



Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help, And How to Reverse It

By Robert D. Lupton



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Veteran urban activist Robert Lupton reveals the shockingly toxic effects that modern charity has upon the very people meant to benefit from it. *Toxic Charity* provides proven new models for charitable groups who want to help—not sabotage—those whom they desire to serve. Lupton, the founder of FCS Urban Ministries (Focused Community Strategies) in Atlanta, the voice of the *Urban Perspectives* newsletter, and the author of *Compassion, Justice and the Christian Life*, has been at the forefront of urban ministry activism for forty years. Now, in the vein of Jeffrey Sachs's *The End of Poverty*, Richard Stearns's *The Hole in Our Gospel*, and Gregory Boyle's *Tattoos on the Heart*, his groundbreaking *Toxic Charity* shows us how to start serving needy and impoverished members of our communities in a way that will lead to lasting, real-world change.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Lupton says hard things that need to be said, and he’s earned the right to say them. Believers would do well to receive his words with the mindset that ‘faithful are the wounds of a friend.’” (Christianity Today)

“[Lupton’s] new book, Toxic Charity, draws on his 40 years’ experience as an urban activist in Atlanta, and he argues that most charitable work is ineffective or actually harmful to those it is supposed to help.” (Washington Post)

“Lupton’s work, his books and, most importantly, his life continue to guide and encourage me to live and serve in a way that honors God and my neighbor. I highly recommend Toxic Charity.” (Danny Wuerffel, Executive Director, Desire Street Ministries)

“Lupton’s book reminds us that it is more blessed to give than to receive. He shows how the people called poor can be blessed by supporting opportunities for them to give their gifts, skills, knowledge and wisdom to creating the future.” (John McKnight, Codirector, Asset Based Community Development Institute, Northwestern University)

“A must-read book for those who give or help others.” (Booklist)

“In Toxic Charity, Lupton reminds us that being materialistically poor does not mean that there is no capacity, no voice, and no dignity within a person. If we truly love the poor, we will want to educate ourselves on how best to serve. Let our charity be transformative not toxic.” (Roger Sandberg, Executive Director of Medair International)

“A superb book. Toxic Charity should serve as a guide and course correction for anyone involved in charitable endeavors at home or abroad.” (Ronald W. Nikkel, President, Prison Fellowship International)

“Toxic Charity provides the needed counterbalance to a kind heart: a wise mind. Though I often thought, “Ouch!” while I was reading the book, Robert Lupton gave this pastor what I needed to become a more effective leader.” (Dr. Joel C. Hunter, Senior Pastor, Northland – A Church Distributed)

“When Bob Lupton speaks of the inner city, the rest of us ought to sit up and take notice... [His work is] deeply disturbing—in the best sense of the word.” (Philip Yancey, author of What Good Is God?)

“Top 10 book of the year.” (World Magazine)

From the Back Cover

Public service is a way of life for Americans; giving is a part of our national character. But compassionate instincts and generous spirits aren’t enough, says veteran urban activist Robert D. Lupton. In this groundbreaking guide, he reveals the disturbing truth about charity: all too much of it has become toxic, devastating to the very people it’s meant to help.

In his four decades of urban ministry, Lupton has experienced firsthand how our good intentions can have

unintended, dire consequences. Our free food and clothing distribution encourages ever-growing handout lines, diminishing the dignity of the poor while increasing their dependency. We converge on inner-city neighborhoods to plant flowers and pick up trash, battering the pride of residents who have the capacity (and responsibility) to beautify their own environment. We fly off on mission trips to poverty-stricken villages, hearts full of pity and suitcases bulging with giveaways—trips that one Nicaraguan leader describes as effective only in “turning my people into beggars.”

In *Toxic Charity*, Lupton urges individuals, churches, and organizations to step away from these spontaneous, often destructive acts of compassion toward thoughtful paths to community development. He delivers proven strategies for moving from toxic charity to transformative charity.

Proposing a powerful “Oath for Compassionate Service” and spotlighting real-life examples of people serving not just with their hearts but with proven strategies and tested tactics, Lupton offers all the tools and inspiration we need to develop healthy, community-driven programs that produce deep, measurable, and lasting change. Everyone who volunteers or donates to charity needs to wrestle with this book.

About the Author

ROBERT D. LUPTON is founder and president of FCS (Focused Community Strategies) Urban Ministries and author of *Toxic Charity; Theirs Is the Kingdom; Return Flight; Renewing the City; Compassion, Justice, and the Christian Life*; and the widely circulated “Urban Perspectives” newsletter. He has a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Georgia.

To learn more, visit www.fcsministries.org.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Richard Slawson:

Now a day people that Living in the era wherever everything reachable by match the internet and the resources within it can be true or not demand people to be aware of each information they get. How many people to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Reading through a book can help persons out of this uncertainty Information specially this Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help, And How to Reverse It book since this book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the information in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it everybody knows.

Crystal Scott:

The book untitled Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help, And How to Reverse It contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains her idea with easy way. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was published by famous author. The author gives you in the new time of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can start their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice examine.

Ricky Burnham:

This Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help, And How to Reverse It is fresh way for you who has intense curiosity to look for some information because it relief your hunger of information. Getting deeper you onto it getting knowledge more you know or perhaps you who still having bit of digest in reading this Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help, And How to Reverse It can be the light food to suit your needs because the information inside this specific book is easy to get simply by anyone. These books create itself in the form which can be reachable by anyone, that's why I mean in the e-book contact form. People who think that in guide form make them feel drowsy even dizzy this book is the answer. So there isn't any in reading a guide especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for an individual. So , don't miss this! Just read this e-book variety for your better life and also knowledge.

Deanne Mohammed:

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