



John J. Wood

Founder and Board Co-Chair
Room to Read

Since 2000, Room to Read has impacted the lives of more than five million children by providing increased access to high-quality educational opportunities through its network of libraries and schools, local language children's books and its girls' education program. Room to Read is changing children's lives in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Laos, Nepal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Zambia and aims to reach 10 million children by 2015.

John J. Wood is the founder and board co-chair of Room to Read, an organization that believes World Change Starts with Educated Children® and seeks to transform the lives of millions of children in developing countries by focusing on literacy and gender equality in education. At age 35, John left an executive career track at Microsoft Corporation to form Room to Read, and the business acumen honed there, combined with his passion to change the world, makes John a unique and inspiring speaker with universal appeal.

John's award-winning memoir, *Leaving Microsoft to Change the World: An Entrepreneur's Odyssey to Educate the World's Children* (Harper Collins, 2006), tells how he raised over \$80 million from a "standing start" to develop one of the fastest-growing nonprofits in history. The book was described by *Publishers' Weekly* in a starred review as "an infectiously inspiring read." Translated into 20 languages, it is popular with entrepreneurs, philanthropists, and educators alike, and was selected by Amazon.com as one of the Top Ten Business Narratives of 2006 and voted a Top Ten Nonfiction title of 2006 by Hudson Booksellers. The book was also featured during John's appearance on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and the resulting "Oprah's Book Drive" with Room to Read raised over \$1 million from viewers.

John has been a three-time speaker at the Clinton Global Initiative and a five-time winner of the Fast Company Magazine and Monitor Group Social Capitalist Award. He has been honored by Time Magazine's "Asian Heroes" Award, recognizing "20 People under 40 who have done something brave, bold, or remarkable." He has also been selected as a "Young Global Leader" by the World Economic Forum and is a Henry Crown Fellow at the Aspen Institute. The Public Broadcasting Corporation (PBS) named him one of "America's Great Leaders" and he was selected by Barron's as one of the "25 Best Givers" in 2009 and 2010, ranking 11th and 9th on the list, respectively.

John holds a master's degree in business administration from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University, a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Colorado, and an honorary doctorate in humane letters from the University of San Francisco.



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