

I have just finished your extraordinary book, *Promising Futures*. It is terrific in so many ways:

- It has your wonderful, infectious, optimism that the most intractable social problems can be successfully attacked, and this makes the reader more optimistic about the possibility of change in the terrible world that surrounds all of us;
- It's a call to individual responsibility . . . to do what one can, even if you don't have the "big bucks" to adopt an IHad group;
- It's very well written and totally engaging . . . quite a page turner;
- It makes even Republicans and evangelicals look appealing (and gave this reader a little more respect for the true commitment to the poor that some of those types can have — I'll watch my sweeping, negative, generalizations a bit more in the future);
- It is a vivid picture of poverty and how truly heroic are the children who make it out of the ghetto to stable lives — with or without help;
- By combining the "learning" of the (mostly) privileged sponsors as they confront the reality of poverty, both the sponsors and the dreamers become real people and not just so many additional statistics;

But the book is not just anecdotes. You put all those examples in the context of the broader challenges to philanthropy, to public schools systems, and to government. You bring a scholar's expertise (without overloading it with jargon) to each of these areas and makes the book especially valuable — not just to those who care about the IHAD approach.

Indeed, anyone who cares about poverty or failing public education should read it to see what changes they can help make in either a personal approach or to mobilize political action (or the philanthropy of others).

Anyway, thank you so much for undertaking this really important project. I will gladly recommend the book to those who care about engaged philanthropy, or poor kids, or education. Everyone will get a great deal out of it.

President Emeritus of Colby College,
and former president of the Oak Foundation