

Celebrities That Care

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Introduction

Sometimes, the problems of the world can seem overwhelming. It's hard to avoid hearing about everything that is going wrong. Homelessness, poverty, disease, disappearing rain forests, **polluted** oceans, and **endangered** animals can make the world a scary place.

Luckily, the world is also filled with people who care about these problems – people who are determined to make a difference by devoting their time and energy to finding solutions.

Many celebrities are on the list of those who want to make a difference. Because they are well known, they may consider themselves to be role models. Celebrities may feel that having a high profile, whether through sports, television, music, or movies, makes it important for them to set an example for others.

Also, celebrities – like so many other people – may have been personally affected by problems or a tragedy in their own lives. They may have lost a

family member to illness, or experienced poverty firsthand. They may have been alarmed by pollution ruining the places they love.

Because of their fame, and because they are often wealthy, celebrities are in a unique position to help people and the planet. They might set up their own organizations, or they might donate funds, time, or both to existing charities.

In all these ways and more, celebrities, such as the people you'll meet in this book, can inspire you to make a difference in the world.



The more people learn about the world around them, the more they understand how important it is to protect.

Television and Movie Stars That Care

Oprah Winfrey

Oprah Winfrey has been called one of the most powerful and influential people in the world today. She is the host of a wildly successful talk show. She is a movie and television producer. She is an actor and has starred in movies such as *The Color Purple*. She has her own magazine. Oprah has won many awards for her work, and just when it seems she has done it all, she does more.

Oprah was born into extreme poverty, and many of the causes she works with reflect her own experiences. She fights to give people without many opportunities chances they might not otherwise have.

From the early days of her success, Oprah has been deeply committed to **philanthropy**. In 1987,