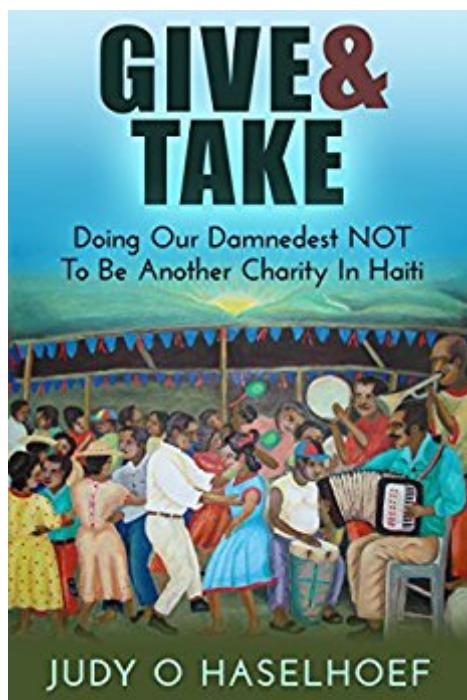


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Give & Take: Doing Our Damnedest NOT To Be Another Charity In Haiti



Synopsis

In GIVE & TAKE, Judy O Haselhoeft brings you on a journeyâ "from her first trip to Haiti, through the founding of her non-profit organization in a male-dominated country, to the close of the organization after six years and over 40 projects. Punctuated with anecdotes about the locals and those giving charity from the United States, GIVE & TAKE offers humorous, thoughtful, and honest insights on both cultures. Was the local hat maker paid enough? Why should a charity start with an exit strategy? What is the real function of giving? Haselhoeft offers readers an opportunity to participate in overseas charitable work before they ever step onto the plane.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Have you ever wondered what really happens when a smart, well-intentioned, capable person decides to make a difference? This is a highly compelling, humble, witty, thoughtful, and inspiring account of one such person, Judy Haselhoeft, and her efforts to do the right thing. Judy is an engaging writer, and takes the reader along with her as she progresses through her experience. If everyone in international development was as thoughtful and reflective as Judy, the world would be

an even better place. Well worth a read!

What a great book! I found the book absorbing. It is an insightful account of effecting change in a community with a different culture. It is full of stories about the people of Haiti which illustrated the ups and downs of the work being accomplished. Give and Take was an enjoyable read.

I'd always wanted to visit Haiti, and to be involved in some sort of charitable/relief work. I found this book most inspiring.

This book serves as the perfect primer for anyone who's ever thought about making a difference. The historical arc of the book allows us to learn along aside the author. We are able to see not only her reactions in real time but also the cumulative effect of these experiences and the conclusions she draws from them. I'm usually wary of long subtitles, but this one accurately reflects the author's goals and results. Moreover, it speaks to the failings of the vast majority of well-meaning (and often well-funded) NGOs. The author is articulate and moving in showing us the depth and breadth of issues that must be addressed to help a lesser-developed community within a dysfunctional country. From the beginning she knows she will never be able to muster a fraction of the resources required for an overall transformation. This realistic appraisal guides her in avoiding grandiose projects and instead listening and observing enough to see the value of small discrete efforts (e.g., the expanded chicken coop). I was particularly impressed by the self-discipline she and her small organization showed in staying away from investing time and resources in open-ended projects that might continue to rely on ongoing outside financial support. She is able to avoid the almost irresistible urge to provide a quick fix to a given problem.

Throughout the book, both her actions and her advocacy speak to the most important lesson she has to teach us: Development and growth cannot be gifted by a benevolent overseer, but instead must be an organic process from the bottom up. Whatever your because may be, you can learn a great deal from Give and Take. I know that my future decisions about which organizations to support with my time and money will be heavily influenced by what I learned from Ms. Haselhoefer about the way in which charity can be a double-edged sword. I'm going to urge my 15 year-old daughter to read this book for two reasons: First, to illustrate the problems faced by so many in the world. Secondly, to see that something as simple as a larger chicken coop can make a real difference.

What a pleasure to take part in an advanced reading of Give & Take! Judy's willingness to be open and vulnerable with personal stories of successes and challenges brought great insight surrounding her journey, and heartfelt memories of my own travels to Haiti. I appreciated the open sharing of her naive understandings, whether from the early art project to tipping Nadair for the short drive at the airport. I was intrigued by the notion to start with the end in mind; a logical approach that is innovative to many. Partnering and serving others with strong listening skills and respect brought a treasure of relationships that truly helped the community grow their strengths and work through challenges. Yonn Ede Lot's design allowed for a fluidity of connection that created a strong sense of "we". Whereas so many non-profits come in as "us" who have will take care of "them" who do not have, Judy and Mike's organization balanced availability of resources with increasing local sustainability. So glad Judy brought the story to all of us - to learn from and to carry on in our own journeys of servant leadership.

In "Give & Take: Doing Our Damnedest NOT To Be Another Charity in Haiti", the author provides a candid and heartfelt reflection of her efforts to establish, and ultimately to disband, a non-governmental organization (NGO) in Haiti. Through a series of vignettes unfolding over a tumultuous six year period, including the time when a devastating earthquake hit the country, the book takes you to a small village in Haiti to experience what life is like for the locals and also for an American struggling to find the most appropriate way to help and "do the right thing". Through the straightforward telling of day to day encounters, we are introduced to the immense challenges facing the country on a national level, but, more importantly, the joys and resilience of individuals in addressing the details of daily life. Yet the book provides much more than an interesting narrative of life in a developing country. As evidenced by the title, the book seeks to address more fundamental questions of international development assistance. While the author's NGO was a small operation targeting a single village, she raises core questions with wide international relevance. Who determines the target priorities for "outside" financial aid? How is 'success' measured and sustained? Are good intentions sufficient or can they also have unintended consequences? Do 'giving' agencies inherently create destabilizing situations? The author doesn't seek to provide all the answers. However, Haselhoefer avoids the anger and cynicism of Maren's "Road to Hell" and presents a very straightforward, insightful, and thought provoking perspective. "Give and Take" is highly recommended for anyone interested in Haiti or the wider picture of relationships among both countries and individuals with widely disparate living standards.

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