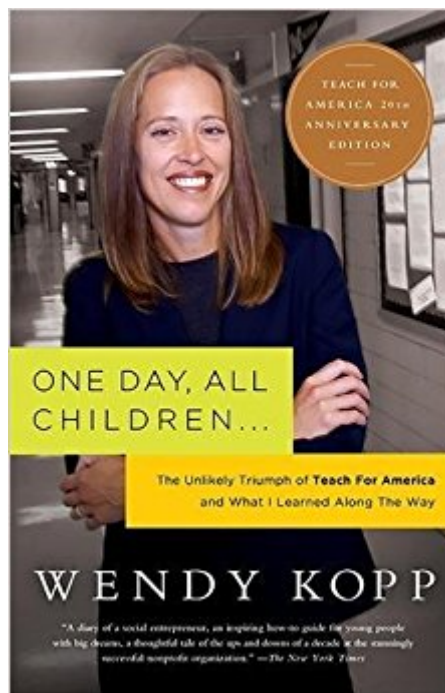




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# One Day, All Children...: The Unlikely Triumph Of Teach For America And What I Learned Along The Way



## Synopsis

From her dorm room at Princeton University, twenty-one-year-old college senior Wendy Kopp decided to launch a movement to improve public education in America. In *One Day, All Children...*, she shares the remarkable story of Teach For America, a non-profit organization that sends outstanding college graduates to teach for two years in the most under-resourced urban and rural public schools in America. The astonishing success of the program has proven it possible for children in low-income areas to attain the same level of academic achievement as children in more privileged areas and more privileged schools. *One Day, All Children* is not just a personal memoir. It's a blueprint for the new civil rights movement--a movement that demands educational access and opportunity for all American children.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"If at the time I had understood the importance of ensuring the necessary funds before moving forward with new ideas, Teach for America would never have been born in the first place," writes Kopp in this impassioned account of how what started 10 years ago as her bold college thesis has become a pioneering educational program. Her plan to create a national teacher corps by recruiting top college graduates to work in the neediest school districts across the U.S. led to the development of a solidly financed nonprofit organization that has placed more than 5,000 teachers, many of whom have achieved extraordinary academic results. But Kopp's primary aim in this frank, winning and well-timed book is to share what she's learned about bringing underprivileged and underperforming students up to par. For example, she argues that just giving them the same

resources that privileged students have is not enough; teachers and administrators need to put in the extra time it takes to change these students' attitudes about their own capability for achieving success. When it comes to structuring and managing schools, she asserts that schools should recruit teachers from a variety of disciplines not just those with degrees in education give them the support they need, pay them well and encourage them to push their students to fulfill their highest potential, which is often far beyond any arbitrary measure of achievement. As an outsider, Kopp has brought a fresh approach to the educational process that has proved effective; her inspiring story will challenge schools and professional educators to take notice, while motivating college seniors and recent graduates to join her team. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Kopp's dream as a college senior ten years ago was to commit two years to teaching at a public school in a low-income urban or rural area. She turned this seeming pipe dream into reality by mobilizing members of her generation to form a corps of graduates called Teach for America (TFA). Since 1990, some 5000 TFA members have been placed into teaching positions in 13 states, drawing high praise from participating communities. In this revealing account, Kopp invites the reader to learn what it took to overcome the endless challenges while describing some of the most difficult as well as funniest moments from the past ten years. This kind of accomplishment rarely adequately celebrated proves that excellence is possible. Recommended for all collections on education reform as well as volunteer movements. Leroy Hommerding, Fort Myers Beach P.L., FL Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This is one of those books that makes you question what you are doing with your life. I recommend that any college student unsure of what they wish to do after their undergraduate years, or unsatisfied professionals looking for a career change, take a look at Wendy Kopp's story about Teach For America's beginnings, development, and impact. It is a great read for anyone who wants to make a difference in the world, but is unsure where to start or needs reminding that nothing is impossible. The only problem I had with this product was that it still had some kinks that needed to be worked out in its Kindle format; some of the section titles throughout the chapters were illegible. Other than that, it was an excellent book.

Several years have passed since Wendy Kopp wrote this account of how she established what has since become one of the most effective change agent organizations throughout public school

education in the U.S., Teach For America. As I read her book, I was reminded of the song "Come Fly with Me" and the invitation extended by Cahn and Van Heusen's lyrics: "Come fly with me, let's fly, let's fly. Pack up, let's fly away!" That is essentially the same invitation that Wendy Kopp has been extending to college graduates since 1990 and an invitation they, in turn, have then extended to public school students throughout the United States. Those recruited, trained, and assigned by Teach for America - making a two-year commitment to classroom teaching -- continue to help children entrusted to their care to dream what may at first seem "an impossible dream" to them, then pursue it. For many children, especially those growing up within low-income, high-crime communities, education can be their "passport" to a higher standard of living and better quality of life. As Kopp explains in this book, after graduating from Princeton, she (age 21) raised \$2.5 million of start-up funding for Teach For America, hired a skeleton staff, and launched a grass-roots recruitment campaign. During its first year in 1990, 500 men and women began teaching in six low-income communities across the country. Since then, Teach For America's network has grown to 17,000 individuals and has become the nation's largest provider of teachers for low-income communities. This year, Teach For America serves 26 urban and rural regions and impacts three million students. To date, it has served more than 5,000 communities, has more than 12,000 core members, more than 425,000 alumni, and has impacted nearly 3 million students since its inception almost 20 years ago. Kopp traces the process from her original vision (i.e. "a national teacher corps of top recent college graduates who would commit two years to teach in urban and rural schools") to what Teach For America has become. She acknowledges all of the sources of support she received along the way and is especially appreciative of those who challenged her ideas, not because they disagreed with any of those ideas but because they wanted to help her sharpen and clarify her thinking. Here is a composite excerpt from Kopp's narrative near the end of this book that indicates some of the lessons she learned along the way. "What I have learned in building Teach For America and from our corps members and alumni suggests that it will take three things to raise achievement levels in low-income schools. First, it will take committing ourselves to the vision that one day, all children in our nation will have the opportunity to attain an excellent education... Second, we must recognize that accomplishing our mission will take more of just about everything - including more time and, ultimately, more resources... There's an understandable discomfort with the idea that it will take more money to make schools in low-income areas work. We've all seen and read about too many examples of wasted resources in schools. In some cases merely reallocating the resources already spent in low-income areas can make a difference. And I learned through my experience with Teach for America that money isn't everything, that tough financial situations force high-quality,

innovative thinking. But I've also learned that although resources are not the solution to everything, they are necessary to carry out the big plans...The third aspect of realizing our vision is the recognition that it will take a long-term, institution-building approach...when people think about what makes great organizations work, they see it's not a unique strategy. It's that the organizations have built the systems to achieve results, respond to change, and continually improve...Building effective school systems will not be easy. It will take superior leadership and a lot of hard work. It will require a critical look at all the forces - from how school boards govern to how states regulate - that could prevent school district leadership from taking any an institution-building approach. The good news is that there's no mystery about what it will take. The solutions are within our reach."One man's opinion, what Wendy Kopp expressed then (in 2001) is even truer today. She concludes her book with "a personal invitation to all college seniors and recent graduates who are reading this book" to consider becoming part of this movement. For more information about Teach For America, she asks them as well as those who wish to support its programs to visit this Web site: [...]

Quite riveting at start, but gets a bit stretched as one goes along.

The delivery is fast and good.

Love this book, Awesome

Excellent book - MUST read! Shipped quickly and in great condition.

Great read on Wendy Kopp's journey to reform American education. Amazing that one person's vision continue to impact so many.

I was in college when Teach for America began; so nice to know the story so many years later!  
Good learning experience for anyone thinking along similar lines.

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