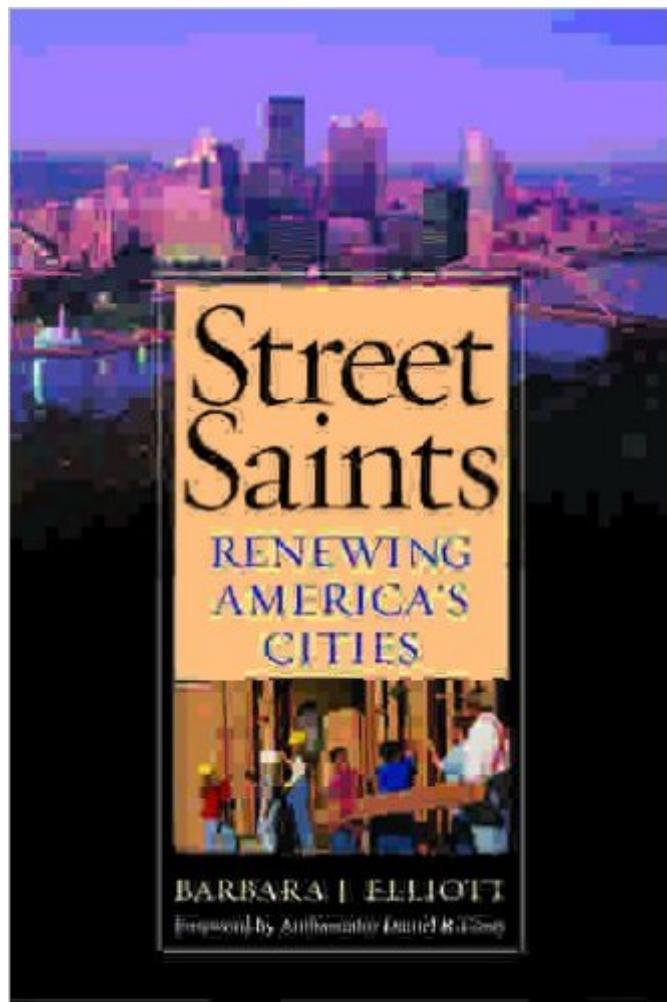


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# Street Saints: Renewing American Cities



## **Synopsis**

Based on eight years of hands-on experience and more than 300 interviews, Street Saints is both a book of motivational stories about unsung heroes and a sociological study of the "faith factor," documenting faith-based programs that are treating social maladies in America. This book takes readers on a tour of communities and institutions in America where faith-based initiatives are making a difference. It offers inspiration, role models, and guidelines for people who would like to give back to their own communities.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

In an extra-biblical epistle written in the middle of the second century the author, Mathetes, writing to his friend Diognetus penned these words: "In a word, what the soul is in a body, the Christians are in the world." In Street Saints Barbara Elliott has captured the soul of America's cities by shining the light on scores of people, programs and strategies that God is using to change lives and transform communities. If there was one book to recommend to those who wanted an overview of what God is doing in cities and were looking for inspiration, models and effective practitioners my

recommendation would be this wonderful book.

Founder of the Center for Renewal in Houston, Elliott was able to do over 300 interviews with persons who are leaders in successful civic organizations. Although their ethnic, social, and religious backgrounds vary widely, there is a common thread running through all the diverse activities--namely, improvement of urban life in general or some specific group in particular. And the many individuals Elliott portrays on the basis of her interviews do this with singular and exemplary imagination, commitment, and effectiveness. Elliott goes beyond only praising the individuals by uncovering their motivations and describing their work to also go into the founding of their programs, how the programs are run, their interactions with communities and government at different levels, and the keys to their survival and success. Thus, readers are given not only engaging portrayals of exemplary social activists, but also outlines of their innovative, relevant programs which can serve as models for ones in other urban centers.

I am in awe of Ms. Elliott. She has captured snapshots of extraordinary people doing ordinary, yet miraculous work. Everyday people. Reaching out to help others. Some come from terrible situations themselves, lifted out by others and continuing to pay it forward. Not in the Coffee shop drive through pay for the next car kind of way, but in longer lasting and life-changing efforts. This book and its collection of everyday Street Saints is for anyone who has ever wondered "How can we make a difference?" with poverty, the elderly, the lonely, the addicted, the homeless, the single and struggling parents, the prisoners, and more. The answer is not voting for, funding, or expanding any well-intentioned government program, but rather YOUR HANDS! Your heart, your mind, perhaps a little of your time. These people have accomplished so much with so little! Am inspired to see where I can plug into one of these efforts and help make a difference here in my hometown. This book would be a great gift for anyone in lay ministry or social work, a student graduating from high school or heading to college, a confirmation or other present, for a friend with a giving heart, for those entering or in politics, for someone about to retire, for a neighbor, a parent, your minister or priest or deacon or rabbi, or on your very own nightstand next to other books that encourage you. Thank you, Barbara Elliott - for sharing these stories! It gives hope for America and home.

Street Saints is a marvelous collection of stories about man and women from many different faith, class and ethnic backgrounds who put their faith into dramatic action. These "saints" allowed their faith to spring into dramatic action in aiding those in need regardless of their background. It is filled

with fascinating stories and interesting people.

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