

# Digital Do-Gooders

## What is iQ: smartparent?

**iQ: smartparent** is an Emmy-winning multimedia television and web series designed for parents that will empower them with new knowledge, tools, and abilities to successfully guide their children through the changing landscape of digital media and technology. It's a growing community of caregivers, national experts, educators, and parent bloggers who want to understand the opportunities and challenges of media as it relates to the development of their children. **iQ: smartparent** was created by WQED Multimedia in 2012.

## About this Episode

Whether you call them "social entrepreneurs" or "digital do-gooders," meet young people who are utilizing the dynamic digital world to make a difference and drive positive change. Hear inspiring stories of philanthropy, compassion, and generosity guided by teens who use digital tools to connect, collaborate, and help solve problems around the globe. Families also will learn about exciting opportunities for teens to engage in online volunteering; and experts will share advice for teens who want to harness the power of digital media to support the causes that are important to them.

## Discussion Questions

1. Technology has changed the way young people exchange information. What are the implications of high speed news at the tips of their fingertips?
2. How has technology changed activism? How has it affected the degree of involvement your child has in important issues today? How do you think it will affect how they become involved in social issues five, ten years from now?
3. Some argue that civic engagement has decreased due to technology (people aren't meeting in person as often, as voiced by Robert Putnam's Bowling Alone piece). However, others would counter that by saying people are engaging, just in an online space. What are your thoughts? What are the pros and cons to civic engagement in person versus online?
4. What are some positive stories and campaigns you have seen on social media? How effective were they?
5. What are issues your children support? How have you helped them make a difference in that community?
6. What is your perception of volunteering? How do your children define it? How can you engage in family philanthropy?
7. What are some real world experiences and skills that your children can learn from volunteering?

## About the Guests



**Susan Crites Price**, a Washington, DC-based writer and speaker, is an expert on family philanthropy. She is the author or co-author of seven books including *Generous Genes: Raising Caring Kids in a Digital Age*, (Majestic Oak Press, 2015), and *The Giving Family: Raising Our Children to Help Others* (Council on Foundations, 2001, revised 2003). Susan is a frequent speaker to groups around the country on the subject of instilling philanthropic values in children. Susan has been interviewed on "Oprah," "NBC's Today," the CBS "Early Show," and numerous other television and radio broadcasts and by many newspapers and magazines. Susan was vice president of the National Center for Family Philanthropy from 2007 to 2011, and prior to that was the managing director of the Family Foundation Services Department at the Council on Foundations. With her husband Tom, Susan co-authored *The Working Parents Help Book*, a practical guide to juggling kids and careers. It won a Parents' Choice Award and was a selection of the Scholastic Book Club. [www.generousgenes.com/](http://www.generousgenes.com/)  
<http://thepriceswrite.com/giving.htm>



**Chris Hawthorne** works as Director of Youth and School partnerships at Pittsburgh Cares, a local volunteering agency that connects individuals, businesses, and groups of all ages with volunteering opportunities. He has worked with youth since he was a high schooler. He lives on the North Side with his wife. <http://pittsburghcares.force.com/staff>

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## Online Resources

**American Red Cross** – Find volunteer opportunities.

[www.redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer](http://www.redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer)

**HandsOn Network** – Points of Light- World's largest organization dedicated to volunteer service

[www.pointsoflight.org/handsonnetwork](http://www.pointsoflight.org/handsonnetwork)

**Pittsburgh Cares** [www.pittsburghcares.org/](http://www.pittsburghcares.org/)

**OnlineVolunteering.org** - Service provided by United Nations Volunteers that connects individual volunteers with organizations working for sustainable human development around the world. [www.onlinevolunteering.org/en](http://www.onlinevolunteering.org/en)

**VolunteerMatch.org** - Non-profit links volunteers to virtual opportunities both in nearby communities and across the globe. [www.volunteermatch.org/](http://www.volunteermatch.org/)

**DoSomething.org** - Non-profit allows you to volunteer for any cause, from anywhere, at any time. [www.dosomething.org/us](http://www.dosomething.org/us)

**Socialbrite.org – 10 Mobile Apps for Social Good**

[www.socialbrite.org/2010/04/01/10-mobile-apps-for-social-good/](http://www.socialbrite.org/2010/04/01/10-mobile-apps-for-social-good/)

**Serviceleader.org** - Specialized resources for volunteers, volunteer managers, nonprofit leaders and staff, and instructors, faculty, and researchers.

[www.Serviceleader.org](http://www.Serviceleader.org)

- Resources for virtual volunteering  
[www.serviceleader.org/virtual](http://www.serviceleader.org/virtual)
- Article about youth and online volunteerism  
[www.serviceleader.org/volunteers/youth](http://www.serviceleader.org/volunteers/youth)
- The Virtual Volunteering Guidebook PDF Viewing Guide  
[www.serviceleader.org/sites/default/files/file/vvguide.pdf](http://www.serviceleader.org/sites/default/files/file/vvguide.pdf)

**Global Volunteers**

<https://globalvolunteers.org/>

**Tips for organizations that want to offer online volunteering opportunities**

[www.wildapricot.com/articles/virtual-and-mobile-volunteers](http://www.wildapricot.com/articles/virtual-and-mobile-volunteers)

**Myths About Online Volunteering**

[www.techsoup.org/support/articles-and-how-tos/myths-about-online-volunteering](http://www.techsoup.org/support/articles-and-how-tos/myths-about-online-volunteering)

**Robert Putnam – Bowling Alone**

<http://archive.realtor.org/sites/default/files/BowlingAlone.pdf>

Online activism: it's easy to click, but just as easy to disengage

[www.theguardian.com/media-network/media-network-blog/2014/mar/14/online-activism-social-media-engage](http://www.theguardian.com/media-network/media-network-blog/2014/mar/14/online-activism-social-media-engage)

**Political activism is as strong as ever, but now it's digital – and passionate**

[www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/oct/15/political-activism-on-digital-platform](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/oct/15/political-activism-on-digital-platform)

**Is the Internet fueling social change or giving license to engage in lazy activism?**

<https://news.usc.edu/90291/is-the-internet-fueling-social-change-or-giving-license-to-engage-in-lazy-activism/>

**Digital and Online Activism**

<https://en.reset.org/knowledge/digital-and-online-activism>

**5 Really Important Reasons to Stop Dismissing Online Activism**

<https://everydayfeminism.com/2015/11/dont-dismiss-online-activism/>

**Beyond hashtags: how a new wave of digital activists is changing society**

<http://theconversation.com/beyond-hashtags-how-a-new-wave-of-digital-activists-is-changing-society-57502>

**Digital Activism Research Project**

<http://digital-activism.org/>

**Study shines light on what makes digital activism effective**

[www.washington.edu/news/2013/11/20/study-shines-light-on-what-makes-digital-activism-effective/](http://www.washington.edu/news/2013/11/20/study-shines-light-on-what-makes-digital-activism-effective/)

**Digital Activism Decoded: The New Mechanics of Change – Mary Joyce (book)**

<http://sec.cs.ucl.ac.uk/users/smurdoch/papers/digiact10all.pdf>

[www.amazon.com/Digital-Activism-Decoded-Mechanics-Change/dp/1932716602](http://www.amazon.com/Digital-Activism-Decoded-Mechanics-Change/dp/1932716602)

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