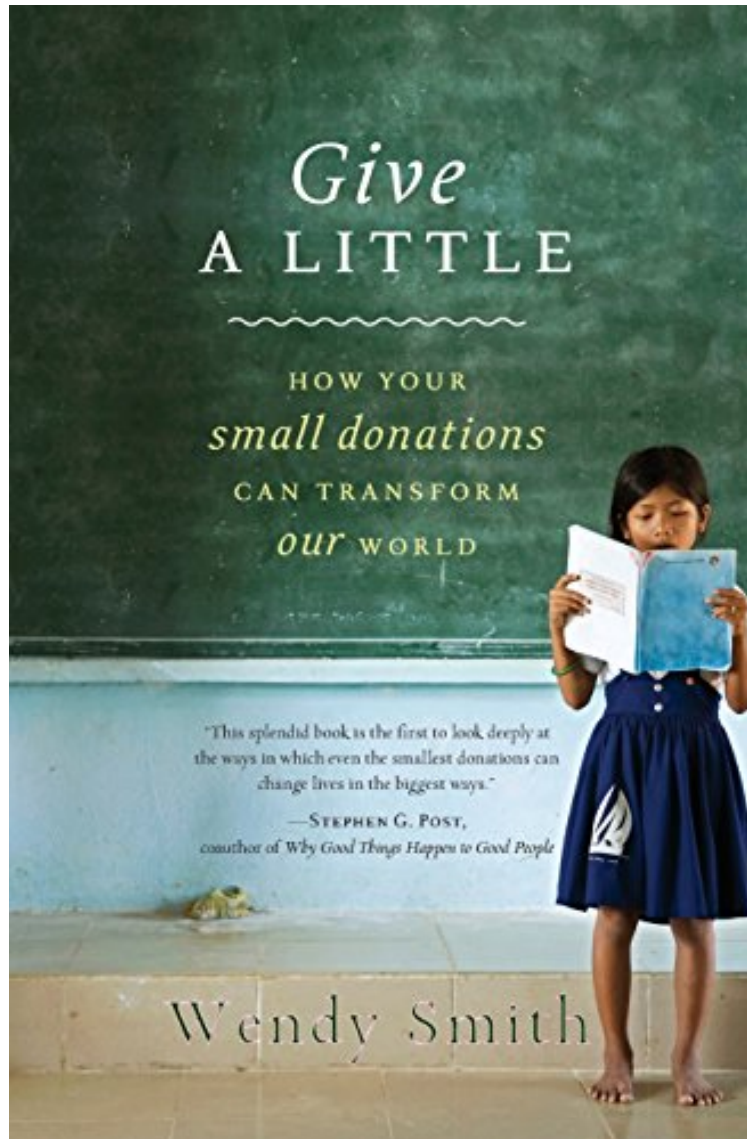


Give a Little: How Your Small Donations Can Transform Our World

Wendy Smith

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#1724272 in Books Smith, Wendy 2009-11-03 2009-11-03 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .0 x 5.191, .66 #File Name: 1401323405368 pages Great product! | File size: 41.Mb

Wendy Smith : Give a Little: How Your Small Donations Can Transform Our World before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Give a Little: How Your Small Donations Can Transform Our World:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. small donations can really add up By lindapanzo This wonderful book shows how a small donation to the right organization can make a world of difference in bringing clean water, health

benefits, or other lifesaving measures both here and around the world. My favorite charities are my local food bank and also a charity which provides kids books to rural public libraries, but I'm always on the lookout for other worthwhile causes. During the initial part of the book, Smith explains how a large portion of charitable giving is actually made by Americans in small amounts, such as \$10 or \$20. For instance, after the 2004 tsunami, 45 percent of the total given (or \$2.78 billion) for tsunami efforts was provided by ordinary Americans. Bill Gates and Warren Buffett may get more publicity for donating large amounts, but, in total, but the bulk of charitable efforts are made by regular people. The main part of the book, however, offers a fascinating look at organizations, often little-known ones, and all the good works they do, along with information about what a small donation can do. I've never heard of such groups as World Bicycle Relief or Potters for Peace (and dozens of others) but they save lives every day. It's said that charitable giving offers health benefits to the person doing the giving. I think it's possible that reading about good works and places to perhaps donate a small amount might do the same. Excellent book that gave me a lot of new ideas for worthwhile charities. 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. **BANG FOR YOUR BUCK!** By Zora Divine When it comes to philanthropy, I am as cynical as you can get. I did not support the victims of the Tsunami or Katrina. Why? I was sure most of my contribution would be diluted by overhead and/or misuse of funds. Yet, I'm not a piker. Historically, I have given generously. I support my alma mater, any friend or relative who hits me up, and charities that support causes/research for subjects that have personally effected me. Do I really do my due diligence? No. Do I really believe my donations make a difference? Not sure. Why do I give then? Because no one can say I don't. Like I said I'm a cynic. **GIVE A LITTLE** by Wendy Smith is a game-changer for me. Not only does Ms. Smith debunk the myth that the Bill Gates' of the world are the major donors -- they're not. Every day American families provide almost two-thirds of all donations to charity and those donations are less than \$250.00. While there are so many 'good causes' out there, Ms. Smith makes a convincing case that our first dollars should go to ending poverty. Several years ago in Sports Illustrated, Rick Reilly wrote that ten dollars bought a mosquito net and prevented a child from malaria in Africa. Ms. Smith takes this several steps further and shows that saving one child creates a ripple effect that impacts positively not only the child and his or her family, but an entire community. Done often enough the effect can be exponential. In her book, she clearly outlines the causes of poverty and shows how we -- every day man and woman -- can transform the world thru small donations to dozens of organizations that provide goods as mundane as mosquito nets, water pumps, water filters whose impact ripple. I challenge you to read **GIVE A LITTLE** and not come away with a new mindset about your charitable giving. And... not be inspired to give small donations to many of the worthy organizations profiled in her book. **A MUST READ** highly recommended by a former cynic. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. **Empowering guidebook** By RBS So many times I wished I had a reliable source for knowing how to make the most of my donations. I have sent \$10.00 here and there to charities that sent me things in the mail that I knew were reputable (thinking, "this is not much - how can this really help...") but with this book it clearly maps out how my "little" can go a long way in making a difference for the better. Smith's book offers the average "Joe" (and Josephine!) an understanding of how much impact small gifts (especially when small gifts are all we can afford right now) can have on other people's lives. I loved the way she mixed in personal analogies with facts and gave lots of resources. **I LOVED IT!**

"With open hearts and open hands, we gave what we could, and a little became a lot." --from Give a Little Dimes destroyed polio. Five bucks can beat malaria. Give a Little: How Your Small Donations Can Transform Our World not only contains remarkable, inspiring stories of how small donations are making an extraordinary difference in the lives of millions both here in the United States and around the world, but also lays out where and how to start giving . . . today. Together, ordinary Americans have far more transformational power than any government or big foundation. In 2007, giving by American individuals amounted to \$229 billion--that is, 82 times the amount the Gates Foundation gave that same year. Simple, inexpensive things--a water filter, a bike, an irrigation pump, a bed net, a goat--cause a ripple effect that lifts a whole family, a town, and, astonishingly, even a nation out of poverty. Inspired by Smith's twenty years in the nonprofit sector, Give a Little shows how easily we can dip into our pockets and, with just a few dollars, change the world.

From Publishers Weekly Inspired by the generosity of everyday Americans in the aftermath of 2004's tsunami, Smith, a longtime fund-raiser for nonprofits, winnows through the muddle of hyperbolic language found in fund-raising letters to explain how even the smallest, seemingly insignificant gifts to charitable organizations can make huge differences. Sobering statistics address the four critical issues of hunger, health, education and access to tools, technology and infrastructure as Smith explains how forgoing an inexpensive luxury just once a week and donating the corresponding few dollars can fix a bridge, feed a child or bring clean water to a family, possibly redirecting lives in an entire Third World village or U.S. city. Cultural mythology says that pocket change doesn't make poverty change, but Smith's research proves otherwise: small donations make a difference around the world and at home, and giving is psychologically beneficial to donors. This book occasionally devolves into maudlin appeals, but it is redeemed by its positive premise and practical approach. (Nov.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc.

All rights reserved. About the Author Wendy Smith has worked in the nonprofit sector for more than 20 years in direct services, program administration, development, consulting and board membership; she is a Certified Fundraising Professional. She also has a master's degree in education and a bachelor's degree in marketing. To write *Give a Little* and pursue its promotion and mission, she has taken an indefinite leave from her job as the Director of Foundation and Government Relations at Building with Books, an international organization that constructs schools in developing countries and runs youth development programs in the US. She lives in Highland Park, Illinois, with her two daughters.