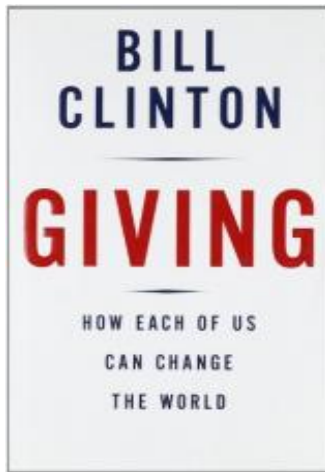


Giving: How Each of Us Can Change the World

by Bill Clinton



About the Book

Regardless of income, available time, age, and skills, we all have the power to help people everywhere have a chance to live their dreams.

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 Biira'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."

Discussion Guide

Dear Friend,

I wrote **Giving** to profile inspirational people who are giving back in ways both large and small, and having an amazing impact on the lives of others as a result. As we approach this holiday season, I hope that my book will serve as a blueprint for everyone --- regardless of income, available time, age and skills --- on the different ways you can get involved and make a difference, either in your own neighborhood or half a world away.

I'm honored that you are considering **Giving** for your reading group and I hope that you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

1. In which ways are you already working to help and to give? Do you know someone who is giving their time and skills to a great cause?
2. Can you identify any problems in your own neighborhood? What steps can you take to help?
3. Identify a global problem that most troubles you. Can you think of three simple, achievable ways to make a difference?

4. Which story of giving do you find most inspiring? Why?
5. In response to Chapter Four, "Giving Things," what can you spare that can be used elsewhere?
6. What skills do you possess that might be worth sharing with someone in need?
7. What are some easy steps you'd be willing to take to reduce your energy usage or the amount of waste you produce?
8. How can your individual contribution of time or money be multiplied by judicious partnerships?
9. How did reading all of these stories of giving make you feel?
10. Now that you have read so many stories about why people give, recall that many more people choose not to give. What are some reasons not to give, and how can these reasons be surmounted?
11. What are your reasons for giving?

Author Bio

Bill Clinton was elected President of the United States in 1992, and he served until 2001. After leaving the White House, he established the Clinton Foundation, which helps improve global health, increase opportunity for girls and women, reduce childhood obesity and preventable diseases, create economic opportunity and growth, and address the effects of climate change. He is the author of a number of nonfiction works, including MY LIFE, which was a #1 international bestseller. He also has written two novels with James Patterson: THE PRESIDENT IS MISSING and THE PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER.

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