

BOOKS WORTH READING

People Who Turn Passion Into Action And Change The World

(NAPSA)—A person who wants to make a difference, who wants to do something that changes the lives of others, can create an organization that impacts millions of lives and motivates others to action.

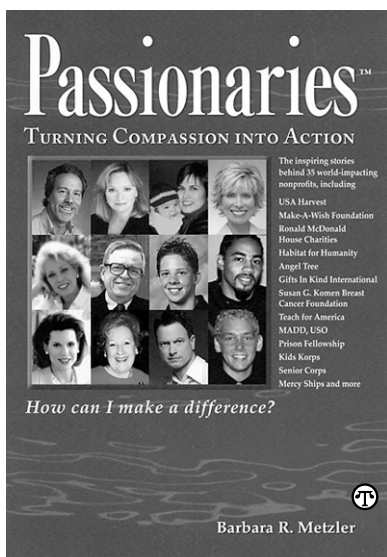
Now, Barbara R. Metzler has assembled the inspiring stories of 35 such people. She calls them “passionaries.” Each is a leader of a nonprofit volunteer organization that offers a solution for an oppressive social challenge. “Passionaries: Turning Compassion Into Action” (Templeton Foundation Press) profiles these visionaries. Metzler describes the event or circumstance that spurred them to “do something,” the steps they took to get started, and the obstacles they overcame.

She relays, for example:

- How Habitat for Humanity got its first volunteers
- Where the idea for U.S.A. Harvest came from and how it developed into the largest all-volunteer food distribution organization in America
- How Gifts In Kind International became the fastest-growing nonprofit with the lowest overhead in the United States, with a ranking as one of the most cost-effective charities in the world.

The passionate entrepreneurs behind these and other volunteer organizations range in age from 6 to 89. Some are physically challenged. Some are former prisoners. And some are working through deep emotional pain. They include recognizable names, such as Paul Newman, Betty Ford, Charles Colson, Dr. Laura Schlessinger and Gary Sinise, as well as many other leaders whose names are less known, but whose companies also create real change.

The enthusiasm and commitment of these profiled leaders has spawned more than 20 million like-minded volunteers who



A new book shows how one person can make a difference.

helped build the organizations. Their passion also generates “ripple effects,” like this one that Metzler describes: The Kentucky Harvest Project (which became U.S.A. Harvest) was the inspiration behind 11-year-old David Levitt’s community project, which became the catalyst for community and state change. First, his work led to schools donating food to shelters and then to a Florida state law that food suppliers give leftover food to charity.

Each story is accompanied by a summary of important facts, figures and contact information, providing readers with a means for possible participation with the organization—in effect, encouraging new ripple effects.

One person can make a difference—which is the message of the book that captures an unsung movement unique to American culture—the desire to create a legacy, to give back.

Available in better bookstores or order direct from the Web site: www.templetonpress.org.