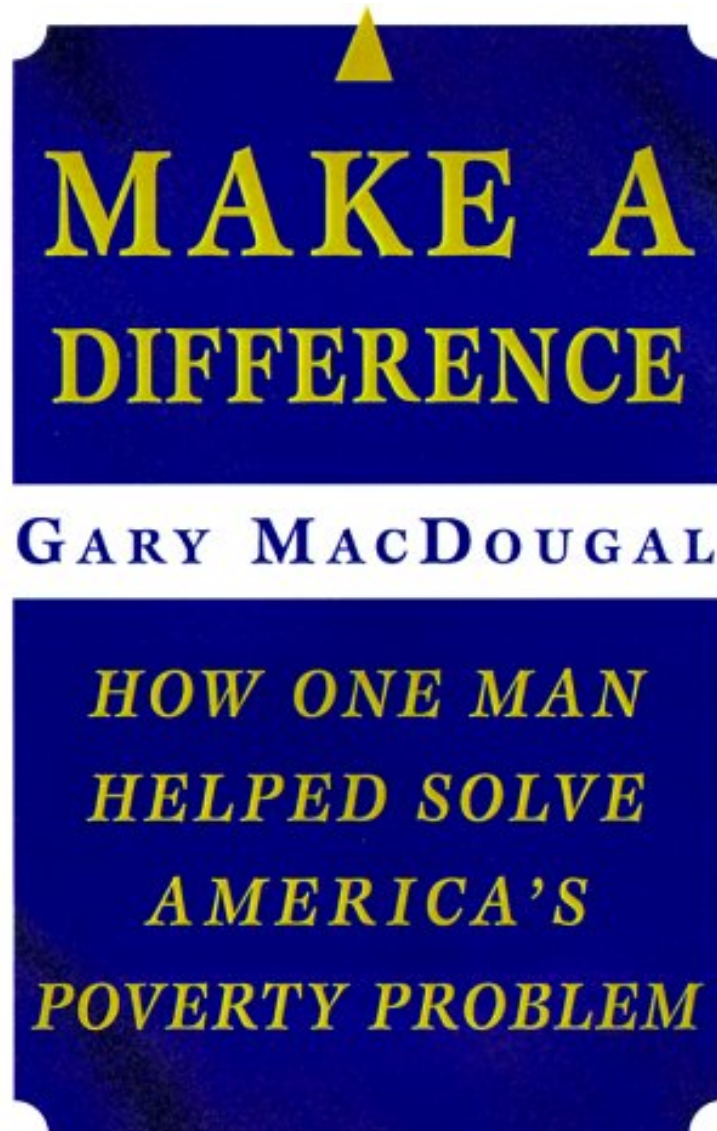


(Read free ebook) Make a Difference: How One Man Helped Solve America's Poverty Problem

Make a Difference: How One Man Helped Solve America's Poverty Problem

Gary MacDougal

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Gary MacDougal : Make a Difference: How One Man Helped Solve America's Poverty Problem before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Make a Difference: How One Man Helped Solve America's Poverty Problem:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. True inspiration and must read for the upcoming electionBy Siqi

Chen Gary MacDougals heartwarming and inspirational (and humble) tale combines the rare traits of business commonsense and political knowhow into a real solution for the welfare system both at the state level and nationwide. Mr. MacDougals journey from the top of a mountain in Nepal to the tough inner cities of Illinois is truly historic, and the numbers and data coming in continue to reinforce that. In his work with The Governors office in Illinois, MacDougal emphasized state and local level flexibility, rationalized the disparate aide offices, and simplified the process for obtaining aide. Coming in as a civilian volunteer, he was freed from any political quid pro quo or alliances and was able to truly work in a bipartisan manner to debunk the myth that business and aide are at odds with each other. In his efforts, MacDougal highlighted the role that private enterprise can and needs to play in creating entry level jobs and how the state can help welfare recipients get onto that first rung of the ladder. In an unprecedented approach, and one which speaks to one of his greatest attributes and his business savvy, MacDougal took the time to listen to the customers. He recognized the importance of the community and family and took time to listen to the ladies in the backyard and made a case for reconnecting custodial fathers to restore the family unit. And in something that rarely gets mentioned in governmental aide programs, he instituted a system of measure and accountability for the program. MacDougal led the creation of a system that empowered the staff at a local level and made it easier for recipients to receive aide. This is a true bipartisan story that has national relevance as we approach yet another election year. We should ask ourselves how candidates can truly address our continuing welfare problems in a way that is a helping hand to get to that first rung in the ladder.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Redeeming McKinsey? Here's how the smartest guys in the room can scale social good

By Elsie Maio

I sweated over this review. So much inspiration, so little space for commentary. Bottom line: Make a Difference is an instructive reference book for problem-solvers who want to tackle today's social issues at scale - with compassion and grace. I consider it an important read for those who would fully engage their brilliance to achieve measurable results for people in need.

There are two main reasons to read it now: it shows how to fix our seemingly intractable social problems step by step; and second, it can help expand business leaders' sense of purpose, self-respect and personal impact.

FIRST: READ IT AS A BLUEPRINT

This prescient book is a breakthrough tool for right now. Culturally, it models an heroic social role for the alpha overachiever in big business. And in Practical terms, its empathetic voice engages the will while describing a proven blueprint for action.

Make a Difference presages some of the happiest trends that animate social media and our larger imaginations today: young people's voracious appetite for social entrepreneurship, the birth of social impact investing, demand created by new products that do good for society as they do well for their manufacturers; and the scaled benefits of cross-sector collaborations.

In a warm first person narrative, Gary MacDougal quickly traces the evolution of a Chicagoan boy-next-door to McKinsey partner to high-EQ leader schooled on humble pie by his mentors, themselves captains of industry in the 1960s. But what jolts this story to immediate relevance in 2012 is this: hard results achieved with the utmost respect and compassion that equally benefit people in need and business in want. What are those results? And who gained? First, tens of thousands of people in Illinois employed who had long been deprived of the opportunity to work because they lacked the support systems to do so. Second, the employers who gained a highly motivated, sustained local workforce. Third, the political actors whose reputations took on the halo of a big win for their constituents and for the businesses in their communities.

SECOND: USE IT TO WAKE UP THE HIGHER ANGELS IN THE C-SUITE

For the reputation-beleaguered world of big business, this book is a timely step toward redemption. It demonstrates what world-class corporate savvy can achieve when focused on contributing to humanity in a material, sustained way. That's due in part because the author virtually represents the traditional C-Suite leader. He made his bones at McKinsey Company (itself under a reputation cloud these days) and since has served on a number of high profile corporate and non-profit boards.

*****PS.** It doesn't end. I discovered that since publishing this book, Gary MacDougal has been shopping the Illinois model around. It is now under consideration by the Governors of a number of other states. What next? His Foundation is extrapolating the learning to an even more ambitious challenge: bringing the opportunity of education to the Roma people in Bulgaria. Now that should make an instructive sequel. -- Elsie Maio, [...] founder Humanity, Inc./SoulBranding Institute

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Belying the Myths

By Linda Mills

One of the happy lessons of the national welfare reform experiment is that the interests of the poor and the business community need not be at odds. Both business leaders and business practices have much to offer the reform effort. Gary MacDougal is a business leader who traveled far and worked doggedly to make his own powerfully constructive offer - and to make it concrete. In doing so, MacDougal belied the myth perpetuated by those who fret that business leaders poking around social welfare programs will focus only on cutting costs and will leave the poor stranded at the doors of shuttered programs. But that was not MacDougal's vision - far from it.

In the midst of a successful business career, MacDougal went to Nepal and came down from the mountain with a desire to make a difference. After selling his business, he was free of all of the usual agendas -- whether of the left, right, party politics, turf, personal business interests, or a bureaucracy to defend, and he decided to make his contribution by offering a governor his help in leading a human services reform effort. The Governor said thanks, and MacDougal went on to challenge seven entrenched bureaucracies, the legislature, providers, and the unions. His good listening ear allowed him to hear fully from the clients of the system, as well as all the other players as they described (and often defended) the jumbled mess

that called itself human services delivery. His heart told him there had to be a better way to serve families. And his business experience and acumen told him that the other way would have to be a customer first model that coordinated and redesigned the system based on the perspectives and needs of the communities to be served. His plan was adopted by Illinois, where he focused his efforts. It puts families first. It insists on seamless service delivery of services in a now-consolidated human services agency that he helped create shape. And his plan is grounded in a from-the-ground-up local systems design intended to respond to the unique needs of each community where services are delivered. Now that most welfare families with the fewest personal and social problems are working, other states would do well to look at MacDougal's model of coordinated service delivery to address the far more complex needs of those families who remain on welfare.-- This by an attorney who has represented the poor for twenty years.

.com Since the United States welfare reforms of the late 1990s, individual states are more in charge than ever of the difficult questions posed by welfare change: How do they cut the rolls, create new jobs, and get people to work? Gary MacDougal asserts, definitively, that the answers for how to help "even the toughest longtime inner-city welfare recipients" have already been found; *Make a Difference* is his effort at outlining them. MacDougal, who built a successful manufacturing company and was a partner in a management consulting firm before becoming chairman of the Governor's Task Force on Human Services Reform in Illinois, is an intelligent and passionate crusader against poverty. He has visited inner-city schools, housing projects, and prisons to interview those on welfare or raised in poverty about what they would change if they were, say, governor (a technique this conservative businessman calls "asking the customer"). Many of MacDougal's ideas are developed from a commonsense business model and will have universal appeal--connecting and streamlining the number of state and federal aid programs for poor people so that they are less wasteful, for instance. Others, such as his stands on unions and "the poverty industry," will stir controversy. Either way, *Make a Difference* is a revealing, accessible book that those interested in welfare reform will be unable to ignore. --Maria Dolan
From Publishers Weekly
Since the enactment of the federal welfare reform law of 1996, much of the responsibility for welfare has been shifted to the states. MacDougal chaired a governor-appointed task force (1993-1997) to revamp Illinois's welfare system, and in this buoyantly optimistic report, he contends that the Illinois model, though still a work in progress, can serve as a blueprint for other states. A former CEO of a Fortune 1000 electronics company, and a self-described conservative Republican, MacDougal favors federal block grants to states, combined with broad flexibility at the city, county and community levels in how the funds should be allocated. To critics who fear that the states will use block grants irresponsibly, he replies that most governors have done a fine job in the first phase of welfare reform. And to critics who view workfare as a demeaning scheme offering poor wages and benefits, he counters that an ex-welfare recipient's first job is only the first step on the ladder to self-sufficiency. MacDougal calls the Illinois reform drive bipartisan, and some of his proposals seem surprisingly innovative: for example, reorienting the focus to involve the whole family, including the noncustodial parents of welfare children, and creating job training and placement opportunities even for hard-to-place male ex-felons, combined with stringent child support enforcement and a stronger paternity establishment process. MacDougal's suggestions for eliminating mountains of paperwork, harmonizing eligibility requirements and using a computerized information management system to coordinate the fragmented activities of a welter of human service agencies and programs makes his book, despite its leaden prose and padded narrative, useful to policymakers, antipoverty workers and administrators. 16 pages photos. (Feb.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Library Journal
MacDougal served as chair of the Governor's Task Force on Human Services Reform in Illinois from 1993 to 1998. Using skills acquired as a corporate CEO, he developed a reform strategy that "focused on client self-sufficiency, supported by a one stop, family-centered system at the local level, strong community involvement and clearly measured performance outcomes." This book details the methods the taskforce used to link community groups with government agencies by establishing regional "federations" throughout the state. MacDougal hopes the book will be a manual for other states to use in advancing welfare reform and provides chapter summaries designed to stress the "Principal Points" necessary to keep the reform process on track. Documentation is slight, and the point of view is the author's alone. An optional choice for academic library collections.--Jill Ortner, SILS, SUNY at Buffalo
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