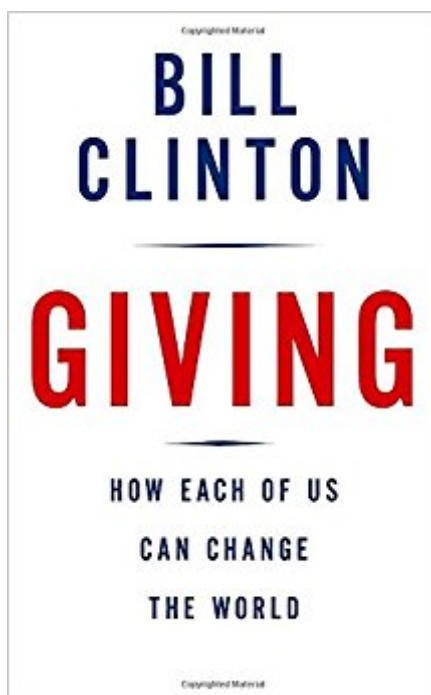


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Giving: How Each Of Us Can Change The World



Synopsis

Here, from Bill Clinton, is a call to action. Giving is an inspiring look at how each of us can change the world. First, it reveals the extraordinary and innovative efforts now being made by companies and organizations—and by individuals—to solve problems and save lives both down the street and around the world. Then it urges us to seek out what each of us, regardless of income, available time, age, and skills, can do to help, to give people a chance to live out their dreams. Bill Clinton shares his own experiences and those of other givers, representing a global flood tide of nongovernmental, nonprofit activity. These remarkable stories demonstrate that gifts of time, skills, things, and ideas are as important and effective as contributions of money. From Bill and Melinda Gates to a six-year-old California girl named McKenzie Steiner, who organized and supervised drives to clean up the beach in her community, Clinton introduces us to both well-known and unknown heroes of giving. Among them: Dr. Paul Farmer, who grew up living in the family bus in a trailer park, vowed to devote his life to giving high-quality medical care to the poor and has built innovative public health-care clinics first in Haiti and then in Rwanda; a New York couple, in Africa for a wedding, who visited several schools in Zimbabwe and were appalled by the absence of textbooks and school supplies. They founded their own organization to gather and ship materials to thirty-five schools. After three years, the percentage of seventh-graders who pass reading tests increased from 5 percent to 60 percent; Oseola McCarty, who after seventy-five years of eking out a living by washing and ironing, gave \$150,000 to the University of Southern Mississippi to endow a scholarship fund for African-American students; Andre Agassi, who has created a college preparatory academy in the Las Vegas neighborhood with the city's highest percentage of at-risk kids. "Tennis was a stepping-stone for me," says Agassi. "Changing a child's life is what I always wanted to do"; Heifer International, which gave twelve goats to a Ugandan village. Within a year, Beatrice Bira's mother had earned enough money selling goat's milk to pay Beatrice's school fees and eventually to send all her children to school—and, as required, to pass on a baby goat to another family, thus multiplying the impact of the gift. Clinton writes about men and women who traded in their corporate careers, and the fulfillment they now experience through giving. He writes about energy-efficient practices, about progressive companies going green, about promoting fair wages and decent working conditions around the world. He shows us how one of the most important ways of giving can be an effort to change, improve, or protect a government policy. He outlines what we as individuals can do, the steps we can take, how much we should consider giving, and why our giving is so important. Bill Clinton's own actions in his post-presidential years have had an enormous impact on the lives of millions. Through his

foundation and his work in the aftermath of the Asian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina, he has become an international spokesperson and model for the power of giving. "We all have the capacity to do great things," President Clinton says. "My hope is that the people and stories in this book will lift spirits, touch hearts, and demonstrate that citizen activism and service can be a powerful agent of change in the world."

Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Knopf (September 4, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1615568093

ISBN-13: 978-1615568093

ASIN: 0307266745

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 124 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #308,223 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 in Books > Business & Money > Job Hunting & Careers > Volunteer Work #175 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Philanthropy & Charity #1241 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Presidents & Heads of State

Customer Reviews

"Giving is essentially a manual for those people who might be tempted to follow Clinton's example and give their time, skills or money to a good cause...Clinton depicts a world in which men and women can move mountains" Sunday Telegraph "This is a good book in the literal sense that, if everyone who read it took the author's advice, the world would almost certainly be a better place" Guardian "As an inspirational primer for giving, as opposed to getting, his book should be in every school, every office and every library" The Times "Bill Clinton's call to linked arms silences most doubters with its weight of detail" Observer "Clinton recounts some truly inspiring stories" Washington Post --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON, 42nd President of the United States, is founder of the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation.

You might be surprised to hear that, having read this book, I am NOT that big a fan of "charity", but I have developed even more admiration for the accomplishments of former President Bill Clinton because he wrote this book, and opens up new pathways to helping our fellow citizens of the planet Earth. The book is well worth the read, and it flows very nicely. But the fact remains that apart from emergency disaster relief aimed at a limited short term goal of keeping people alive following a sudden and (hopefully) unexpected catastrophe, charity is a manifestation, in most cases, of the wrong side of the "teach a man to fish" versus "feed a man a fish" proverb. Both Bill and Hilary Clinton have been longtime supporters of the "microfinance" principles typified by the Grameen Bank (Professor Eunos' cooperative enterprise model of entrepreneurship). Giving "poor" people a motivation and a stake in the future (building and preserving for the future generations - their children) through co-opting them into entrepreneurial enterprises, not just as workers but as equity partners, is a far better way to banish poverty and solve the local problems that often can easily be overcome with modern technology. The opportunities to do this are particularly ripe as the world transitions toward non-fossil carbon fuels (i.e. Green fuels) like we are doing at [...] with algae based fuels, that also can be a feed source, in the short term for livestock, but in the longer term can also probably feed the world as well as fuel it, if we choose to take that route. "Giving" is about alternatives like that. It could almost be retitled, "Choices", because it gives a much broader view of giving that we normally take. It is well worth the time to read, although, of course, President Clinton's voice is charming if you want to hear the audio version instead. Great for a long car journey. Sincerely, Stafford "Doc" Williamson[...]

Bill Clinton gives solid recommendations on how we can all make a difference in the community. As somebody who already donates and volunteers and organizes in the community, I was happy to have picked up some good ideas. Thanks for writing Bill. :)

You know that part called 'Acknowledgements' which is available in almost every book and covers three or so pages? Ever read one of those? I bet you skip those pages every time! The first two-thirds of this book gave me the exact same feeling. Every chapter covers too much names that are soon to be forgotten by the time you enter the next chapter. No matter how inspiring these people are, you cannot ask the average reader to remember the UNC, DDA, EXRE and whatever NGO is being mentioned. And then, out of the blue, the book does get interesting. Most of this is due to the change in writing and you get a sense of personal touch in its writings. It doesn't even surprise me if Mr. Clinton only wrote some of this book. The people mentioned in this book deserve

better than just being a paragraph in a chapter. Maybe Mr. Clinton should call his good ol' pal Al and make a documentary about this book, because it does hold award-winning content...

I saw President Clinton on Oprah when this book was first released. Throughout the show Bill engaged in intriguing conversation with Oprah about the gift of giving. He held the audience and I in a trance. I really wanted to give more of myself. So when it came time for me to get a book to give me examples of where I could start to help I choose his book. Although, I do feel like this book was full of statistics and it was drawn out I had to keep in mind that this book was written by a former President. His way of persuading people to do what he wants is always backed by statistics and high-powered people with money. There were a couple of stories he highlighted of regular people who started volunteer efforts starting from the ground up. Bill has been involved in hundreds of Charity efforts, but his skill has mostly been used in raising the capital needed to help and sustain these charities. I think I was looking for a more intimate look at volunteerism. Although, I did get a lot of ideas; organizations I would like to participate in and donate to; I also came up with my own ideas of things I would like to see done in my community. I realize it won't be as easy as it was outlined in his book. As a matter of fact I know it's gonna be 10X's harder, but this book has inspired me to believe that things can change.

Wife liked it.

Inspiring stories of giving for everyone regardless of finances or time.

Wonderful, easy to follow advice and How To. Lots of unique ideas on how to incorporate giving into your daily life whether it be through time or money. Inspiring read- Makes philanthropy exciting!

Bill Clinton is one of my heroes but this book is deadly boring. It reads like a term paper or dissertation. It could be boiled down into a neat pamphlet. Clearly not his best effort.

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