

SHANNON DALEY-HARRIS AND JEFFREY KEENAN
WITH KAREN SPEERSTRA | A CRITERION VENTURE

Our Day to End Poverty

24 WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



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This book was conceived and developed under the direction of Criterion Ventures, a national firm that incubates and scales social ventures that make for a better world.

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New book from Berrett-Koehler Publishers

Shannon Daley-Harris and Jeffrey Keenan
with Karen Speerstra

Our Day to End Poverty

24 Ways You Can Make a Difference

- Offers practical, easy steps anyone can take to help end extreme poverty
- Cleverly organized around the tasks we undertake in a typical day
- Helps you connect your daily experiences to those of people around the world

"As we go about our busy daily lives, Our Day to End Poverty challenges readers to see just how many ways we can find to make a difference. With hundreds of action suggestions, this valuable resource reminds us how small steps can add up to help solve some of the world's most difficult problems."

—Marian Wright Edelman, President, Children's Defense Fund

Our Day to End Poverty invites us to look at the twenty-four hours in our very ordinary days and to begin to think about poverty in new and creative ways. Inspired by the landmark bestseller *50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth*, this book offers scores of simple actions anyone can take to help eradicate poverty.

Each chapter takes a task we undertake during a typical day and relates it to what we can do to ease the world's suffering. We begin by eating breakfast—so the first chapter focuses on alleviating world hunger. We take the kids to school—what can we do to help make education affordable to all? In the afternoon we check our email—how can we ensure the access to technology that is such an important route out of poverty? The chapters are short and pithy, full of specific facts, resources for learning more, and menus of simple, often fun, and always practical action steps.

Anne Frank wrote, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." Let's get started. It is our day to end poverty.



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Some sample actions from *Our Day to End Poverty*

MORNING

Break the Fast

- *Learn*—Have some serious fun with children. Download Food Force, a video game developed by the World Food Programme to teach children about world hunger **food-force.com**. Players work to get food aid to a fictional country in need, overcoming challenges and discovering the thrill of working to solve a serious global problem.
- *Serve*—Lend a hand. Volunteer at a local food bank or other program that serves people who are hungry. Visit **secondharvest.org** to find a local food bank or food rescue organization that can use your help.

Educate Every Child

- *Contribute*—Organize a school-supply drive or a book drive through your school, workplace, civic group, or place of worship. Donate the supplies to a school in the United States or overseas.
- *Serve*—Join with others who are advocating legislation that seeks to eliminate school fees in the developing world. RESULTS, **results.org**, a grassroots lobby dedicated to ending world hunger and poverty, is taking action on this initiative.
- *Live*—Read to a child in your life every day. Talk about what has happened in the story and what might happen.

Give All Children Healthy Futures

- *Learn*—Read Tracy Kidder's book, *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, about the work of Dr. Paul Farmer in Haiti and around the world, to learn more about how we can improve health in developing countries. Its bibliography lists publications for further reading.

Consume with Conscience

- *Contribute*—Use “buy one, get one free offers as a way of contributing at no extra cost to you. Donate the “free” item, whether it is a can of food or a pair of shoes, to an organization that serves people in your community who are in need.
- *Live*—Join the local business Chamber of Commerce branch that represents trade between your local region and foreign markets. By doing business with integrity, in a fair, honest, and lawful way, you will lead by example and encourage other business people to treat their trading partners with respect and dignity.

Give from the Heart: More Thoughts on Giving

- Become more savvy about charities by visiting the National Charities Information Bureau, **give.org**, Charity Watch **charitywatch.org**, and Charity Navigator **charitynavigator.org**. They will provide you with information on charitable organizations in an effort to help you make wise choices when giving.
- Plan an annual celebration that affirms the impact of your giving. For example, if you sponsor a child in a developing country, have a “birthday party” on their child's birthday and talk about the things that the child has been able to do over the past year because of your contribution.