



Stanford eCorner

Get Involved Now

Melinda Gates, *Gates Foundation*

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/3040/Get-Involved-Now>

Melinda Gates urges people to get involved in making change by learning about something you are passionate about and taking full advantage of the numerous places to connect on the web.



Transcript

I would say first; get involved. Start to learn, learn about something you're passion about and pick your area in philanthropy. It doesn't have to one of ours, it might be one of ours. And then one of the fantastic things as you all know even better than I do about social media these days is you can connect via the web and connect in very meaningful ways. So I would say this. If you have the opportunity to go to the developing world, your eyes will be opened, I would just at least say in a way that probably you'll never be able to turn away. That's how I felt, that's what got me started our first trip to Africa, which was a vacation, I couldn't turn away after that. I went to see the animals, I loved it. But it was the people, you can't turn your back. So I would say, get involved.

If you can go to the developing world, do. If you can volunteer in a school here, volunteer in a hospital, start to learn what the problems are. But then connect via the web, DonorsChoose is a fantastic website. If you want to give \$30 to a classroom, a few dollars to help a teacher buy a printer she needs for her classroom that's in a bad part of Oakland where she can't get a laser jet, help her do that. If you want to go up on Catapult and learn about projects in the developing world, micro loans for women, contributing to helping buy contraceptives for women or buy a vaccine for somebody, all of those options exists on the web and are very well researched and then placed. We're involved in a whole host of them, one of them's Catapult, we fund DonorsChoose, but there are lots of places you can go on the web if you want to donate money. But there's also donating your time and donating your energy and I would encourage you to do that too and do that locally. There's so many things to get involved in.