our website**

- Information on educational opportunities and transitions
- Webinars on relevant topics, for example TCK issues
- Access to the latest information through the Associate's Program

**Our local chapters**

- A growing national and international network of support for all involved with global transitions
- Real time updates and discussions through social media

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