

TO
DREAM
AGAIN



The Continuing
Challenge of
Martin Luther King, Jr.

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BetterLife Communications
New Jersey

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Printed in the United States of America.

*Cover design and book design by Dunn and Associates
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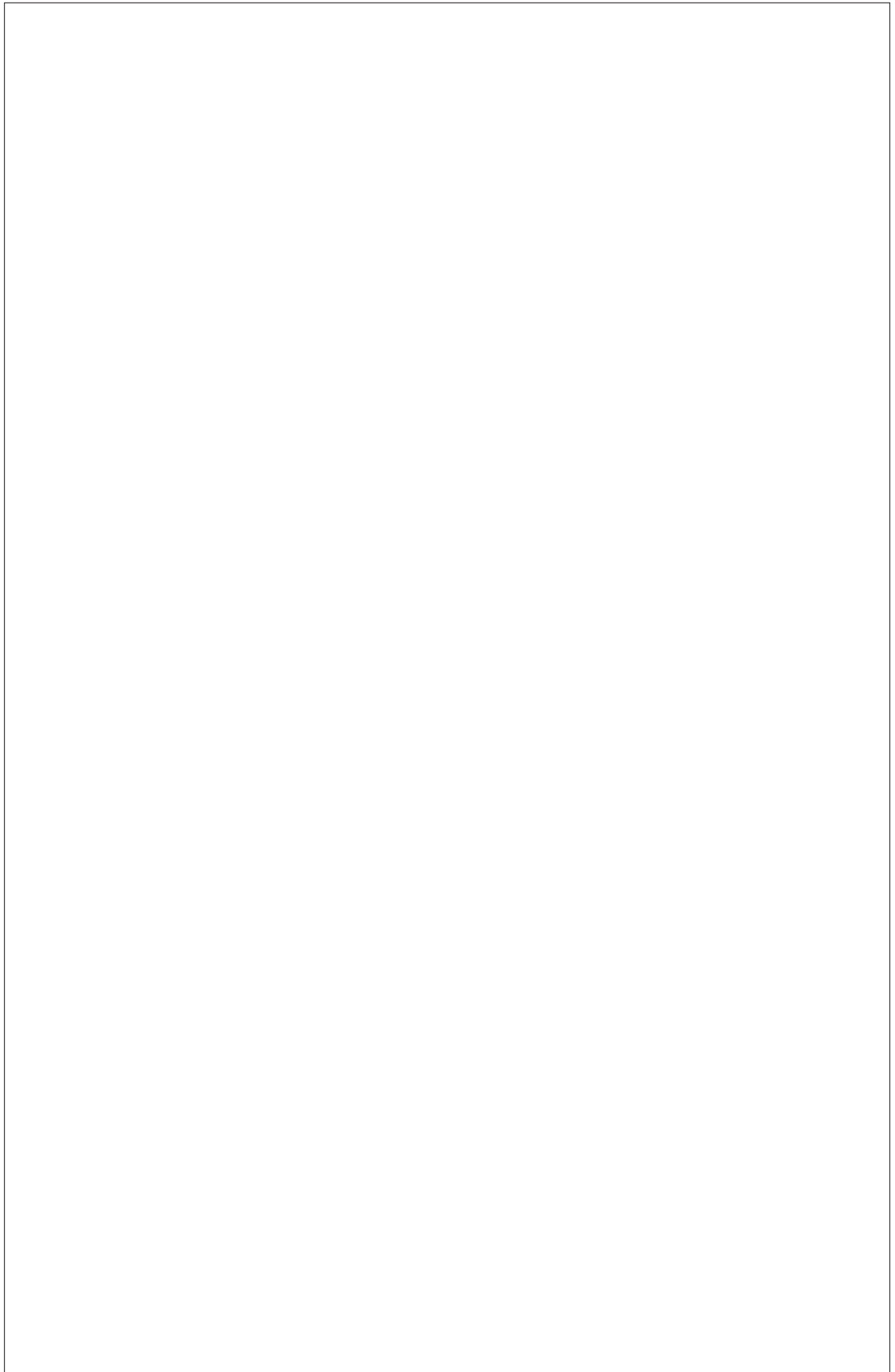
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www.todreamagain.com

ISBN 0-9745413-0-3

LCCN 2003096644

To
Samuel and Monica Welch



A NOTE TO THE READER

The year 2003 marks the 40th anniversary of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s historic "I Have a Dream" speech. In 2004, we celebrate Dr. King's 75th birthday, recall his work on the 40th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and reflect upon the 40th anniversary of his selection for the Nobel Peace Prize. And in 2005, we honor the 40th anniversary of the 1965 Voter Rights Act, as well as the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott that catalyzed the civil rights movement.

At this juncture in history it is appropriate, even necessary, to consider what has become of Dr. King's dream, and to explore how his legacy can inform how we live and work in today's world.

In 1956, Dr. King gave a sermon titled "Paul's Letter to American Christians", in which he read an imaginary letter from the apostle Paul¹. In Dr. King's imaginary letter from Paul, Paul celebrates the advances of civilization between the 1st century A.D. and 1956, while pointing out the significant flaws remaining in human society.

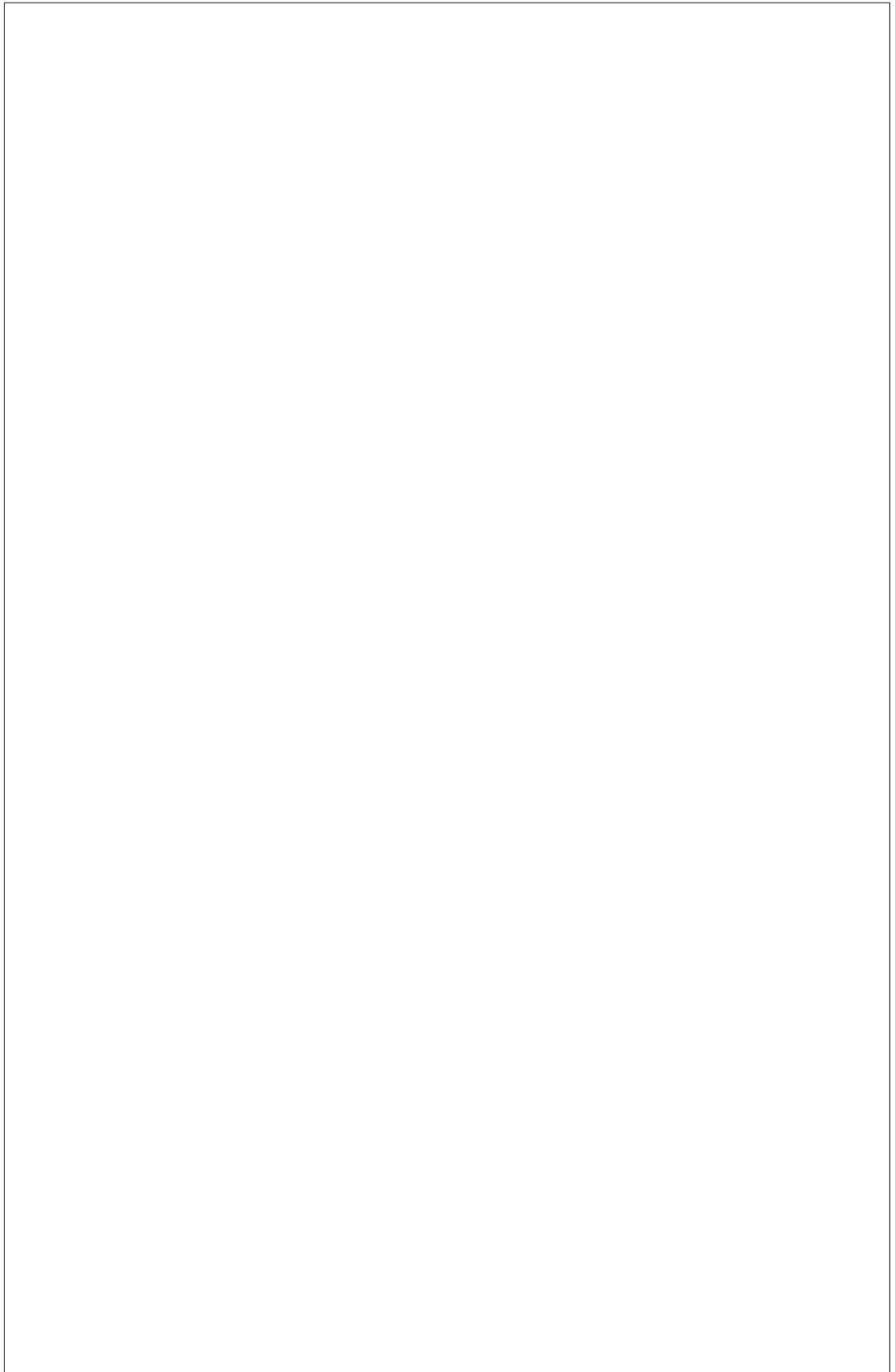
As I listened to Dr. King's inspired reading of Paul's imaginary letter, a thought flashed in my mind - what might Dr. King say to us today, if he were to again share his dream with us?

What follows is an imaginary letter from Dr. King, which I humbly submit to you with the hope that it reasonably conveys Dr. King's voice and philosophy. I pray that this book may contribute in some small way to the creation of the "beloved community" to which Dr. King devoted his life.

This book also contains a resource guide that provides additional information you can use to create positive change for yourself and your world, starting today.

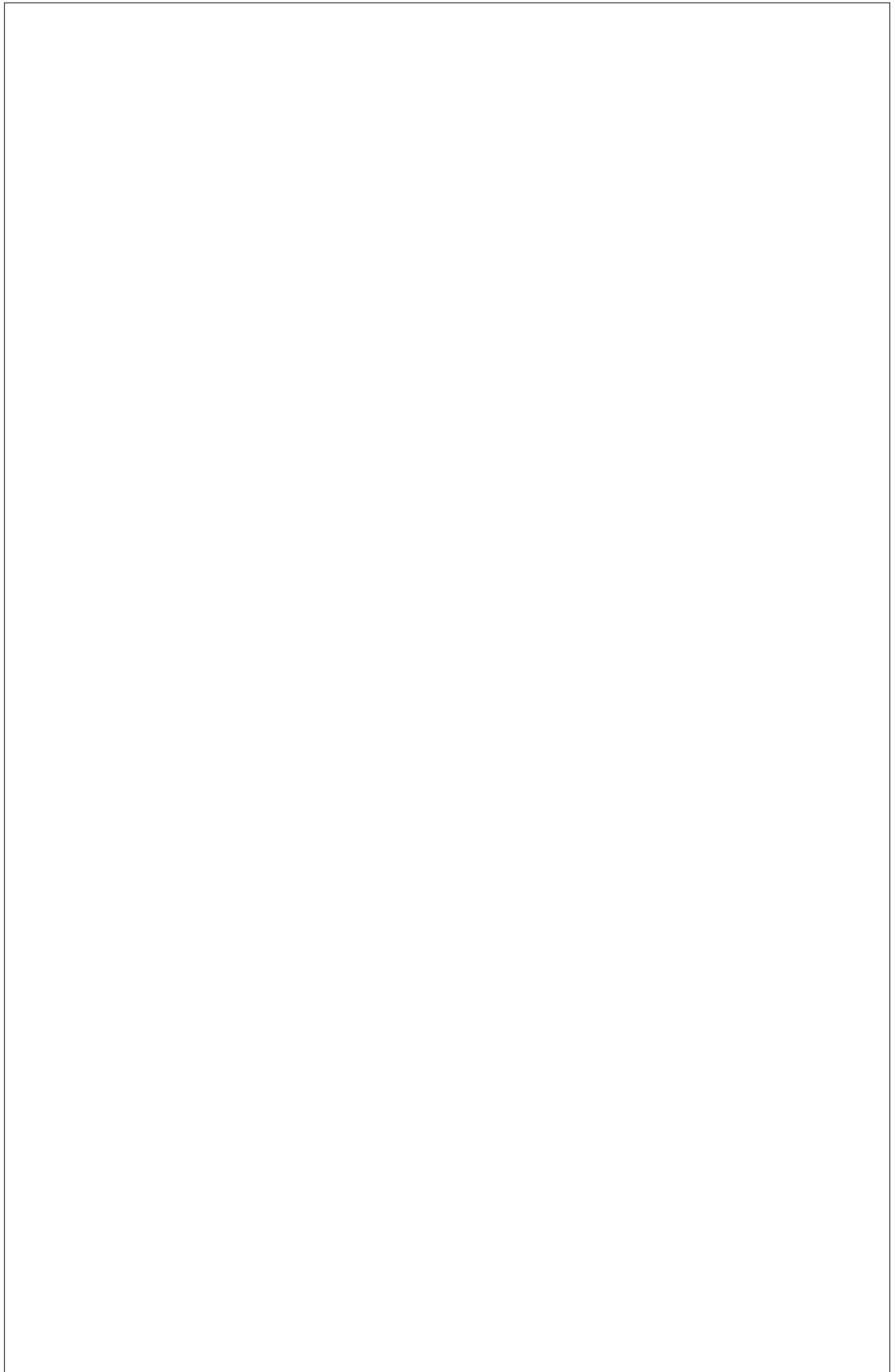
Anthony S. Welch
September 2003

¹ The sermon is one of several included in a wonderful collection of sermons titled *A Knock At Midnight*, an audiobook and book edited by Clayborne Carson and published by Time Warner and Intellectual Properties Management.





THE LETTER



 Dear Friends:

It is so wonderful to have the opportunity to write to you today. So many times, I have wanted to share my joy with you for the countless wonderful things you have done, to encourage you to press on as you encountered challenges, to pray with you in your sorrow and grief.

My heart was so overjoyed over the years, when ...

- Barriers to exercising the right to vote were removed for millions of Americans.
- Blacks, Latinos, and other people of color became mayors and members of Congress in record numbers.
- Douglas Wilder became the governor of Virginia.
- Jesse Jackson ran for President.

TO DREAM AGAIN

- Colin Powell became Secretary of State.
- The South of this country was so politically and culturally transformed that a governor from Georgia became President of the United States, helped broker peace between Israel and Egypt, and won the Nobel Prize for Peace.
- American foreign policy began to more fully incorporate an understanding of the importance of human rights.
- The war in Vietnam ended, and the process of reconciliation between former enemies began.
- The Berlin Wall fell, bringing freedom to tens of millions in Eastern Europe, and an end to the Cold War.
- Nelson Mandela walked out of prison and into the fully-elected Presidency of South Africa.
- Dozens upon dozens of countries from every corner of the globe committed themselves to the path of democracy and liberty over autocracy.

My spirit has been renewed over the years when...

- Nearly every industry and sector of society began to recognize that people of color and women have the talent and diligence to succeed as workers and entrepreneurs.
- Your scientific genius has improved humankind—the internet as a life-changing communications vehicle; dramatic improvements in the diagnosis and treatment of disease; cell phones and computers that help you do so much more in so much less time.

- The number of people living in high-poverty neighborhoods in America declined significantly in the 1990's.

And yet, with so much accomplishment and so much achievement, there is much more to do. It is one of the great truths of life that upon reaching one mountaintop, the view of the vista makes clear that there are more mountains to climb. The fulfillment of one dream leads one to dream another. Life is constantly about change and reaching for ever greater heights.



These are times of great change—a truly momentous period in the history of your world.

In the last two years, your world has seen and experienced a most profoundly challenging series of events:

- Terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, of a nature and scale never before seen.
- A war in Afghanistan to root out those behind the 9/11 attacks, as well as an ongoing “war on terrorism” that is challenging your beliefs regarding the balance between freedom and security.
- A weakening of the economy in America that in reality is a deep economic recession in so many states and communities across the land—leaving millions without jobs and at risk of hunger and homelessness.
- Scandals in some of the largest corporations in the country in which billions of dollars from small investors were stolen and lost by top executives of those companies.

- A crisis of trust within the Catholic Church resulting from the abuse of children by some members of the clergy.
- The continuation of the deadliest war since World War II in Africa's Congo.
- Near war between India and Pakistan, and the threat of war with North Korea, with possibilities for nuclear catastrophe.
- The escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- War in Iraq that has split old allies, reinvigorated animosity toward America from many segments of the world, raised serious questions about the true nature of the threat posed by the Saddam Hussein regime, while simultaneously holding the potential to free 23 million people from the grips of a brutal dictatorship.

Sadly, as I write this letter, more than 30 million Africans face severe hunger. To better understand the scale of this tragedy, imagine *everyone* in New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Diego, Dallas, San Antonio, Detroit, San Jose, Indianapolis, San Francisco, Jacksonville, Columbus, Austin, Baltimore, Memphis, Milwaukee, Boston, Washington DC, Atlanta, and Miami going to bed hungry this evening.

The grim reaper of AIDS still stalks the globe, expecting to claim the lives of three million more this year. Tuberculosis, malaria, hepatitis, cholera, and dysentery are still devastating entire communities around the world. Cardiovascular disease, tobacco-related illnesses, and the flu will bring grief to the homes of millions more.

People numbering in the hundreds of millions still struggle under the yoke of oppression, unable to say what they want and

worship as they wish, unable to read and to write, unable to make a decent living for themselves and their families.

My friends, there is much still to do.



What can be done to make your lives and your world better?

First, I will suggest what America, as represented by her government, can do to help create a better world. America is a beacon of hope to the world. To whom much is given, much is required, and thus America bears a special responsibility to serve and support the noble aspirations of all people in all lands.

Second, I will suggest what America can do to more fully live out the ideals represented in her Declaration of Independence and Constitution. A truly great nation is both humble and constructively self-critical, and America must never turn away from areas in which it can improve itself.

And third, I will suggest what each of you can do to better your lives, your nation, and your world. After all, America is nothing more and nothing less than the combined spirit, character, and energy of her people. There is a role for each of you to play. Properly seen, America, her government, and her people are all one.



I begin with America, as represented by her government, and its responsibility and opportunity to be a model world citizen.

It must be understood that the police and the military are sometimes needed to stop or hinder the efforts of those who have committed themselves to hurting and killing others through terrorism and tyranny. In addition, security is fundamental to effective commerce, the delivery of humanitarian aid, and

constructive, peaceful interactions among neighbors. It deeply saddens me to see the lengths to which human beings will use their genius and creativity to harm others—human beings who seem to only understand the language of the jail, the gun, or the bomb.

But I do not believe that even the most treacherous are born that way. Through improper education, nursed resentments, neglect, and a sense of powerlessness—some of which may have been passed down for generations—it seems that sometimes even angelic souls can lose their way.

It is a great misconception to believe that police and military forces can stop all of those who wish to do evil to others. The police chief and the military general are often the first to understand the limits of the jail, the gun, and the bomb in making and keeping the peace.

The Good Samaritan is a blessing to those victimized by thieves on the Jericho Road. But ultimately, the safest and most peaceful Jericho Road is one without thieves in the first place.

I'm saying to you today that America has the unique opportunity and responsibility to make of the world a safe and peaceful Jericho Road by removing the conditions and circumstances that help nurture the terrorists and tyrants of this world, and that the plotters of evil use as justification for their evildoing.

I say to you today that it is difficult for terrorists and tyrants to thrive when there is sufficient food, shelter, and clothing for all. It is difficult for terrorists and tyrants to thrive when all have opportunities to make and peacefully participate in decisions affecting the key issues of their lives through government structures aligned with principles of liberty and democracy. The roots of terrorism and tyranny wither away when land is fairly distributed, and when clean water and sanitation are available to all. The thieves on the Jericho Road lose their base of operations when jobs with good wages and opportunities for entrepreneurship are available for men and women to support themselves and their families. It is very difficult for the terrorist and the tyrant to breed

nursed resentments when care and compassion are shown to those with AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis, and when dedicated efforts are made to prevent the spread of these and other dreaded diseases. Terrorists and tyrants cannot long survive an environment in which all have a basic understanding of reading, writing, and arithmetic, and a sense of their God-given ability to be positive agents for non-violent change.

In so many ways, America is involved in constructive efforts in all of the areas I have just described. But I humbly submit to you that America has not committed itself sufficiently to the task at hand. A nation that wages a winning war spares no expense, is discouraged by no barrier, marshals all of its creativity, and commits itself to the successful achievement of the objectives it sets before itself. A nation that seeks to wage a winning peace must do no less.

And so we must challenge our thinking—as citizens of America and of the world—in a variety of ways to explore the opportunities we now have to make a new and better world.

The American government spends more than \$400 billion per year on military defense to provide a measure of peace and security for its citizens and allies. Approximately \$15 billion is spent on a variety of forms of foreign assistance annually. For reasons I have outlined earlier in this letter, I believe that foreign assistance, dollar for dollar, when well-spent and effectively managed, provides America with greater long-term peace and security than does well-managed military spending.

I ask you to consider the profound good that could result from a relatively modest re-allocation of your government's spending on military defense to additional opportunities of foreign assistance—a re-allocation that, importantly, would still provide America with the strongest and most capable armed forces in the world.

Based on recent research, I believe that an additional \$5 billion per year would help provide food for almost all in the world who are hungry.

An additional \$9 billion per year would help provide clean water and sanitation for almost all in the world who need it.

An additional \$10 billion per year would spur the effective treatment of almost all who suffer from diseases such as AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis.

An additional \$9 billion per year would allow almost every girl and boy around the world to receive a basic education.

An additional \$2 billion per year would help lift 10 million of the world's poorest families out of poverty through the utilization of microfinancing—a strategy in which small loans support the entrepreneurial efforts of impoverished women and men starting viable businesses.

Countries utilizing a democratic and human rights framework for their governments typically do not suffer from famine or engage in war with each other, and provide greater civil liberties and economic opportunities for their people than do countries built on dictatorship. More can and must be done to nurture and support the indigenous leadership of men, women, and young people who are committed to the path of liberty and democracy—a free press, freedom of speech and religion, the right to peaceful assembly and protest, a fair judicial system, the right to vote in free and fair elections—in every country of the world whose people desire freedom. I propose that an additional \$5 billion be spent annually in support of efforts to make human rights and democracy the long-term, universal cornerstones of governance around the world.

I propose the additional funding streams outlined above be managed by the United States Department of State, which I encourage to work closely with the United Nations to ensure that these funds amplify and build upon the constructive efforts of governments and non-governmental organizations around the world.

There is an additional, important area to which I would like to draw your attention. The American government spends more than \$20 billion annually on agricultural subsidies that unduly

harm many poor farmers in America and around the world, through massive price distortions that make it impossible for those farmers to profit from their labor. The elimination of these subsidies will lift millions of people all over the world out of poverty, and make the United States Treasury billions of dollars richer.

The implications of the near-elimination of hunger, ill-health, poverty, illiteracy, and dictatorship are astounding. Young people all over the world will mature into adults who can be constructive parents and productive workers and entrepreneurs, willing and able to support and nurture the next generation of this world's citizens.

To do this, to wage this winning peace through the re-allocation of \$40 billion (less than 10 percent) of America's military budget to additional opportunities of foreign assistance, is compassionate in the short-term, fiscally and economically prudent in the long-run, and morally and spiritually right forever.



In so many ways, America is a beautiful mansion, with wonderful and awe-inspiring rooms—rooms called Freedom, and Liberty, and Opportunity, and Tolerance. Yet, these marvelous rooms are still too small to include all Americans. Inadequate education and crippling poverty shut the door on too many Americans, preventing them from attaining the rights and blessings so eloquently written about by the Founding Fathers in the Declaration of Independence and Constitution—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The rooms in the American mansion can and must be made bigger.

One of the greatest challenges of the hour in America is the effective preparation of its next generation of young people for the demands of this new century. Imagine a country in which each and every young person is civically responsible and engaged, fully developed socially and emotionally with strong character, excel-

lent in his or her academic studies, and equipped for work or entrepreneurship. Tragically, America's educational system is not sufficiently preparing the next generation of young people for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in this new century. Less than sixty percent of Native American, African-American, and Latino students graduate from high school. The unemployment rate for those who drop out of high school is four times higher than the rate for college graduates. Almost half of the high school graduates who enter college have reading, math, and other skills that are inadequately developed. Voter turnout—one important indicator of civic health—was below forty percent among 18 to 25 year olds in the two most recent presidential elections.

I ask you to consider whether or not your education system can be truly effective when so many young people are locked into failing schools. I ask you to consider whether or not your education system can long survive the fact that the honorable role of teacher is given so little prestige in your country. I ask you to consider whether or not your current mechanism of standards-based, high-stakes testing, while well-intentioned, is providing the context in which your young people can excel as learners, civic participants, workers, and entrepreneurs.

Poverty, along with the hunger, ill-health, and crime that too often come with it, makes a mockery of the American Dream for too many in your land.

Nearly one in 10 American households—representing 33 million people, including 13 million children—is at risk of hunger each year. Those who are hungry are sick more often, and perform more poorly at school and at work.

More than 40 million Americans are without affordable health insurance for significant portions of each year. The momentous value of a buoyant spirit, wise food choices, and consistent exercise must never be underestimated. And yet the importance of the doctor and the dentist to one's health cannot be denied.

There are currently more than two million Americans in prison and jail. It is heartbreaking that your criminal justice system provides too little restitution to the victims of crime, and too few opportunities for non-violent criminals to reform themselves and prepare for a productive post-prison life. It is a great tragedy—devoting immense national, state, and local resources to the building and maintenance of prisons that house so many of those who were first imprisoned by inadequate education and crippling poverty.

The persistence of inadequate education and crippling poverty is not the result of a deficit in the national wallet, but rather a deficit in the national will. The time has long past come for the massive implementation of creative solutions to these challenges—solutions utilizing the best strategies of the public, non-profit and private sectors.

What follows are a few possible solutions.

The salaries of high-quality teachers and principals must be dramatically increased to properly honor the role of the educator, and to significantly improve the recruitment and retention of talented people who can do so much to effectively prepare the next generation for the challenges of life in this new century. Consistently low-quality teachers and principals must be removed from the education system and re-trained for other employment.

Academic standards and high-stakes tests that determine whether or not a student is adequately progressing in his or her knowledge attainment and skill development must more accurately reflect and measure the importance of a variety of educational outcomes, including reading, writing, arithmetic, decision-making and problem-solving skills, and preparedness for civic participation.

Schools that consistently do not prepare their students academically, and for civic participation and the workforce, must be closed, and only re-opened with high-quality principals and teachers.

Service-learning—a teaching strategy that links civic engagement with academic engagement—must become a core element of the educational experience of every young person. By connecting academic curriculum to activities such as tutoring younger students or leading voter registration drives, service-learning helps young people engage more deeply in their learning and in their communities.

More must be done to ensure the full utilization of the Food Stamp program, as well as the federal school breakfast and summer food program, by those who need help with hunger, particularly children and the elderly.

More must be done to increase the use of federal, state, and local earned income tax credits—credits that reduce the tax burden on low-income, working families to help them decrease their vulnerability to poverty.

More must be done to increase the use of microfinancing to help more families overcome poverty by starting their own businesses.

To provide health insurance coverage for those who are currently uninsured, there are several options, including: providing tax credits to help people or businesses purchase private health insurance; expanding Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, two existing government health insurance initiatives; and requiring employers, with funding help from the federal government, to provide coverage for their employees.

An additional \$100 billion per year would allow substantial progress to be made in the alleviation of poverty, hunger, ill-health, and inadequate education for tens of millions of Americans. There are several sources from which this money could be derived, including the re-allocation of a portion of the recent federal tax cuts, and the re-allocation of a portion of the military defense budget. The \$100 billion, which would amount to merely 4.5% of the United States federal budget, would be a wise investment that would pay for itself many times over in the years to come.

Certainly, there is more that can and must be done to overcome the challenges of education and poverty in America. But even if the possible solutions outlined above are only a beginning, they represent important work to carry out and carry through, starting now. A more compassionate society with a stronger economy and democracy—a new and bigger American mansion—awaits.



Mahatma Gandhi, the great spiritual and political leader of India in the first half of the 20th century, often said that we must be the change we seek in the world. If I desire greater peace in the world, I must, to the best of my ability, be more peaceful. If I desire greater fairness in the world, I must be more fair. If I desire greater compassion in the world, I must be more compassionate.

But how can this be so? How can I be the change I seek in the world?

Passed on throughout the history of humankind, through all cultures, traditions, and religions, is a way to “be the change” that has stood the test of time—as you think, so shall you be.

Consistent prayer, meditation or reflection on the meaning and power of concepts such as peace, fairness, and compassion—coupled with a commitment to wisely act upon the creative impulses spawned by the prayer and reflection—initiates and energizes, through a miraculous mechanism of the universe, the process of “being the change.”

Over time, through this process, you are born anew—you think differently, speak differently, act differently—and you become a ripple that forever changes the ocean.

Pause a moment, and reflect on the process of “being the change.”

As you think, so shall you be. Be the change you seek in the world.



Allow me to leave you with a request.

Each week, I ask you to renew your commitment to a better life and a better world. One way you may wish to consider is to ask yourself questions that can spur your spirit, mind, and body into action.

A sampling of the questions you may wish to ask yourself could include:

What can I do to bring greater peace into my life? Am I daily praying, meditating, quietly reflecting on the important issues of life, including how I can be more compassionate and fair? Might I spend ten minutes when I wake up each morning, and ten minutes before I go to sleep each night, sitting quietly, expressing gratefulness, reviewing lessons learned, remembering successes achieved, and envisioning the next steps I wish to take in my life? What book am I reading this month to uplift my spirit? What book am I reading this month to educate myself on a key issue facing my community, my country, my world? Am I making wise food choices and exercising regularly to strengthen my body and keep it in good order?

How can I work with others to create peace and dialogue among the adherents of my faith and among the adherents of other faiths? As one example, might I work with others to meet at my house of worship, my neighborhood school, my college, my home to discuss our understandings of faith and of God?

What can I do to feed the hungry? How best can I determine the needs of the hungry—perhaps by speaking to someone in need? Is there time or food I can share at a soup kitchen or food pantry? How can I help my local, state, and federal government officials better understand the importance of alleviating the

suffering of the hungry in communities around the world, including my own? Might I speak at my city council's upcoming meeting? Might I organize a letter-writing campaign to my mayor, governor, United States Congressperson? Might I gather my friends and neighbors to dramatize the issues of hunger by peacefully marching to city hall, to the statehouse, to the White House?

What can I do to ensure that all have opportunities for a basic education? How can I help ensure that all can read, write, and do arithmetic to prepare for life in general and employment and entrepreneurship in particular? Is there a young person I can help teach to read and to write? Might I decide to commit to teaching as a career? Might I enter my name as a candidate for my local school board and run a passionate campaign outlining my vision for the reform of our educational institutions?

What can I do to ensure that all understand what it means to be an engaged civic participant? To speak freely, to worship freely, to volunteer, to vote, to address grievances through peacefully assembling in the streets, the writing of laws in city hall and the halls of Congress, and the litigation of cases in the courts of the land? Might I read a book on the civil rights movement to connect to that great period of non-violent change in this country and share what I learn with others? Might I ask the elders of my community why they vote and the young people in my community why they volunteer, and share what I learn with others? Might I speak with recent immigrants to America who live in my community and who are perhaps tasting the fruits of liberty and democracy for the first time, and encourage them to participate in the neighborhood association or to attend a city council meeting with me? Might I encourage the corporations in my community to allow their workers time-off with pay to engage in community improvement efforts?

What can I do to help ensure that all understand the power of their soul and character—and the importance of humility, service to others, and perseverance? What if I were to compliment five people I meet today on something wonderful about them-

selves? Who are two people that I will call today to encourage as they press on through a difficult time? With my thoughts, words, and deeds, how can I represent the good in life—to respect and not degrade, to instruct and not curse, to repair and not destroy?



Some people will tell you that you cannot positively change yourselves and your world. Do not believe them. We were told in 1955 that we could not change the racist and discriminatory reality that then existed in Montgomery, Alabama. But through mass meetings, workshops on non-violence, and a bus boycott that lasted for more than a year, we did change ourselves and we changed Montgomery. We were told in 1960 that we could not overcome segregation in libraries, restrooms, hotels, department stores, restaurants, at water fountains, in our nation's universities, and on our nation's highways. But through sit-ins, "freedom rides", and massive and peaceful demonstrations, we did overcome segregation, and in so doing changed ourselves and communities across the country. We were told in 1965 that we could not exercise our right to vote in hundreds of communities in the South. But through mass meetings, marches, and voter registration drives, we did secure our voting rights, and in so doing changed ourselves and the political landscape of this nation forever. And all of this we did with love, with perseverance, and with ongoing prayer, meditation, reflection, and the spirit of song—building up the courage to face down the fear brought on by the jailings, the bombings, the threats to our lives.

Every moment of every day, someone, somewhere, is succeeding at something profoundly positive. Believe you can also. Believe that a way can be made out of no way. Believe that truth crushed to earth will rise again. Believe—and know—that the changing of yourselves and of the world begins with a decision to do so.



I pray that you have found something useful in this letter. And I pray that when your spirit is low and the world seems against you, you might read this letter again to reconnect to your goodness and your greatness, and recommit yourself to making a life as well as a living.

I close with the timeless words of Isaiah, that great prophet of old:

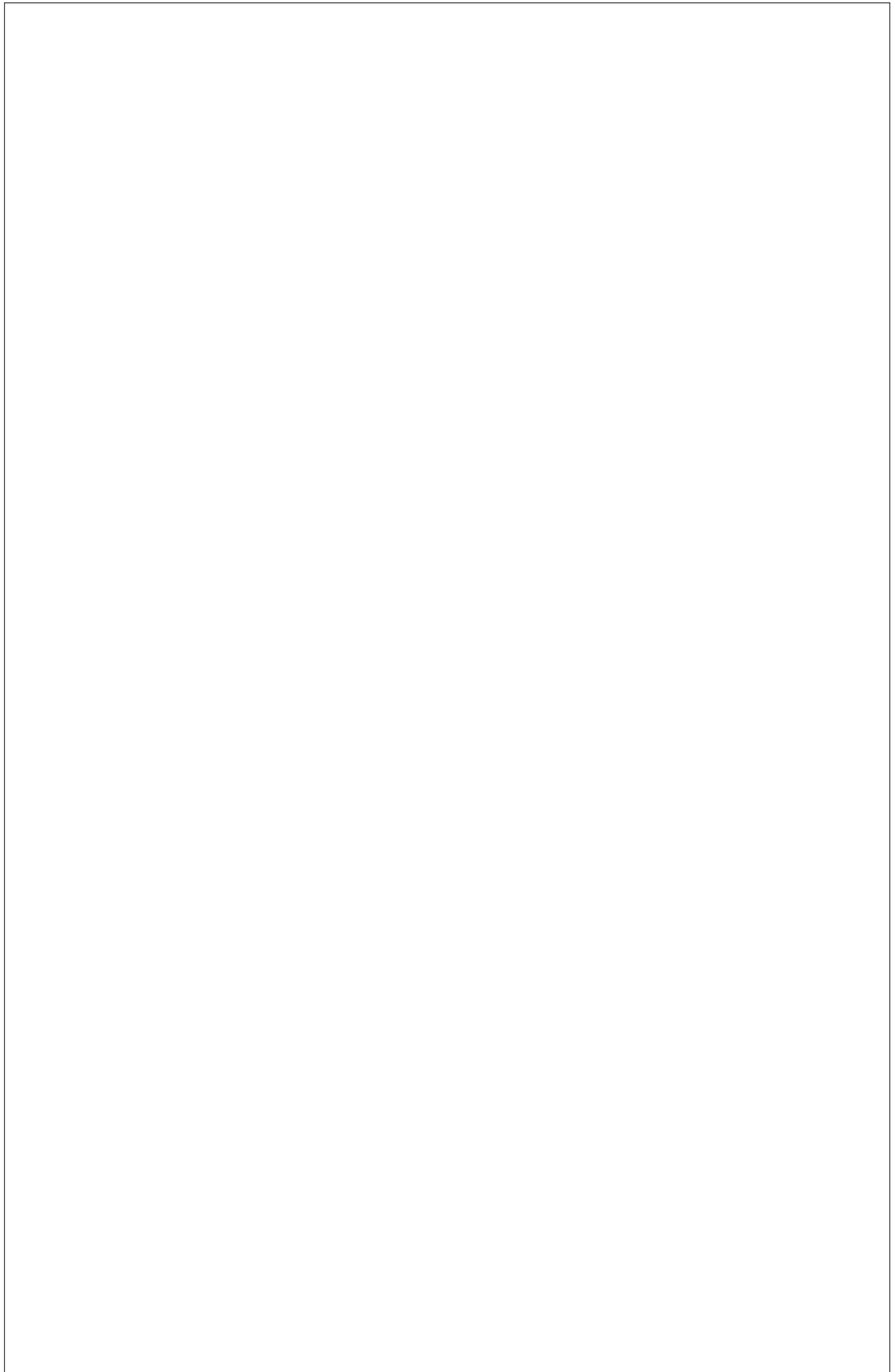
If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always, satisfying your needs in a sun-scorched land, and strengthening your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the foundations of many generations. And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, the Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.

May God forever bless and keep you.

Know that you are never, never, never alone.

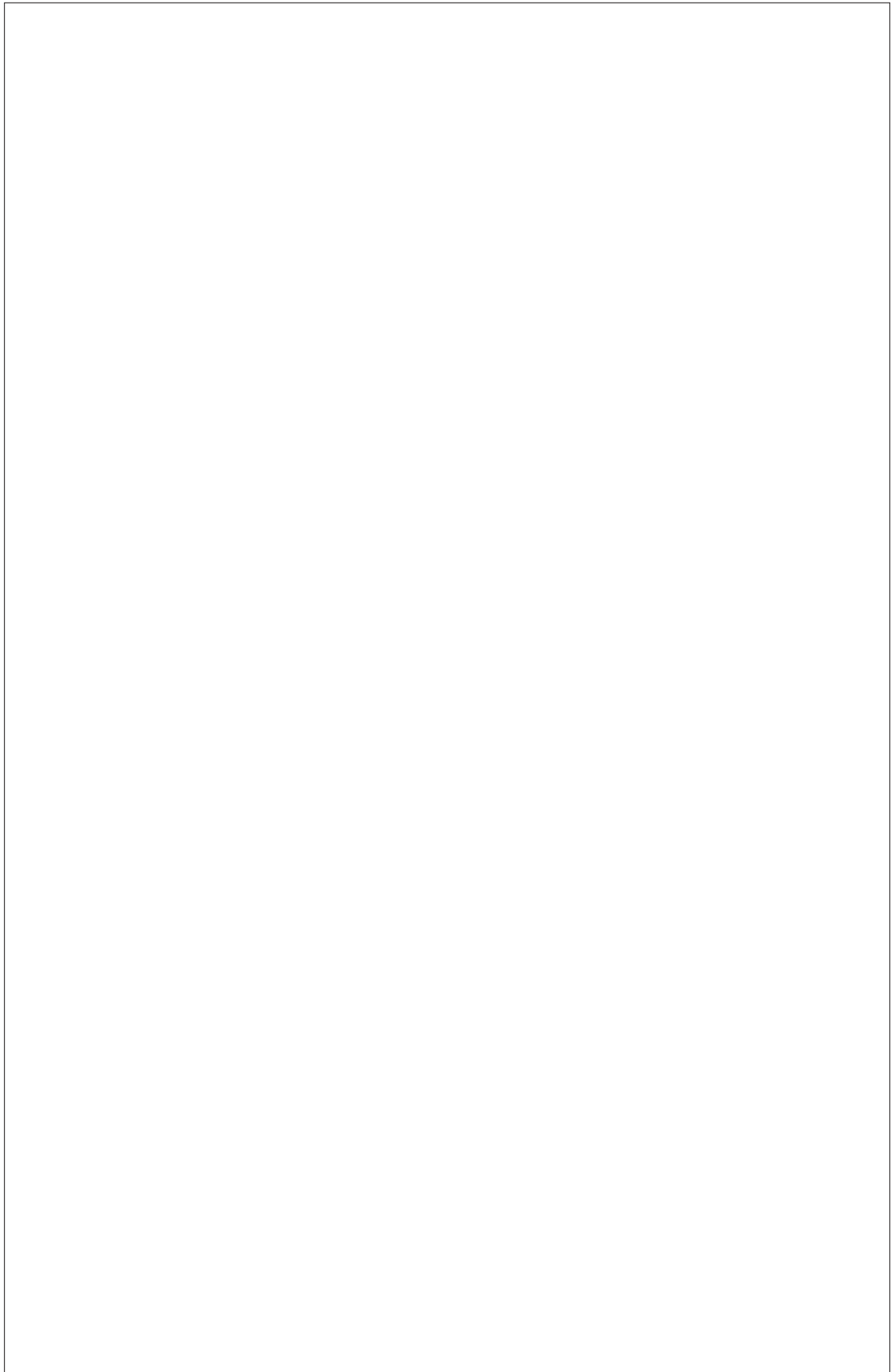
With Love,

MR





RESOURCE GUIDE



A NOTE TO THE READER

The resource guide that follows provides information on important strategies, issues and organizations that you may wish to utilize in your efforts to improve your life and your world.

The resource guide is divided into several sections:

An outline of the *Dream Again Forum*, which is a summit that you, your friends, and members of your family can organize to help your community dream again about a better world.

A list of *books* that can provide you with useful information on personal, community, national, and international issues, as well as strategies for positive change.

A list of *movies* that can inspire you, while also educating you on a variety of key issues.

A list of “*think-tanks*” and *policy groups* that can provide you with ongoing sources of research on (and suggested solutions for) societal challenges, from a variety of perspectives.

A list of *United States and international non-governmental organizations* that you may wish to become involved with or support.

A list of *United States government entities* you may wish to learn more about and engage in your ongoing work.

A list of *news and current events publications* that can provide you with ongoing information, from a variety of perspectives, on important local, national, and international events.

After you’ve read through the resource guide, you may wish to visit www.todreamagain.com for additional useful information.

TO DREAM AGAIN

I would love to hear from you. Please tell me about your *Dream Again Forum*, and how you are getting involved with organizations in your community. And I would love to hear about your favorite book, movie, or publication.

Please feel free to email me directly at either address:

Anthony@betterlifecommunications.com

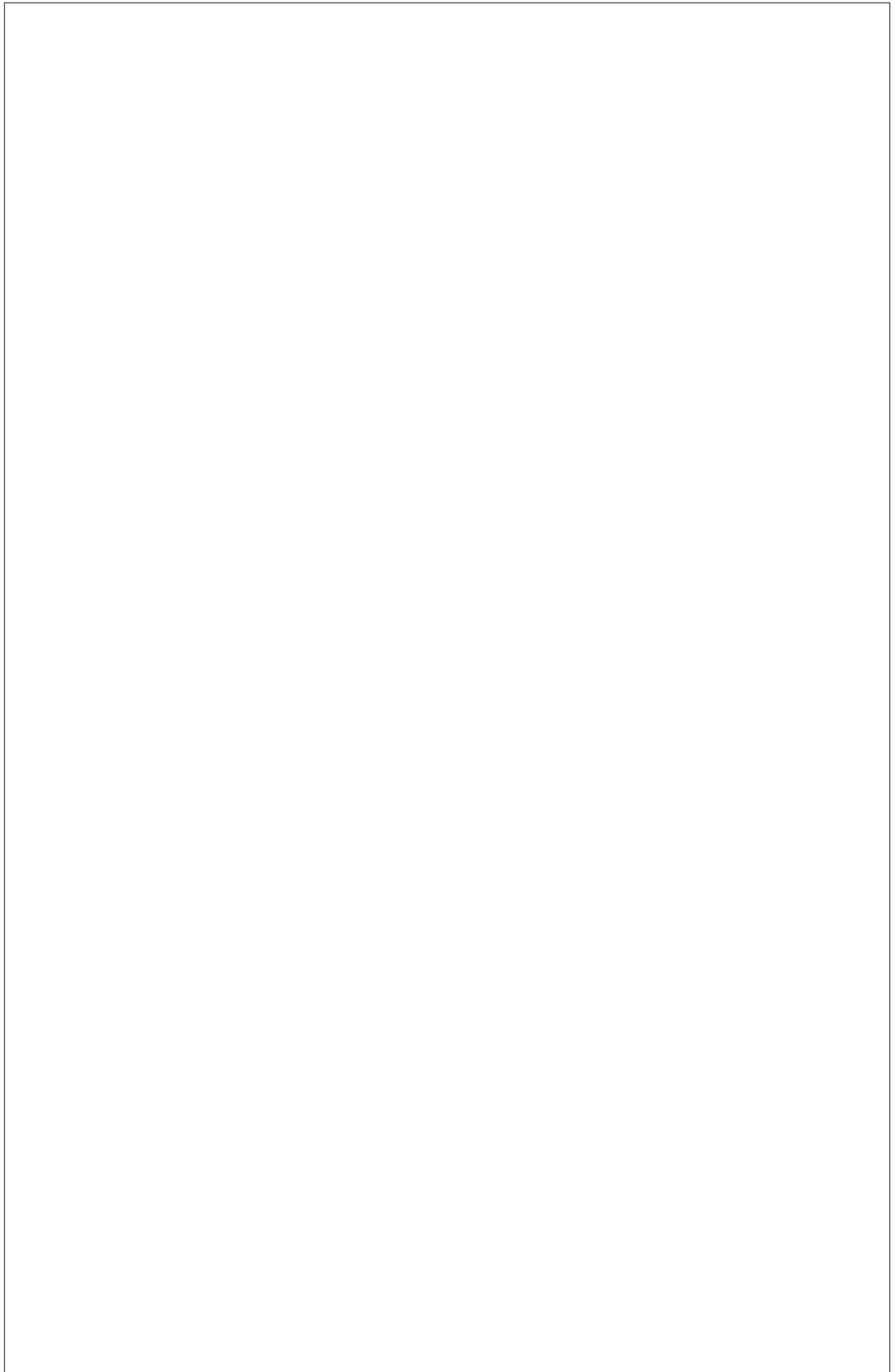
aswelch@aol.com


Thank you.

Anthony S. Welch



DREAM AGAIN FORUM



ream of a new world. Imagine that every person in America and across the world had the tools and resources necessary to succeed in life. Imagine that every young person had a healthy start with good nutrition and health-care. Imagine that every young person had caring adults who provided ongoing guidance, encouragement and support. Imagine that every young person had safe places in which to live and learn. Imagine that every person had an effective education and marketable skills. Imagine that every person had ongoing opportunities to serve his or her community. Imagine that people of all ages, and from all backgrounds, could enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Imagine that you could work with others to help turn this dream into reality.

What follows is an outline of the Dream Again Forum, a summit that you, your friends, and members of your family can organize to help your community begin to answer the following questions: “How can we create a community, country and world in which every person has the tools and resources necessary to succeed in life? What do we want our community to be, do, and have for the next generation, and how can we get there together?”

DREAM AGAIN FORUM OUTLINE

1. Speak with your friends and members of your family about your interest in organizing the Forum, and have at least five of them agree to work with you to make the Forum a reality.
2. Find a venue for the Forum. You probably will find that a school, college, faith institution, or other community organization will be willing to co-host the Forum with you.
3. Invite as many people from as many different walks of life as possible to attend the Forum. For example, you will probably find it helpful to invite your United States Congressperson; your mayor; the city or town council; business and philanthropic leaders; teachers and principals; the schools' superintendent and school board; the police chief; hospital and health clinic officials; TV, radio, and newspaper reporters; faith institution leaders; neighborhood associations; housing development, youth development, food bank, and other non-profit organizations; and, especially, parents and young people.
4. On the day of the Forum, you may wish to begin the Forum by thanking all of the attendees and sharing overview information and ground rules that can help make the Forum as productive and constructive as possible. Reiterate that the purpose of the Forum is to discuss the creation of a better community, country, and world for everyone, including the next generation. Tell the attendees that today's Forum is the beginning of a journey, and that today, they will begin to get to know each other, identify needs, assets, and opportunities in the community, and discuss and develop concrete steps that can be taken to address community and other issues in ongoing ways. Share with the attendees that it is perfectly fine and expected that people will have disagreements throughout the Forum, and that often the best ideas come from the synthesis and modification of seemingly opposed viewpoints. Be as clear as you possibly can that everyone's point of view is to be respected, and that the opinions of

young people are to be especially valued.

5. Ask everyone in the audience to write down two things he or she loves about the community, two things he or she wants changed in the community, and two specific ideas for how the needed changes can or should occur. You might wish to encourage people to write down their thoughts for how education, the economy, healthcare, and inter-faith and race relations could be improved in the community. Collect what the attendees write down.
6. Next, ask the participants to break into small groups of 10 people to do the following. Each member in the small group should briefly share his or her vision for a better community. The group members should then begin a discussion that results in their deciding upon five changes that are needed to create a better community. The group members should then select one member to be their spokesperson who will share their five ideas for positive change with the entire group of attendees when it reconvenes.
7. Then, reconvene the entire group of attendees and ask the spokesperson from each group to share his or her group's five ideas for change. Be sure to record and collect each of the small group's ideas.
8. Next, ask audience members to raise their hands if there is at least one idea to which they would be willing to devote some of their time, talent, and treasure over the next year to help bring that idea into reality. Then, ask individuals in the audience, one at a time as time allows, to share the idea he or she would most be interested in working on. Be sure to give the young people in attendance opportunities to share their ideas.
9. Then, ask everyone in the audience to break into their small groups again to do the following. Each member should write down the one to two ideas he or she is willing to work on during the next year, along with contact information he

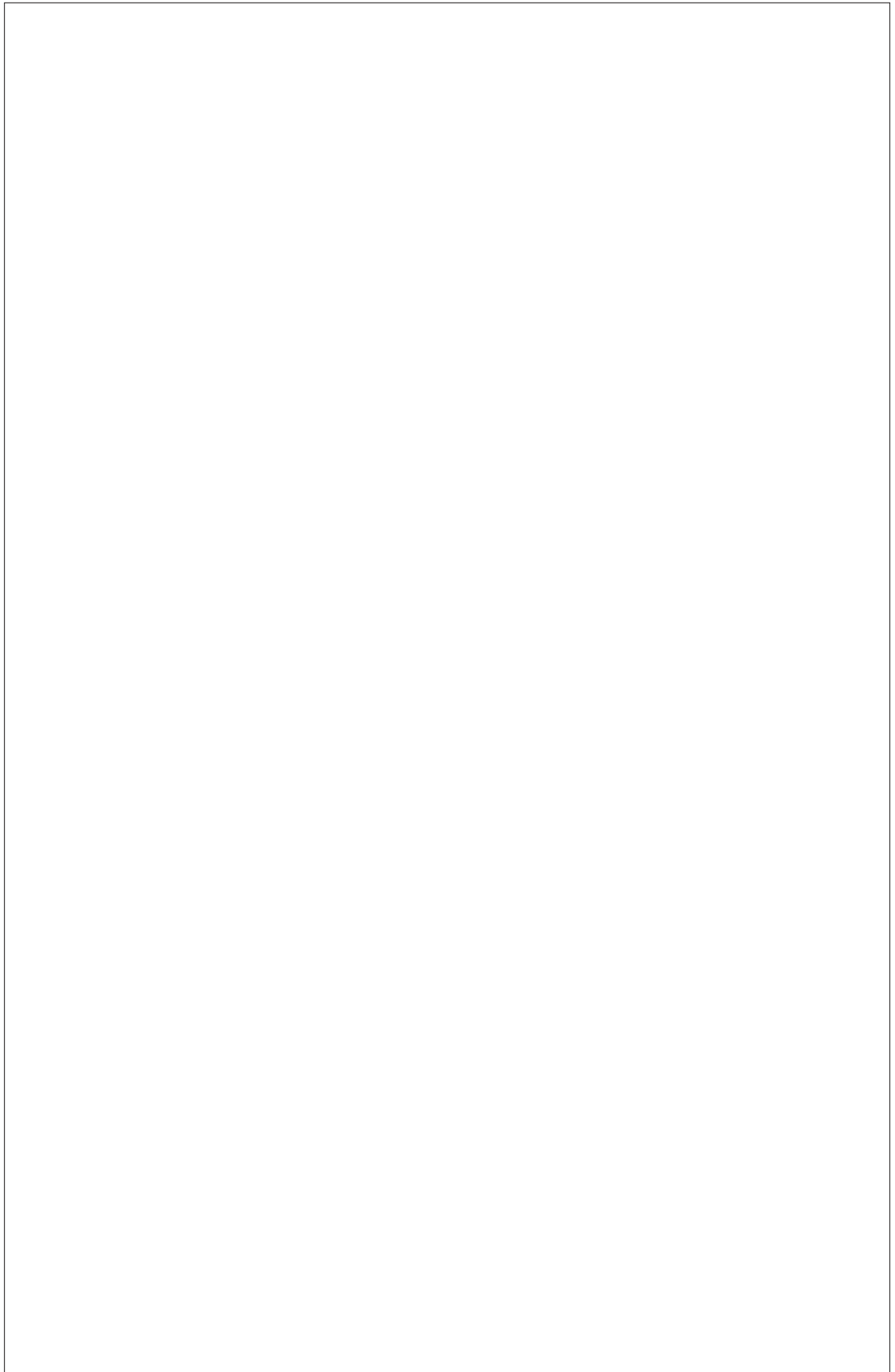
or she is willing to share. The group members should then select one member to be their representative on the “Dream Again Committee”, a committee which will meet monthly to coordinate the community’s ongoing work on the ideas for change that result from the Forum. The Committee representative should collect the ideas and contact information from his or her group members.

10. Next, reconvene the entire group of attendees, and remind them that the Dream Again Committee will be reaching out to Forum participants in the coming days and weeks to keep them involved, and that the Committee will host quarterly Dream Again Forums to report on progress, celebrate accomplishments, review lessons learned, and make any needed modifications to the community’s plans for improvement.

Please feel free to change the Forum framework outlined above to best suit the particular interests and circumstances of your community. In addition, please refer to the “United States and International Non-Governmental Organizations” section of this resource guide for information on organizations you may wish to ensure are involved in your community’s ongoing improvement efforts.



BOOKS



A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr. Edited by James Washington (Published most recently in 1990.) *A Testament of Hope* is a wide-ranging and compelling collection of speeches, interviews, and writings by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

An Easy Burden: The Civil Rights Movement and the Transformation of America by Andrew Young (Published most recently in 1997.) Andrew Young, a top aide to Dr. King who later became a United States Congressman, United Nations Ambassador, and mayor of Atlanta, gives a captivating, first-hand account of the civil rights movement and the heroes and heroines who changed America forever.

Bearing the Cross: Martin Luther King, Jr. and The Southern Christian Leadership Conference by David Garrow (Published most recently in 1999.) Winner of the 1987 Pulitzer Prize for biography, *Bearing the Cross* is a monumental history of Dr. King's life, his strengths and weaknesses, his humanity, and his inspiring vision and leadership.

Before the Mayflower: A History of Black America by Lerone Bennett, Jr. (Published most recently in 1993.) *Before the Mayflower* is a thought-provoking history of the African-American experience, from the 1600s to the 1990s.

Better Together: Restoring the American Community by Robert Putnam and Lewis Feldstein (Published most recently in 2003.) Robert Putnam and Lewis Feldstein provide inspiring examples of Americans from all backgrounds successfully overcoming local problems and civic challenges in communities across America.

First Things First: To Live, to Love, to Learn, to Leave a Legacy by Stephen Covey and Roger and Rebecca Merrill (Published most recently in 1996.) This book outlines important principles and strategies that are essential to living a life full of meaning and a sense of contribution.

Longitudes and Attitudes: The World in the Age of Terrorism by Thomas Friedman (Published most recently in 2003.) Pulitzer Prize winner Thomas Friedman provides an insightful and engaging analysis of American foreign policy and the war on terrorism.

Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela by Nelson Mandela (Published most recently in 1995.) In his autobiography, Nelson Mandela provides a look into his life's long journey from foster son of a chief to freely elected President of South Africa. In this remarkable book, Mandela's determination, courage, and commitment to selfless service shine through.

Mandela by Anthony Sampson (Published most recently in 1999.) This authorized biography is a wonderful complement to *Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela*, offering useful additional information on Nelson Mandela's inspirational life and work.

Of Kennedys and Kings: Making Sense of the Sixties by Harris Wofford (Published most recently in 1992.) An advisor to President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Wofford presents a riveting first-hand account of the triumphant and tragic 1960s.

One Day, All Children: The Unlikely Triumph of Teach for America and What I Learned Along the Way by Wendy Kopp (Published most recently in 2001.) *One Day, All Children* tells the inspirational story of Teach for America, an organization created by Wendy Kopp and other young idealists to ensure that one day, all children will have access to a quality education.

The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement: Black Communities Organizing for Change by Aldon Morris. (Published most recently in 1986.) Aldon Morris outlines the key organizations, leaders, strategies, and tactics that made the civil rights movement successful.

Still I Rise: A Cartoon History of African Americans by Roland Laird and Taneshia Laird (Published most recently in 1997.) Beginning with the arrival of the first African indentured servants in the colonies, and culminating in the Million Man March, *Still I Rise* brings to light many surprising and little-known facts of American history, making this cartoon-formatted book a joy to both those who thought they knew it all already and those learning history for the first time.

The Breakout Principle by Herbert Benson and William Proctor (Published most recently in 2003.) In *The Breakout Principle*, Harvard Medical School professor Dr. Herbert Benson draws upon his more than thirty years of research to outline simple, easy-to-access techniques that can be used every day to significantly improve physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.

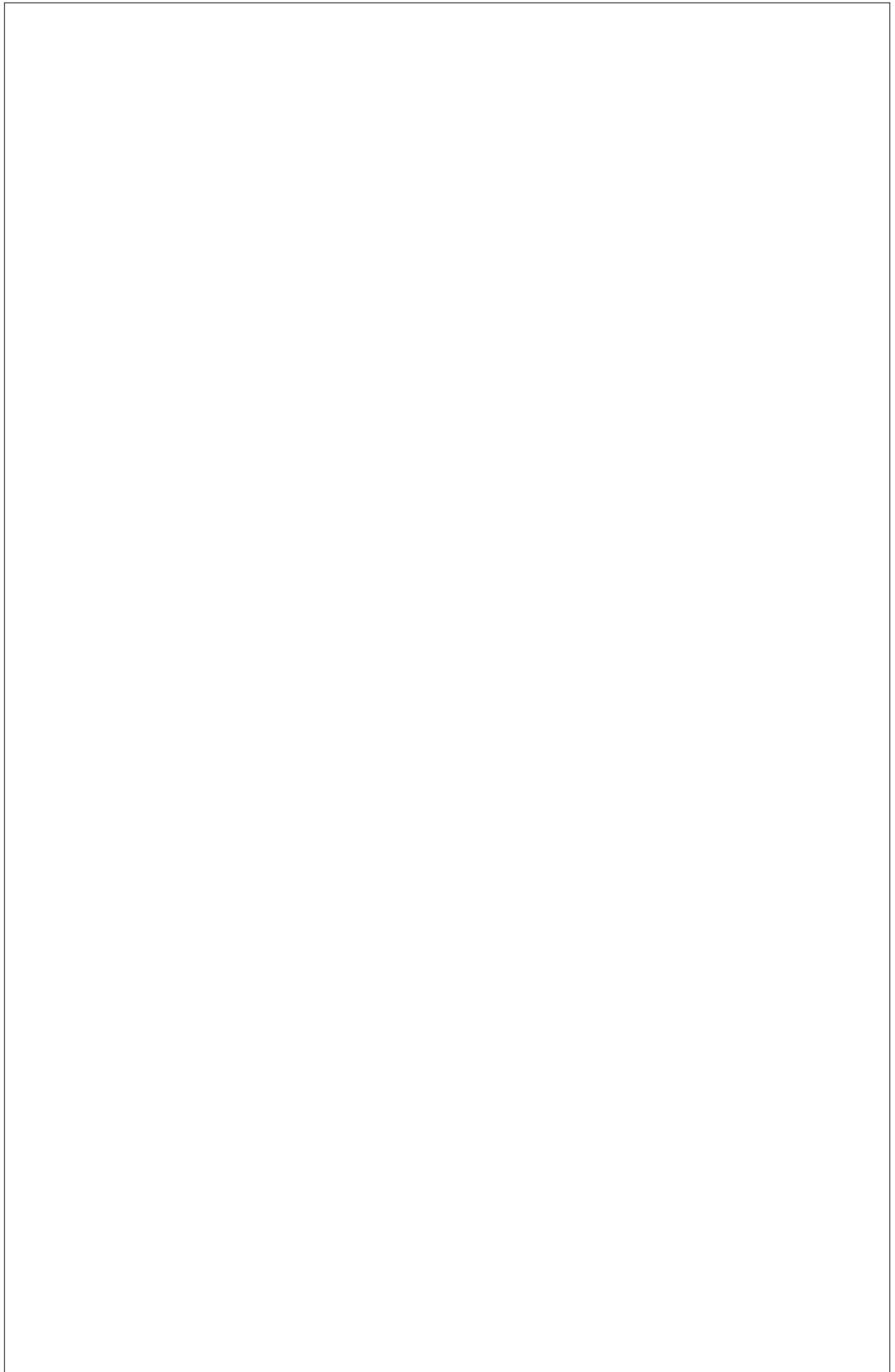
The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference by Malcolm Gladwell (Published most recently in 2002.) *The Tipping Point* is a marvelous analysis of the key factors associated with small- and large-scale change. Gladwell examines how ideas and behaviors can spread in ways similar to a virus.

There Are No Shortcuts: How An Inner-City Teacher—Winner Of The American Teacher Award—Inspires His Students And Challenges Us To Rethink The Way We Educate Our Children by Rafe Esquith (Published most recently in 2003.) Esquith's enthralling book details the philosophy and techniques that have helped him to become one of America's most successful teachers. In addition, *There Are No Shortcuts* serves as an important call-to-action for all of those concerned with the state of American education.

Why We Can't Wait by Martin Luther King, Jr. (Published most recently in 2000.) In this eloquent assessment of the factors and forces underpinning the civil rights movement, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. recounts his work in the struggle for equal rights for all Americans.



MOVIES



Bowling for Columbine

(Released in 2002)

In this provocative documentary, filmmaker Michael Moore explores the allure of guns and violence in America, and the impact that fear has had on our social and political culture. This documentary also challenges our thinking about the issue of guns and violence—for example, Moore points out that Canada, in spite of higher unemployment and higher gun ownership, has fewer homicides on a per capita basis than the United States.

Boycott

(Released in 2001)

This inspiring historical drama tells the powerful story of the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama that was initiated by the courageous actions of Ms. Rosa Parks, and that catapulted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. into the leadership of the emerging civil rights movement. Jeffrey Wright, Carmen Ejogo, and Terrence Dashon Howard are among the stars of this film.

Cry Freedom

(Released in 1987, 1999)

Based on actual events, this stirring drama follows the life of the young and bold black South African anti-apartheid leader Stephen Biko (played by Denzel Washington), who is eventually murdered for his political activities by the South African government in 1977. Biko's story is brought to the wider world's attention through the valiant efforts of Donald Woods, a white South African journalist (played by Kevin Kline).

Eyes on the Prize

(Released in 1986, 1987, 1989)

This award-winning, multi-part documentary series charts the civil rights movement from the 1950s to the 1970s. In *Eyes on the Prize*, you will meet, up-close, the great leaders of the movement, as well as the countless unsung heroes and heroines in communi-

ties across America who devoted their lives to the great cause of freedom. In this very moving documentary series, we see the places, people, and events behind the civil rights movement and see first-hand the triumphs and tragedies, and successes and failures of a great period in history.

Gandhi

(Released in 1982, 2001)

Ben Kingsley stars as Mohandas Gandhi in this Oscar-winning film, based on actual events in the life of Gandhi, one of the greatest political and spiritual leaders of the 20th century. In this inspiring film, we see how a humble human being committed to helping others can, literally, change the world.

Pay It Forward

(Released in 2000)

In this very appealing film, an 11-year old responds to a challenge his social studies teacher has issued to his class—create an innovative, but practical way to improve the world. The young boy's creative response changes the lives of many, forever. Haley Joel Osment, Kevin Spacey, and Helen Hunt star in *Pay It Forward*.

The Pianist

(Released in 2002)

In this poignant, Academy award-winning drama based on a true story, filmmaker Roman Polanski charts the life of a gifted musician (played by Adrien Brody) whose life is eternally changed by the brutal occupation of Warsaw, Poland by the Nazis. The musician's immense love for his family and for music helps him to overcome unspeakable challenges, and survive one of the most tragic periods of the 20th century.

Rabbit-Proof Fence

(Released in 2002)

In this extraordinary drama based on actual events, filmmaker Phillip Noyce tells the story of three endearing aboriginal girls in Australia who are taken, against their and their parents' will, several hundred miles from their home to be schooled and raised as "white Australian" children at a government-run institution in the 1930s. Refusing to submit to this racist government policy, the girls run away from the institution, and walk several hundred miles back home, overcoming thirst, hunger, and efforts by the government to apprehend them.

Roots

(Released in 1977, 2002)

Based on the best-selling novel by Alex Haley, this award-winning, multi-part drama charts the lives of Haley's family through the days of slavery in America. ***Roots***, one of the best mini-series of all time, stars LeVar Burton, John Amos, Leslie Uggams, and Ben Vereen.

The Rosa Parks Story

(Released in 2002)

Featuring Angela Bassett as Rosa Parks, this touching film details Ms. Park's long-standing desire to overcome segregation and discrimination, and the fateful decision she made one December evening to refuse to give up her seat on a bus.

Selma Lord Selma

(Released in 1999)

In this film, which is based on actual events, two daring young girls (played by Jurnee Smollett and Stephanie Zandra Peyton) become involved in the historic Selma movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which catalyzed the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act to ensure the right to vote for African-Americans across the South.

Skins

(Released in 2002)

Through a fascinating story about two brothers (played by Eric Schwieg and Graham Greene) living on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, filmmaker Chris Eyre provides a glimpse into present-day Native American life—the importance of family and tradition in the midst of harsh poverty and alcoholism.

Stand and Deliver

(Released in 1988, 1998)

In this inspiring true story, Jaime Escalante (played by Edward James Olmos) is a brilliant mathematics teacher committed to teaching his supposedly unreachable students advanced math in an East Los Angeles high school. In so doing, he also teaches them some very important lessons about life.

Tears of the Sun

(Released in 2003)

In this thought-provoking action drama, a United States special forces soldier (played by Bruce Willis) must serve a dual role—military man and humanitarian aid worker—to complete his mission. While not directly based on actual events, the movie raises challenging questions regarding the role of America's military in today's turbulent world.

Thirteen Days

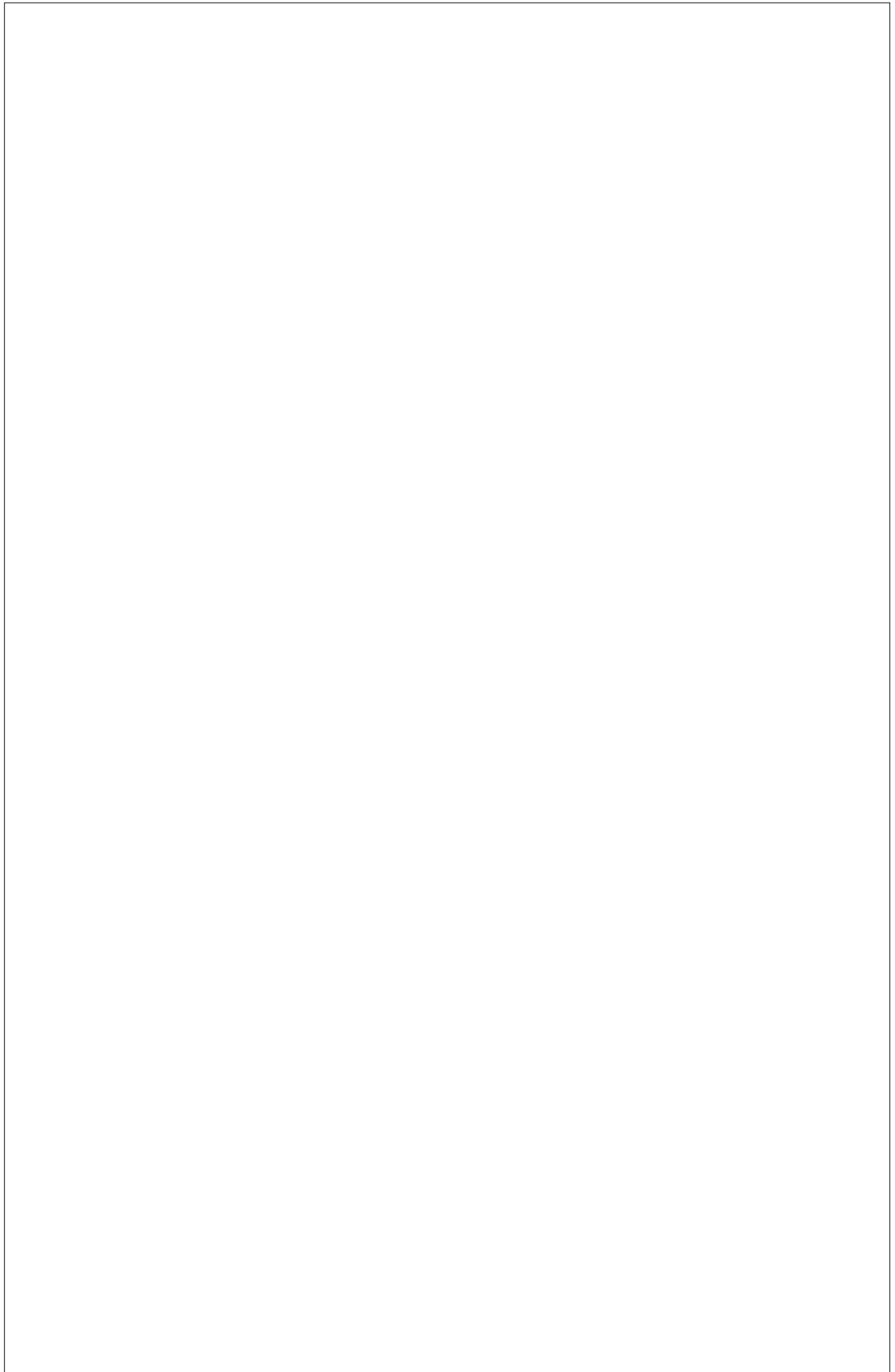
(Released in 2000)

Based on actual events related to the Cuban missile crisis, this engaging film details the near-tragic thirteen days in 1962 in which all-out nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union was a distinct possibility. In the movie, we see President John Kennedy (played by Bruce Greenwood) as he struggles with his aides (including one played by Kevin Costner) to make a variety of decisions that will avert, or trigger, war.

To Kill A Mockingbird

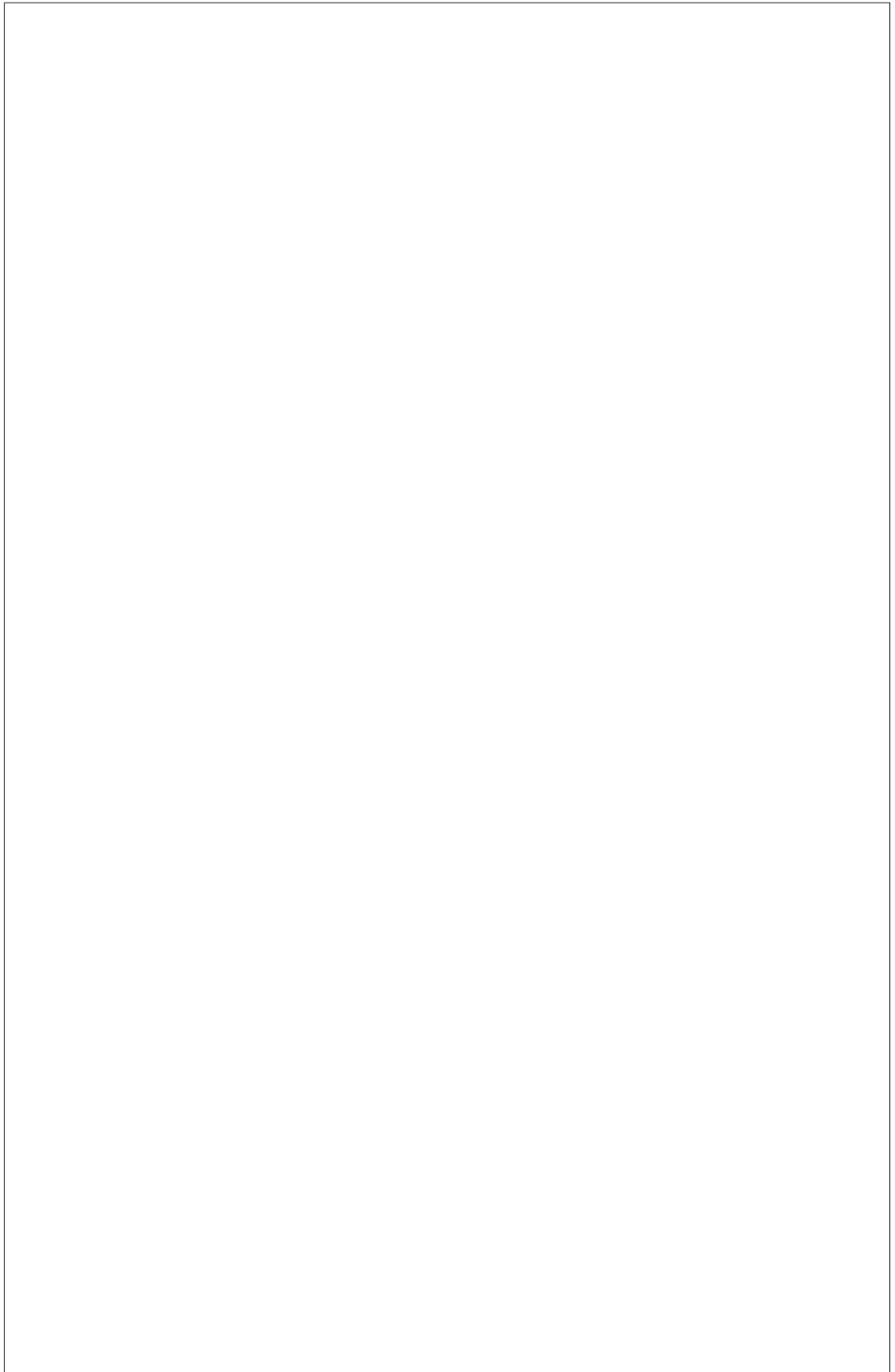
(Released in 1962, 1998)

Gregory Peck stars as Atticus Finch, a courageous and honorable white lawyer who works to challenge bigotry and racism in his small Alabama town in the 1930s. Based on Harper Lee's classic Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, the film is seen through the eyes of Finch's young daughter.





THINK-TANKS AND POLICY GROUPS



The following descriptions are derived from information on the respective organizations' websites.

Brookings Institution

<http://www.brook.edu>

The Brookings Institution is an independent, nonpartisan organization devoted to research, analysis, education, and publication focused on public policy issues in the areas of economics, foreign policy, and governance. The goal of Brookings activities is to improve the performance of American institutions and the quality of public policy by using social science to analyze emerging issues and to offer practical approaches to those issues in language aimed at the general public.

Cato Institute

<http://www.cato.org>

The Cato Institute seeks to broaden the parameters of public policy debate to allow consideration of the traditional American principles of limited government, individual liberty, free markets and peace. Toward that goal, the Institute strives to achieve greater involvement of the intelligent, concerned lay public in questions of policy and the proper role of government.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

<http://www.cbpp.org>

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities works on fiscal policy issues and issues affecting low- and moderate-income families and individuals. The Center specializes in research and analysis oriented toward policy decisions that policymakers face at both federal and state levels. The Center examines data and research findings and produces analyses designed to be accessible to public officials, other non-profit organizations, and the media.

Council on Foreign Relations

<http://www.cfr.org>

The Council on Foreign Relations is dedicated to increasing America's understanding of the world and contributing ideas to U.S. foreign policy. The Council accomplishes this mainly by promoting constructive debates and discussions, clarifying world issues, and publishing *Foreign Affairs*, the leading journal on global issues.

Heritage Foundation

<http://www.heritage.org>

The Heritage Foundation is a research and educational institute whose mission is to formulate and promote conservative public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense.

Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

<http://www.jointcenter.org>

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies informs and illuminates the nation's major public policy debates through research, analysis, and information dissemination in order to: improve the socioeconomic status of black Americans and other minorities; expand their effective participation in the political and public policy arenas; and promote communications and relationships across racial and ethnic lines to strengthen the nation's pluralistic society.

Moving Ideas Network

<http://www.movingideas.org>

Moving Ideas Network is dedicated to explaining and popularizing complex policy ideas to a broader audience. Its goal is to improve collaboration and dialogue between policy and grassroots organizations, and to promote their work to journalists and legislators.

Moving Ideas posts the best ideas and resources from leading progressive research and advocacy institutions, as well as promotes high-quality websites and publishes original content. It hopes to strengthen democratic participation by providing a more inclusive and intelligible debate about the issues that shape our world.

Progressive Policy Institute

<http://www.ppionline.org>

The Progressive Policy Institute's mission is to modernize progressive politics and government for the Information Age. Leaving behind the stale left-right debates of the industrial era, PPI is a prolific source of "Third Way" thinking that is shaping the emerging politics of the 21st century.

Public Agenda

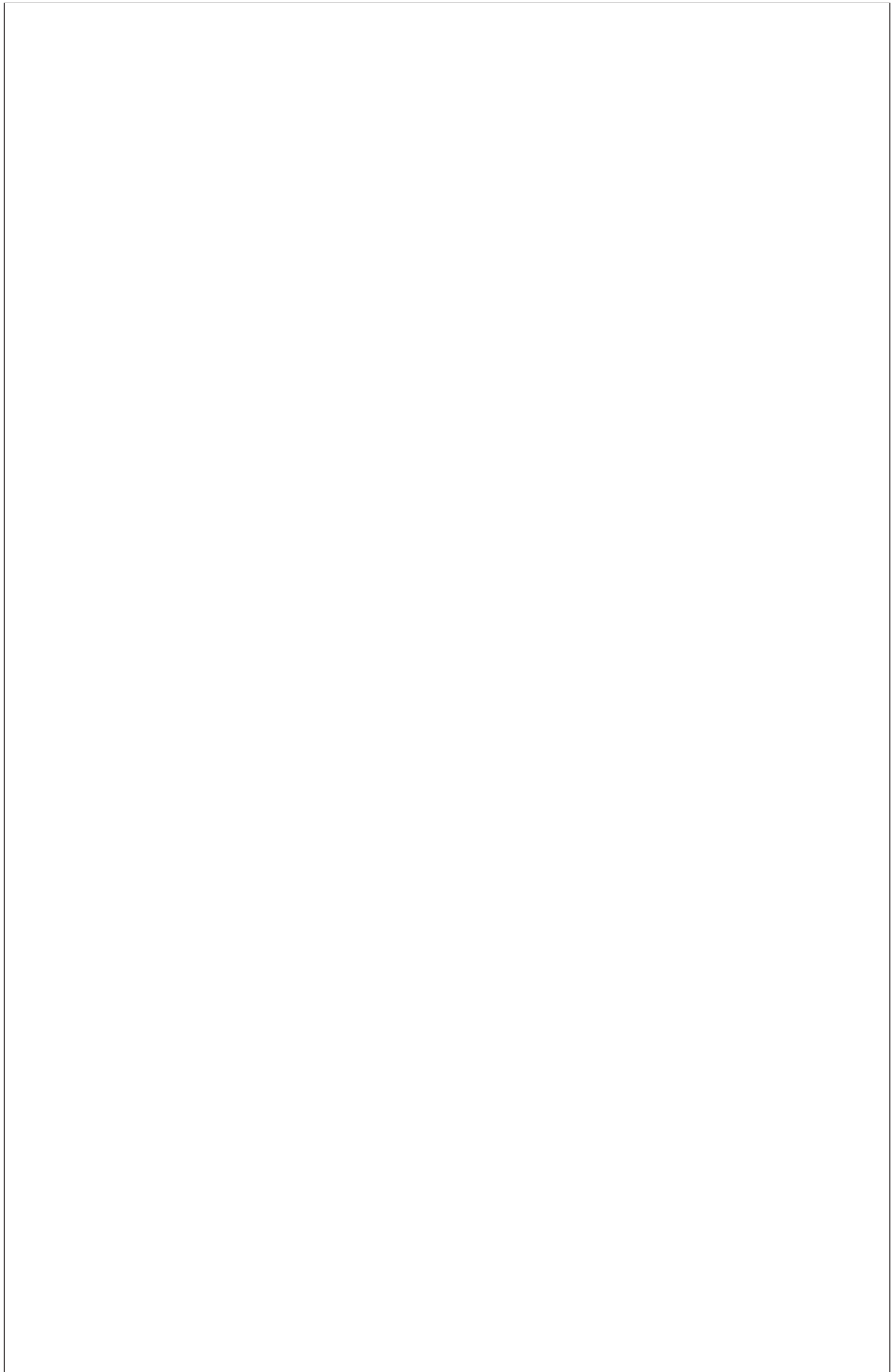
<http://www.publicagenda.org>

Public Agenda is a nonpartisan, nonprofit public opinion research and citizen education organization. Drawing on its research, Public Agenda prepares a broad array of educational materials that help explain policy issues to the public in a balanced and easy-to-understand way. Citizens can use this information to weigh various choices and make educated decisions.

Public / Private Ventures

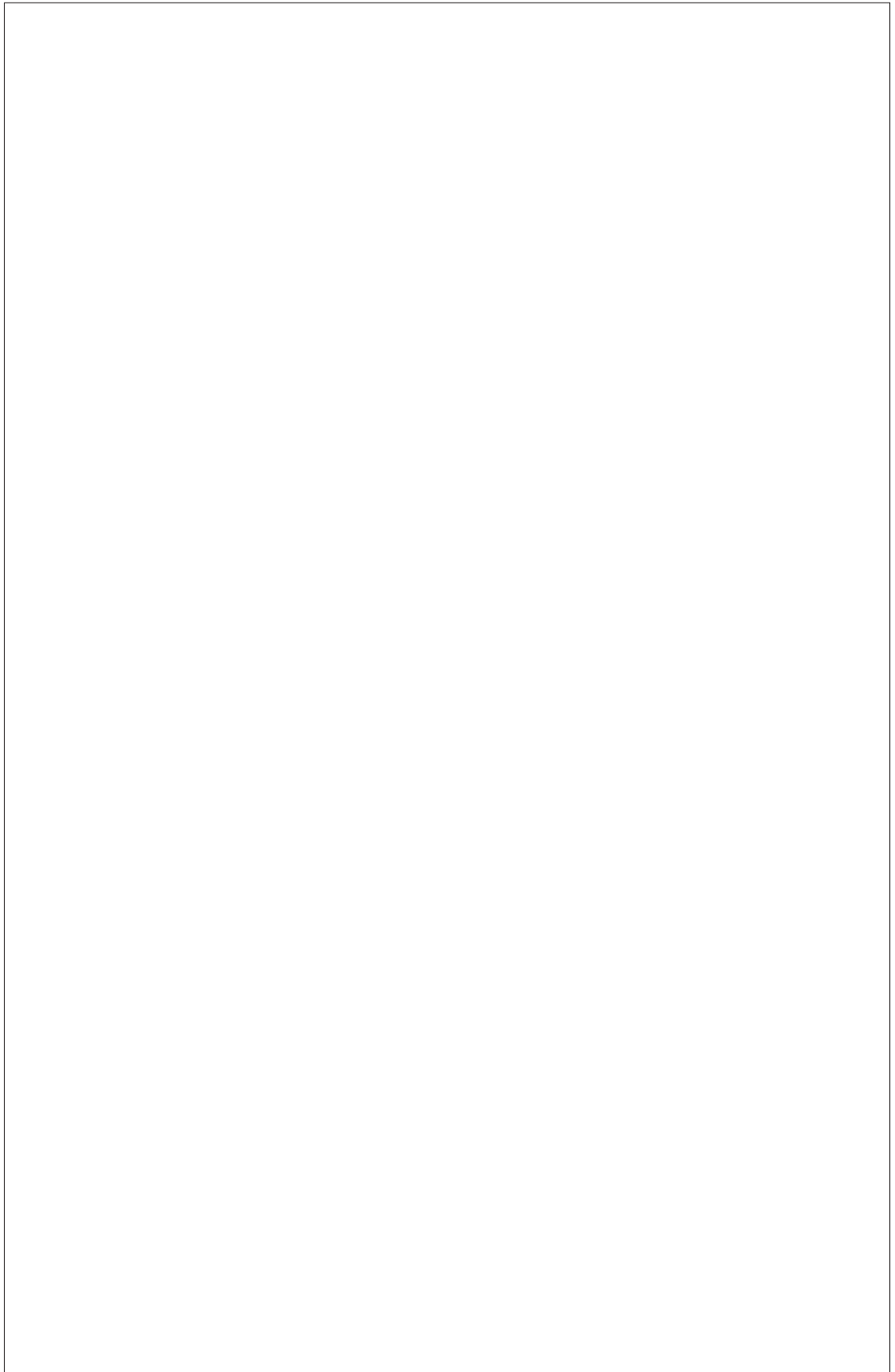
<http://www.ppv.org>

Public/Private Ventures is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the effectiveness of social policies, programs and community initiatives, especially as they affect youth and young adults. In carrying out this mission, P/PV works with philanthropies, the public and business sectors, and nonprofit organizations.





**UNITED STATES AND
INTERNATIONAL
NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS**



The following descriptions are derived from information on the respective organizations' websites.

America's Promise

<http://www.americaspromise.org>

The mission of America's Promise is to mobilize people from every sector of American life to build the character and competence of our nation's youth by fulfilling Five Promises: ongoing relationships with caring adults, safe places with structured activities, a healthy start, marketable skills, and opportunities to give back.

America's Second Harvest

<http://www.secondharvest.org>

Through a network of over 200 food banks and food-rescue programs, America's Second Harvest provides emergency food assistance to more than 23 million hungry Americans each year, eight million of whom are children.

ASPIRA Association

<http://www.aspira.org>

The ASPIRA Association is a national nonprofit organization that promotes empowering Puerto Rican and Latino communities by developing and nurturing the leadership, intellectual and cultural potential of their youth.

Beliefnet

<http://www.beliefnet.com>

Beliefnet's mission is to help people meet their religious, spiritual and moral needs by providing information, inspiration, and community.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America

<http://www.bbbsa.org>

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America is a federation of more than 500 affiliated youth mentoring agencies in all 50 states, Puerto

TO DREAM AGAIN

Rico and Guam, and it forms the largest national network of youth mentoring organizations in the country.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America

<http://www.bgca.org>

Club programs and services promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence.

Campus Outreach Opportunity League (COOL)

<http://www.cool2serve.org>

The vision of COOL is to mobilize and connect students of all backgrounds to lead a movement that increases participation in our communities, promotes activism and fosters the civic and social responsibility to build a just society.

Center for Youth as Resources (CYAR)

<http://www.cyar.org>

CYAR serves as the umbrella organization for YAR programs throughout the United States and abroad. The YAR program model is based on the philosophy that youth are valuable community resources and should be recognized as such. Local YAR programs, governed by boards composed of both youth and adults, provide grants for youth-initiated, youth-led service projects that benefit the community.

Children's Defense Fund

<http://www.childrensdefense.org>

The mission of the Children's Defense Fund is to Leave No Child Behind® and to ensure every child a healthy start, a head start, a fair start, a safe start and a moral start in life, and a successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

Children's Health Fund

<http://www.childrenshealthfund.org>

The Children's Health Fund is the nation's leading provider of support and technical assistance to pediatric health care programs in medically underserved communities.

City Year

<http://www.city-year.org>

An action tank for national service, City Year seeks to demonstrate, improve and promote the concept of national service as a means of building a stronger democracy. City Year unites a diverse corps of young adults, ages 17 to 24, for a demanding year of full-time community service, leadership development and civic engagement.

CityCares

<http://www.citycares.org>

CityCares expands and supports an innovative alliance of volunteer organizations working to build community through service and civic engagement. The CityCares Network mobilizes volunteers; manages organized, innovative service projects; delivers community impact; and cultivates citizen leaders.

Communities In Schools

<http://www.cisnet.org>

Communities In Schools champions the connection of needed community resources with schools to help young people successfully learn, stay in school, and prepare for life.

Congress.org

<http://www.congress.org>

Congress.org, a free public service of Capitol Advantage, is a "one-stop-shop" where one can identify his or her Congressional representatives; research Congressional voting records; learn about the issues of the day; and send e-mail directly to Congress.

TO DREAM AGAIN

Echoing Green

<http://www.echoinggreen.org>

To effect lasting, positive social change, Echoing Green identifies, invests in and supports the world's most exceptional emerging leaders and the organizations they launch. Echoing Green provides two-year Fellowships to assist leaders in turning their innovative ideas into action through developing new and autonomous organizations.

First Book

<http://www.firstbook.org>

First Book is a leading children's literacy organization that provides new books to children of low-income families who are participating in community literacy programs around the country.

Girls Incorporated

<http://www.girlsinc.org>

Girls Incorporated® is a youth development organization that inspires all girls to be strong, smart and bold. Research-based programs offered at 1,500 sites nationwide encourage girls ages 6 through 18 to take risks and master physical, intellectual and emotional challenges.

Habitat for Humanity

<http://www.habitat.org>

Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical, Christian housing ministry that seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness worldwide. It seeks to make a simple, decent place to live a matter of conscience and action, and a living reality for those in need of decent housing.

International Rescue Committee

<http://www.theirc.org>

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is a leading nonsec-

tarian voluntary organization providing relief, protection and resettlement for refugees in 70 countries. Through resettlement offices in some 20 U.S. cities, it helps refugees adapt to their new lives, learn English, find jobs and become self-sufficient.

The Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy

<http://www.jumpstartcoalition.org>

The Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy is composed of more than 150 government agencies, corporations, education groups and nonprofit organizations that are promoting the teaching of personal finance to students in grades K–12.

Jumpstart for Young Children

<http://www.jstart.org>

Jumpstart engages young people in service to work toward the day every child enters school prepared to succeed. Jumpstart builds school success, family involvement and future teachers, one child at a time.

Junior Achievement

<http://www.ja.org>

Junior Achievement is dedicated to educating young people about business, economics and free enterprise. JA's programs are taught by classroom volunteers from the business community in the United States and more than 100 countries worldwide.

The King Center

<http://www.thekingcenter.org>

The King Center is the official, living memorial dedicated to the advancement of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., leader of America's greatest nonviolent movement for justice, equality and peace.

TO DREAM AGAIN

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project

<http://www.stanford.edu/group/King>

Located at Stanford University, The King Papers Project is a major research effort to assemble and disseminate historical information concerning Martin Luther King, Jr. and the social movements in which he participated.

MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership

<http://www.mentoring.org>

MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership is an advocate for the expansion of mentoring and a resource for mentors and mentoring initiatives nationwide.

MoveOn

<http://www.moveon.org>

MoveOn is a catalyst for a new kind of grassroots involvement, supporting busy but concerned citizens in finding their political voice. Its international network of more than 2,000,000 online activists is one of the most effective and responsive outlets for democratic participation available today.

NAACP

<http://www.naacp.org>

The primary focus of the NAACP continues to be the protection and enhancement of the civil rights of African Americans and other minorities.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness

<http://www.naeh.org>

The National Alliance to End Homelessness is a nonprofit membership organization that seeks to mobilize all sectors of society to solve the problems of homelessness and prevent its continued growth.

National Center for Learning and Citizenship

http://www.ecs.org/html/projectsPartners/nclc/nclc_main.htm

The National Center for Learning and Citizenship assists state and local leaders in developing policies to help schools and teachers provide students with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed to be effective, contributing citizens.

The National Council of La Raza

<http://www.nclr.org>

The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1968 to reduce poverty and discrimination and improve life opportunities for Hispanic Americans.

National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship

<http://www.nfte.com>

The mission of the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) is to teach low-income youth, ages 11-18, to become economically productive members of society by improving their academic, business and life skills through entrepreneurship education.

National Service-Learning Partnership

<http://www.service-learningpartnership.org>

The Partnership is a national leadership organization dedicated to advancing service-learning as a core element of the educational experience of every elementary, middle, and secondary school student in the United States.

National Urban League

<http://www.nul.org>

The Urban League is the nation's oldest and largest community-based movement devoted to empowering African Americans to enter the economic and social mainstream.

TO DREAM AGAIN

National Youth Leadership Council

<http://www.nylc.org>

The National Youth Leadership Council's (NYLC) mission is to build vital, just communities with young people through service-learning.

One Economy

<http://www.one-economy.com>

One Economy brings access to technology to low-income affordable housing residents around the country to connect people to information and tools they can use to take action and improve their lives.

Oxfam

<http://www.oxfam.org>

Oxfam International is a confederation of 12 organizations working together in more than 100 countries to find lasting solutions to poverty, suffering and injustice.

Points of Light Foundation

<http://www.PointsofLight.org>

Through strong partnerships with the national Volunteer Center network, businesses and nonprofit organizations, the Points of Light Foundation connects volunteer leaders with the resources to engage people in community service.

Save the Children

<http://www.savethechildren.org>

Save the Children is a private, nonprofit child assistance organization dedicated to making lasting, positive change in the lives of children in need in the United States and around the world.

Share Our Strength

<http://www.strength.org>

By supporting food assistance, treating malnutrition and other consequences of hunger, and promoting economic independence among people in need, Share Our Strength meets immediate demands for food while investing in long-term solutions.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference

<http://sclcnational.org>

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) is a movement of people and for the people, growing out of the deep tradition and long history of struggle for basic human rights, and grounded in the philosophy of nonviolent resistance.

Teach for America

<http://www.teachforamerica.org>

Teach For America is the national corps of outstanding college graduates of all academic majors and backgrounds who commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools and become lifelong leaders in the effort to ensure that all children in our nation have an equal chance in life.

The United Nations

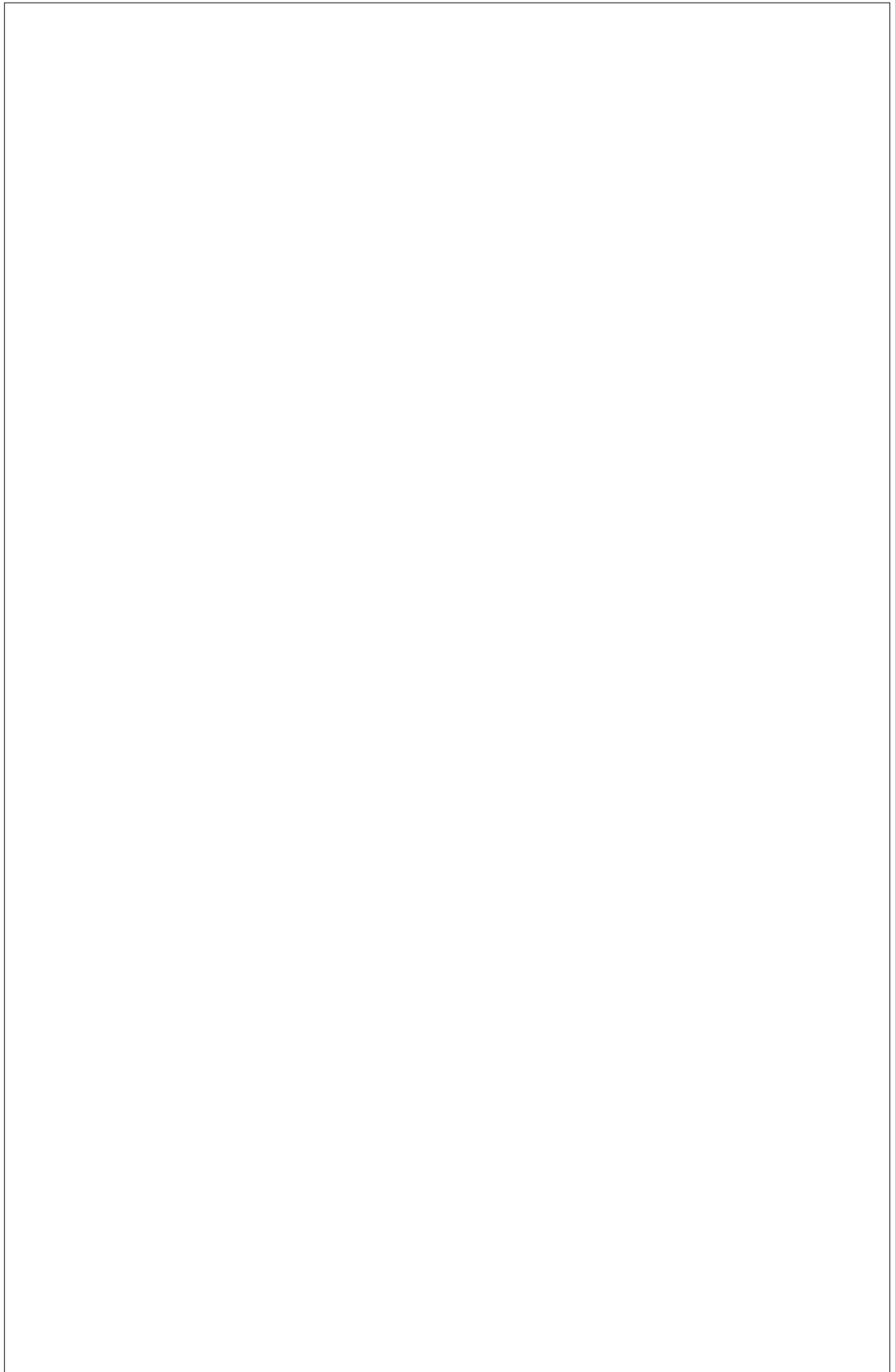
<http://www.un.org>

The United Nations is committed to preserving peace through international cooperation and collective security.

Youth Service America

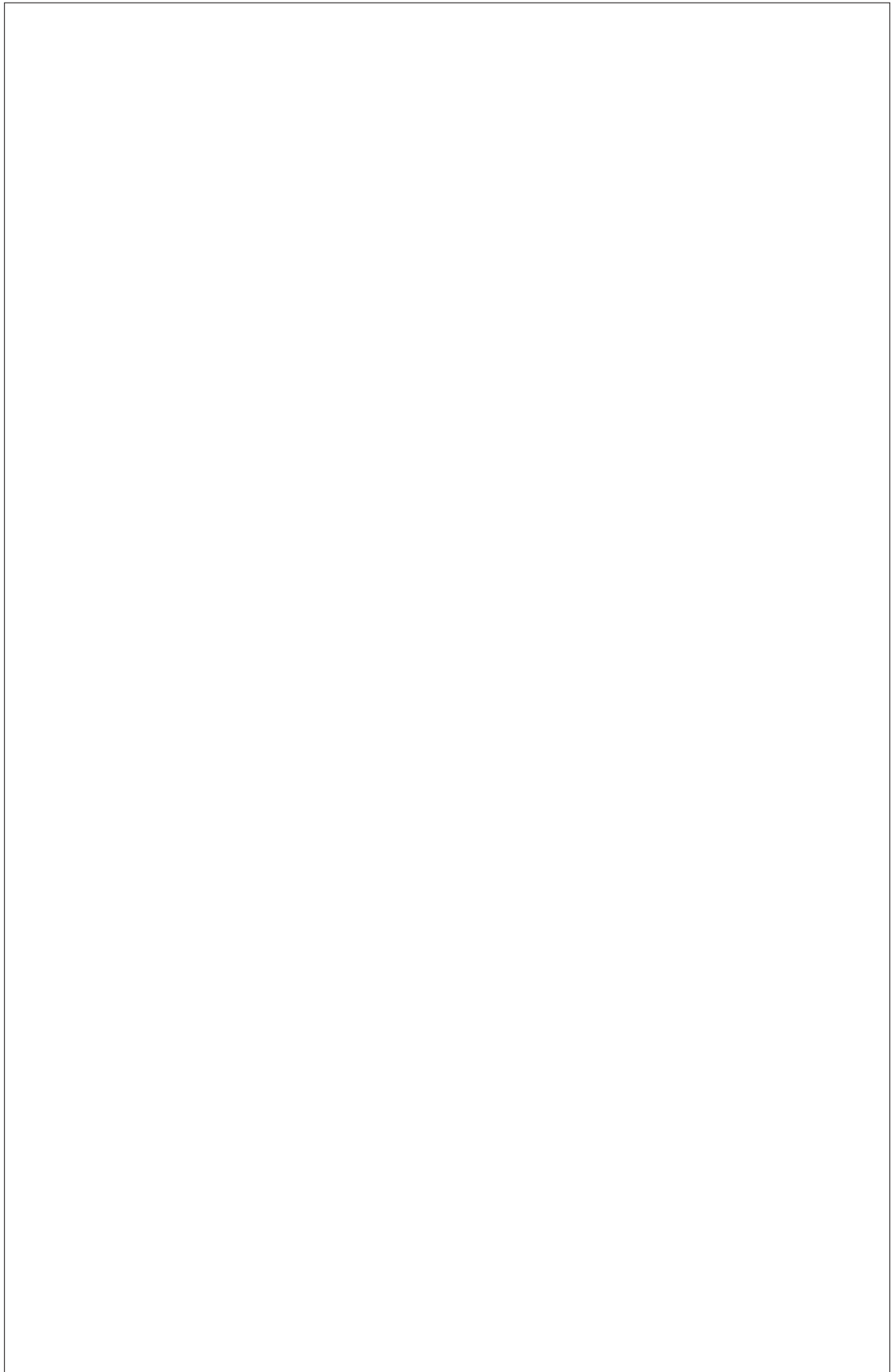
<http://www.ysa.org>

Youth Service America is a resource center and alliance of more than 300 organizations invested in increasing the quality and quantity of opportunities for young people in America to serve locally, nationally or globally.





**UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT ENTITIES**



The following descriptions are derived from information on the respective entities' websites.

FirstGov

<http://www.firstgov.gov>

FirstGov.gov, the official U.S. gateway to all government information, is the catalyst for a growing electronic government. On FirstGov, users can search more than 186 million web pages from federal and state governments, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories. FirstGov has the most comprehensive search of government anywhere on the Internet.

The White House

<http://www.whitehouse.gov>

The United States House of Representatives

<http://www.house.gov>

The United States Senate

<http://www.senate.gov>

United States Court System

<http://www.uscourts.gov>

The Corporation for National and Community Service

<http://www.cns.gov>

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities and country through three programs: Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America. Members and volunteers serve with national and community nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, schools, and local agencies to help meet community needs in education, the environment, public safety, homeland security, and other critical areas.

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United States Agency for International Development

<http://www.usaid.gov>

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is an independent agency that provides economic, development and humanitarian assistance around the world in support of the foreign policy goals of the United States.

The United States Department of Agriculture

<http://www.usda.gov>

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is a federal agency whose mission is to ensure a safe, affordable, nutritious and accessible food supply; care for agricultural, forest and range lands; support sound development of rural communities, youth and families; provide economic opportunities for farm and rural residents; expand global markets for agricultural and forest products and services; and work to reduce hunger.

United States Department of Commerce

<http://www.commerce.gov>

The Department of Commerce's mission is to create the conditions for economic growth and opportunity by promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, competitiveness and stewardship.

United States Department of Education

<http://www.ed.gov>

The U.S. Department of Education's mission is to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the nation.

United States Department of Energy

<http://www.doe.gov>

The Department of Energy (DOE) is a leading science and technology agency whose research supports our nation's energy security, national security, environmental quality and quality of life.

United States Department of Housing & Urban Development

<http://www.hud.gov>

HUD's mission is to provide decent, safe and sanitary homes and a suitable living environment for every American, increase affordable housing and homeownership, and strengthen communities by reducing homelessness, empowering people and promoting jobs and economic opportunity.

United States Department of Justice

<http://www.usdoj.gov>

The Justice Department's mission is to enforce the law and defend the interests of the United States according to the law; to ensure public safety against threats foreign and domestic; to provide Federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime; to seek just punishment for those guilty of unlawful behavior; to administer and enforce the Nation's immigration laws fairly and effectively; and to ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.

United States Department of Labor

<http://www.dol.gov>

The Department of Labor's mission is to foster and promote the welfare of the job seekers, wage earners, and retirees of the United States by improving their working conditions, advancing their opportunities for profitable employment, protecting their retirement and health care benefits, helping employers find workers, strengthening free collective bargaining, and tracking changes in employment, prices, and other national economic measurements.

United States Department of State

<http://www.state.gov>

As the lead U.S. foreign affairs agency, The Department of State's mission is to promote U.S. objectives and interests in shaping a freer, more secure and more prosperous world through formulating, representing and implementing the president's foreign policy.

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United States Department of Transportation

<http://www.dot.gov>

The Department of Transportation's mission is to ensure a fast, safe, efficient, accessible and convenient transportation system that meets our vital national interests and enhances the quality of life of the American people, today and into the future.

United States Department of Veteran Affairs

<http://www.va.gov>

The Department of Veterans Affairs' mission is to serve America's veterans and their families, and be their principal advocate to ensure that they receive medical care, benefits, social support and lasting memorials promoting veterans' service to the nation.

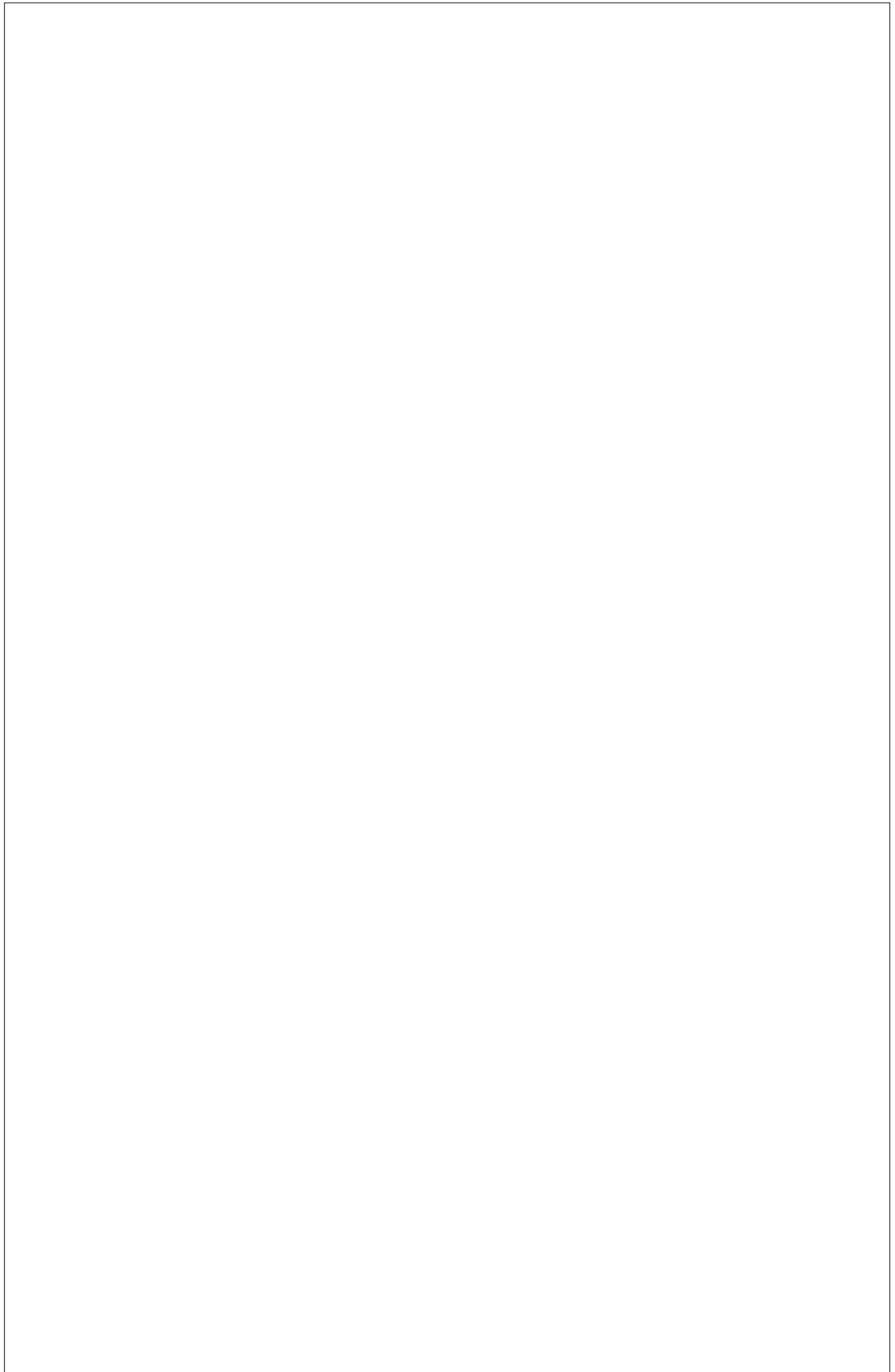
United States Peace Corps

<http://www.peacecorps.gov>

The Peace Corps helps interested countries meet their need for trained men and women, and helps Americans and people in other countries better understand one another.



**NEWS AND CURRENT
EVENTS PUBLICATIONS**



NEWS AND CURRENT EVENTS PUBLICATIONS

The New York Times
<http://www.nytimes.com>

The Wall Street Journal
<http://online.wsj.com>

The Washington Post
<http://www.washingtonpost.com>

The Los Angeles Times
<http://www.latimes.com>

Chicago Tribune
<http://www.chicagotribune.com>

Christian Science Monitor
<http://www.csmonitor.com>

USA Today
<http://www.usatoday.com>

CBS News
<http://www.cbsnews.com>

CNN
<http://www.cnn.com>

Fox News
<http://www.foxnews.com>

MSNBC
<http://www.msnbc.com>

Newsweek
<http://www.newsweek.com>

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Time
<http://www.time.com>

U.S. News & World Report
<http://www.usnews.com>

The Week
<http://www.theweekmagazine.com>

World Press Review
<http://www.worldpress.org>

Atlantic Monthly
<http://www.theatlantic.com>

Blackelectorate.com
<http://www.blackelectorate.com>

Indian Country Today
<http://www.indiancountry.com>

The Nation
<http://www.thenation.com>

National Review
<http://www.nationalreview.com>

The New Republic
<http://www.tnr.com>

The New Yorker
<http://www.newyorker.com>

Pop + Politics
<http://www.popandpolitics.com>

NEWS AND CURRENT EVENTS PUBLICATIONS

Slate

<http://slate.msn.com>

Tom Paine.com

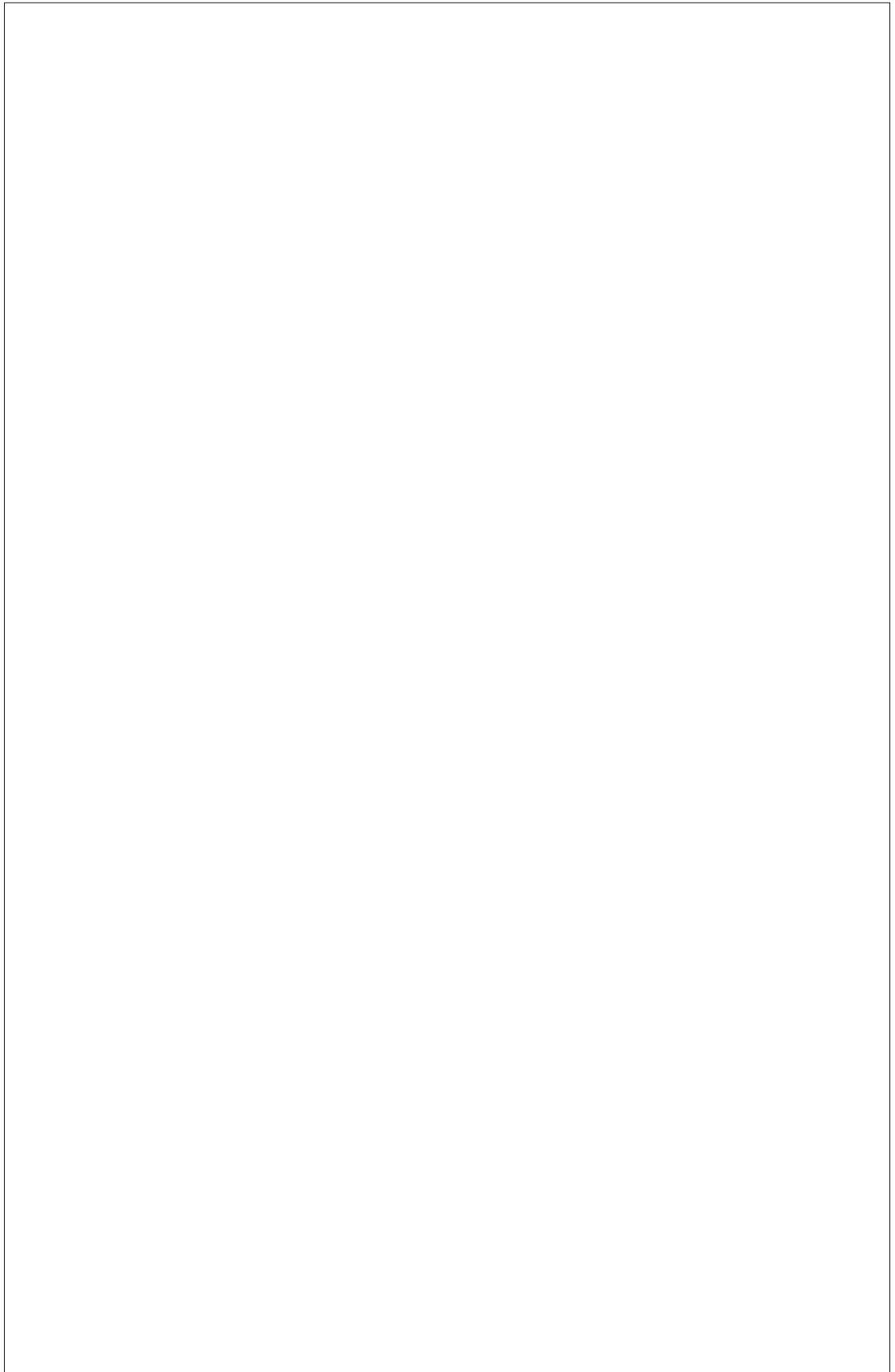
<http://www.tompaine.com>

United Nations Wire

<http://www.unwire.org>

The Weekly Standard

<http://www.weeklystandard.com>



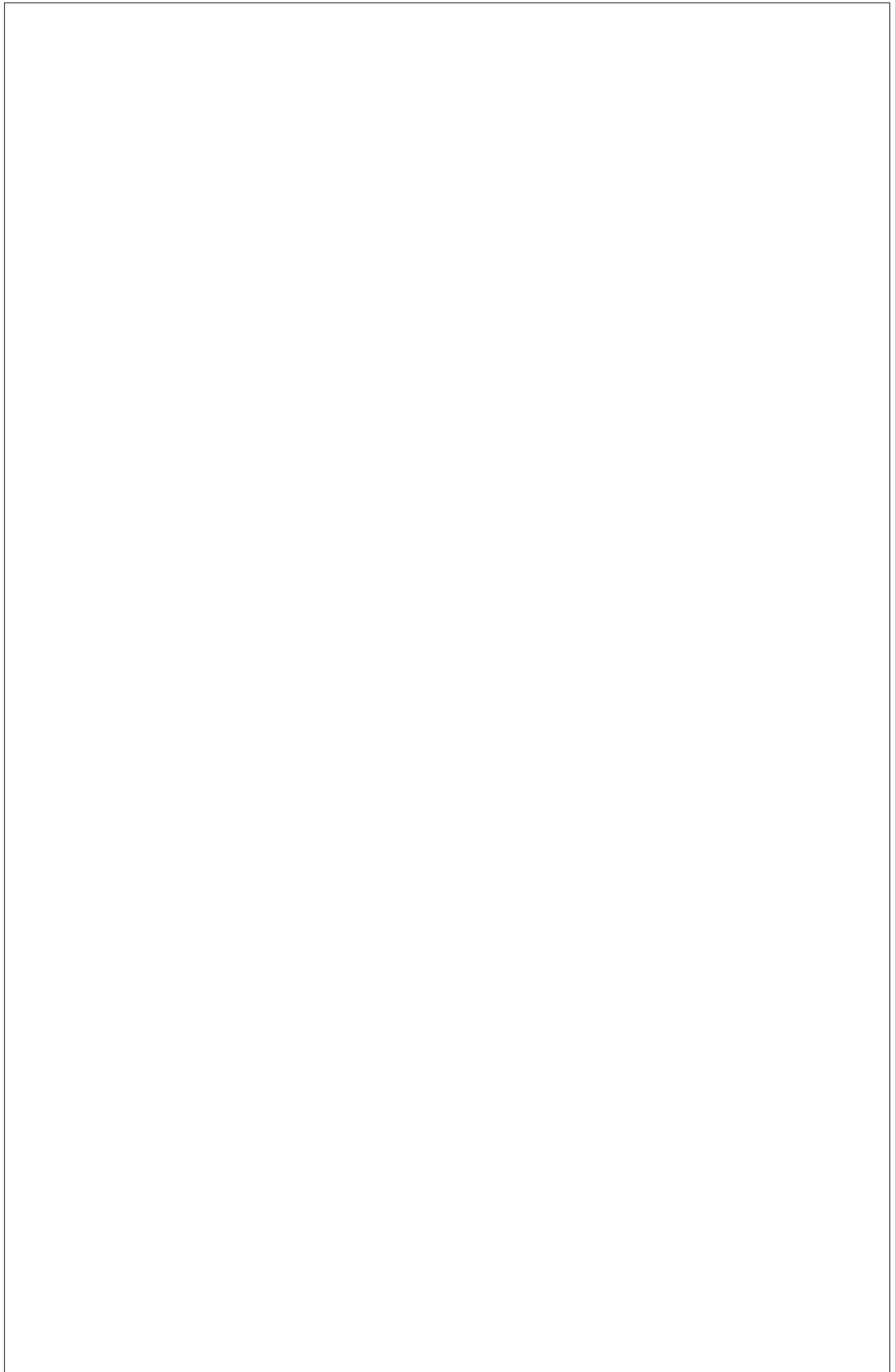
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book would not have been possible without the steadfast support of so many wonderful people, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank several of them.

I thank the following people for their very thoughtful assistance with this book, and for their friendship: Matt Heyd, Gwen Adolph, Caleb Terry, Lara Galinsky, Dianalynn Bodero, Orlando Watkins, Darrin Howard, Terrence Cook, Jennifer Wolfe, Teri Dary, Roland Laird, Tina Choi, Modia Butler, Tracy Hyter-Suffern, Joel Rogers, Mary Morrison, Farai Chideya, and Harris Wofford.

I would like to thank my brother, Cedric, for being a wonderful and tireless source of guidance and support.

Finally, I wish to thank the angel in my life. I express my heartfelt gratitude to Vikki, my wife of nearly 10 years. Since 1997, she has encouraged me to follow the calling I have felt to write a book that might contribute in some small way to the creation of a better world. She has been with me through all of the ups and the downs, and her counsel and wisdom on every aspect of this book's creation has been valuable beyond measure.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Anthony S. Welch is the co-founder of BetterLife Communications, an organization specializing in personal and community change strategies and processes.

From 1999 until 2003, Anthony served as President of Do Something, Inc., a national non-profit organization working to prepare a generation of young Americans for active citizenship. One of Do Something's initiatives, the Kindness & Justice Challenge, has been the largest service activity around the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday for students in grades K-12 since 1998.

Anthony currently serves as chairman of the National Service-Learning Partnership, as a board member of the National Center for Learning and Citizenship, and as an advisory council member of America's Promise. Anthony and his wife Vikki reside in New Jersey.

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Please visit www.todreamagain.com for ongoing information, and to order additional copies of *To Dream Again: The Continuing Challenge of Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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