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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE FUTURE OF US

**What the Dreams of Children Mean
for Twenty-First-Century America**

By Irwin Redlener, M.D.

Foreword by Jane Pauley

Publisher: Columbia University Press

Price: \$30.00/ hardcover/ ISBN: 978-0-231-17756-6

Price: \$29.99/ ebook/ ISBN: 978-0-231-54594-5

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THE FUTURE OF US

What the Dreams of Children Mean for Twenty-First-Century America

IRWIN REDLENER

Foreword by Jane Pauley

“In this incredibly personal and readable story of the activist pediatrician who created the big blue bus and brought comprehensive medical care to underserved, at-risk children all over the United States, Redlener argues that by eradicating our differences of opportunity, we can increase the well-being, prosperity, and potential of all Americans. Read this and become inspired yourself!”

– Julianne Moore, actress and activist

“This is the book our troubled era has been waiting for. In his beautifully written, fearless exploration of the lives of vulnerable children, Dr. Redlener offers us profound insights into ourselves and our society. **THE FUTURE OF US** is not just wise and wonderful, it’s essential for everyone who cares about the well-being of our children and the nation as a whole.”

– Bob Herbert, Distinguished Senior Fellow at Demos
and former columnist for *The New York Times*

Raymond is a talented young artist who carries his work from homeless shelter to homeless shelter in a tattered bag, but has never even been inside a museum. He is emblematic of the children that the renowned pediatrician and children’s advocate Irwin Redlener has met over the course of his long and colorful career. Inadequate education, barriers to health care, and crushing poverty make it overwhelmingly difficult for many children to realize their dreams. In his memoir, **THE FUTURE OF US** (Columbia University Press), Dr. Redlener draws on

More

poignant personal experiences to investigate the nation's healthcare safety net and special programs that are designed to protect and nurture our most vulnerable kids, but that too often fail to do so.

The book follows Redlener's fascinating, eclectic career from his work as a pediatrician in the Arkansas delta, to treating child abuse in a Miami hospital, to helping children in the aftermath of 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina. The reader accompanies him to the board of USA for Africa, to cofounding the Children's Health Fund with Paul Simon, as he persuades Joan Baez to play a benefit concert for his clinic in rural Arkansas, and to dinner with Fidel Castro. But what has motivated him most powerfully are the children who struggle with terrible adversities, yet dream of becoming paleontologists, artists, and marine biologists.

These stories are his springboard for discussing larger policy issues that hinder us from effectively eradicating childhood poverty and overcoming barriers to accessible health care. Persistent deprivation and the avoidable problems that accompany poverty ensnare millions of children, with rippling effects that harm the health, prosperity, and creativity of the adults they become. Redlener argues that we must drastically change our approach to meeting the needs of children—for their sake and to ensure America's resiliency and influence in an increasingly complex and challenging world.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Irwin Redlener, M.D. is president emeritus and cofounder of the Children's Health Fund and director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness. He is also a professor of public health and pediatrics at Columbia University.

Jane Pauley is a television journalist and author.