

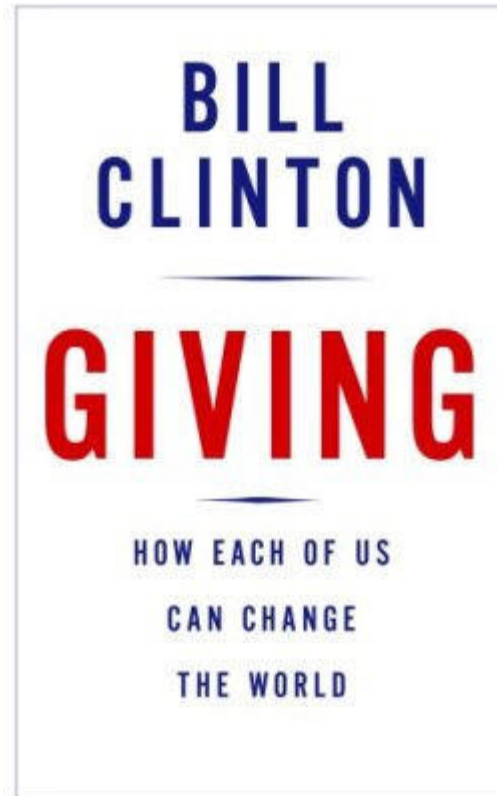


americalearns

Excerpt from Bill Clinton's Newest Book,
Giving: How Each of Us Can Change the World
Published September 2007

“One of the greatest gifts anyone can give is a useful skill. Most of us know how to do something not everyone can do as well as we can. Transferring that knowledge and the ability to use it can empower others in amazing ways.

“Perhaps the most common volunteer skills-giver in the United States is the reading tutor. Every week, thousands of Americans tutor young people and immigrants who want to learn English. When I was president, we increased the number of tutors dramatically through a partnership with colleges and universities called America Reads. Participating schools allowed their students to earn federal work-study funds, not by doing jobs on campus but by going into community schools to help young children improve their reading skills, a precondition to success in all other subjects.



“Tutoring is a great way of giving that’s open to volunteers in almost every community, but as with other kinds of giving, it’s not always easy to do well. Sometimes even very literate volunteers don’t know everything necessary to teach or to monitor the progress of those they’re committed to help. In 2001, Gary Kosman founded an organization called America Learns to provide guidance and support to tutors and mentors, and to help them improve, evaluate, and report on the performance of their students in the least costly and time-consuming ways available. Kosman got the idea for America Learns from his own experience as a reading tutor. Several years ago, he couldn’t help a student who was supposed to underline all the predicates in her reading materials. He had forgotten what a predicate is and couldn’t find out from a quick search. If you’re interested in being a reading tutor but have forgotten some of the basics, the America Learns Network can help you and other tutors with whom you serve. America Learns, like America Reads and all other tutoring programs, is a skills-giver, enabling anyone who can read well and has an hour or two a week to volunteer to do so with the confidence that he or she can really help” (pages 70-71).

Learn more about the America Learns Network.

- Web..... <http://americalearns.net>
- Take a Guided Tour... <http://americalearns.net/testdrive.htm>
- E-mail..... info@americalearns.net
- Phone..... 310-689-0542