

Shop Local: Suggestions for How Independent Bookstores Can Get Involved

Hillary Rodham Clinton's first picture book, illustrated by Marla Frazee, tells a heartwarming and universal story of how a community coming together can make a difference. All kinds of people working together, playing together, and living together make their village a better place, and many villages coming together can make a better world.

We've compiled a list of initiatives you can start in your own communities to encourage civic engagement and help and support one another.

Host a Storytime

Download a community engagement storytime kit on the Edelweiss page for *It Takes a Village*. The kit includes everything you need to host a successful storytime event, and everything you need to keep the engagement going long after your event ends. You'll find:

- Social sharing images sized for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. *Share what inspires you, messages of hope and encouragement, and community accomplishments using #ItTakesaVillage.*
- 8.5" x 11" tabletop sign
- Hi-res cover image
- Community Service Checklist PDF
- A complete PDF of this guide

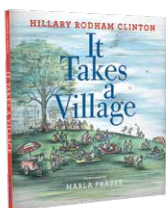
Write-Ins

Leave a stack of our *It Takes a Village* sticky notes at your checkout register so that patrons can fill them in with their answer to the question: **What does it take to change the world?** Create a display or have patrons scatter these sticky notes throughout your store to encourage citizenship and inspire those browsing your bookshelves.

Make a Statement

Using *It Takes a Village* as inspiration, create a window display using titles that promote community togetherness. Some display suggestions:

- Create a banner asking, "What does it take to change the world?"
- Showcase a variety of books that appeal to a variety of patrons and their interests.
- Highlight some local authors and illustrators who are making an impact in your community.
- Need some help getting creative? Create a contest! Ask patrons to write-in concepts for your window display. The winner gets to create the display and have their talent showcased. Perhaps they win a gift card or something special from your store.



written by **HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON**
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Learning to Grow: Classroom Activity Suggestions

Show and Tell

Ask students to think of someone they know who inspires them. Have them prepare a short presentation to their classmates explaining why this person inspires them. If they have some, students should bring in props like pictures, newspaper articles, and anything else related to their presentation.

Letter Writing

Now more than ever, writing a letter can make a big impact in your community. Ask students: What issues are important to you? To your friends and family? Then have them research their local government and find the contact information of their local representatives. Assign students to write letters explaining why those issues are important to them and how specific changes can directly impact them and benefit their community.

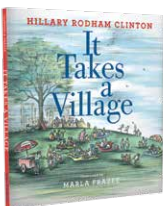
Persuasive Writing

It's wonderful to have an opinion, but that opinion doesn't mean much until you can articulate it properly. Have students practice their persuasive writing skills by creating compelling, informative arguments that appeal to their reader. Here are some prompts to get started:

- Should students be assigned homework on the weekends? Yes or no? Explain.
- Should every school have a garden that grows fruits and vegetables? Why could this be a good idea? Why could it not?
- Should community members be required to do at least fifty hours of community service a year? Why or why not?

Have students use the chart below to organize their persuasive writing letters and papers.

Opinion _____ _____ _____ _____	Argument 1 _____ _____ _____ _____	Detail 1 _____ _____ _____
Counterargument _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	Argument 2 _____ _____ _____ _____	Detail 2 _____ _____ _____
	Argument 3 _____ _____ _____ _____	Detail 3 _____ _____ _____
		Detail 1 _____ _____ _____
		Detail 2 _____ _____ _____
		Detail 3 _____ _____ _____



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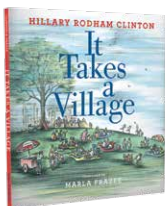
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Community Service Checklist

Change starts with you. Too often, we're easily distracted by our own lives to remember to help others who are in need. Think about what issues are important to you, and research organizations that you can get involved with. For example, if you love animals, look into animal shelters. Use the checklist below to keep track of your community service accomplishments.

Organization	Date of Service	What You Learned	How You Were Inspired	How You Can Continue to Help



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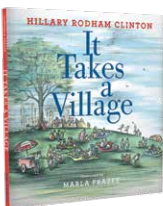
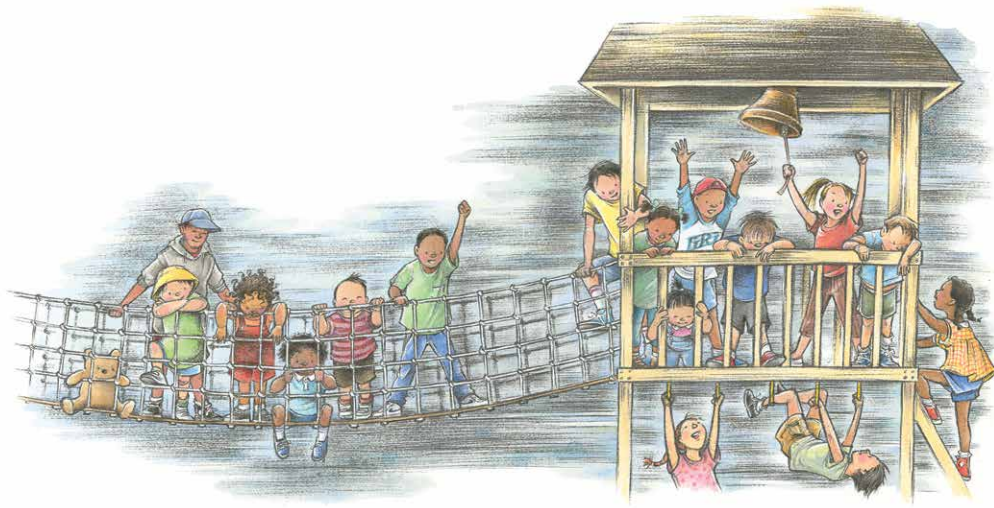
A Note from Hillary Clinton

The old African proverb “It takes a village to raise a child” is a timeless reminder that children will only thrive if their families thrive. And in today’s world that includes all kinds of families raising and loving children. We live in an interdependent world, where what our children hear, see, feel, and learn affects how they grow up and who they turn out to be. I believed that as a mother and even more strongly now as a grandmother. I have two reinforcing beliefs about this: Parents are the most important influences on their children, and no family, even the most privileged, exists in a vacuum. That’s why I’ve worked hard over the years to help support families with good jobs, affordable child and health care, and effective public schools, as well as safe communities, clean air and water, and healthy food. All of us—from teachers to doctors to neighbors to employers to police and politicians—have to step up to support our villages.

Science has proven how resilient children can be despite great obstacles. And how creative and productive they can be starting at young ages. I’m inspired by the children and young people I’ve met over the years. And this book is meant to spark a conversation with our youngest about what children can do to help make the world what they hope it will be. The task illustrated by the extraordinary Marla Frazee is building a playground, but it could be donating food to a homeless shelter or cleaning up a park or speaking out against prejudice, all of which I’ve see children do.

Now more than ever we need to support children and families. And when the news is grim or the odds seem long, look into the faces of children you know, and imagine what kind of country and world awaits them. I love being around children and reading to them and listening to the stories they tell us. That’s especially true when it comes to my grandchildren, Charlotte and Aidan, whose lives and futures live in my heart.

The simple message of *It Takes a Village* is as relevant as ever: We are all in this together. I hope you enjoy sharing this book with the children in your life.



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