



# Teaching a New Generation about Charity

Two books fill an important gap.

By Terrence Fernsler

## Raising Charitable Children

By Carol Weisman. 125 pages. Hardcover. St. Louis: F. E. Robbins and Sons Press, [www.RaisingCharitableChildren.com](http://www.RaisingCharitableChildren.com).

In our society, we're generally good at teaching children how to earn money. Heaven knows we teach them how to spend it. But when it comes to teaching children to give, to participate in the commons that's at the core of our values, institutions are silent, and parents are on their own. Now Carol Weisman, author of such jewels as *Secrets of Successful Fundraising* and *Secrets of Successful Boards*, helps parents teach children how to begin the

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practice of philanthropy, how to make it part of their lives, and how to build charity into their characters.

As in her previous books, Weisman brings wit and wisdom in this very readable book. *Raising Charitable Children* helps us raise kids who think of giving as routinely as they think of earning and spending money.

Implicit in her book is that it's a parent's responsibility to teach children charity. Philanthropy offers

some of the best learning opportunities. Weisman clarifies how to explain the importance of philanthropy to children, and she does a good job of discussing activities that are appropriate for different ages.

Parenting is the most important job any of us will have. For better and worse, children look to their parents as role models, so it's vitally important to *involve* children in learning to live compassionately, to demonstrate that people and communities do matter. Weisman's little book is an excellent guide for parents teaching their children about philanthropy, and a gentle instruction for us all. ■

## The Giving Book: Open the Door to a Lifetime of Giving

By Ellen Sabin. 64 pages. Hardcover. New York, NY: Watering Can Press, [www.wateringcanpress.com](http://www.wateringcanpress.com).

This delightful book is designed for children 6 to 11 years old. Using short sentences and colorful drawings, Ellen Sabin builds the child's understanding of charity through participatory exercises.

The book works best when parents or guardians participate with

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their children, taking breaks between sections. Assignments after each discussion will raise questions when the book is taken up again.

Sabin's approach is straightforward and simple, perfect for teaching children. Rather than offering ways to feel, she helps the reader

explore emotions. With an adult's help, this book will provide young people a positive entry into the world of giving. That's important for the nonprofit sector's future, because absorbing a concept like charity is much more likely to occur at an early age. ■

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