



John Wood is the founder of Room to Read, an organization that believes World Change Starts with Educated Children.® Room to Read seeks to transform the lives of millions of children in developing countries by focusing on literacy and gender equality in education.

At age 35, John left his position as Director of Business Development for Microsoft Greater China region to form Room to Read. The business acumen honed there, combined with his passion and an unparalleled track record at changing the world, makes John a unique and inspiring speaker with universal appeal.

John's award-winning memoir, *Leaving Microsoft to Change the World: An Entrepreneur's Odyssey to Educate the World's Children* (Harper Collins, 2006), tells how he raised over \$350 million from a "standing start" to develop one of the fastest-growing nonprofits in history. The book was described by Publishers' Weekly in a starred review as "an infectiously inspiring read." Translated into 20 languages, it is popular with entrepreneurs, philanthropists, and educators alike, and was selected by Amazon.com as one of the Top Ten Business Narratives of 2006 and voted a Top Ten Nonfiction title of 2006 by Hudson Booksellers. The book was also featured during John's appearance on The Oprah Winfrey Show and the resulting "Oprah's Book Drive" with Room to Read raised over \$3 million from viewers.

John's follow up book, *Creating Room to Read: A Story of Hope in the Battle for Global Literacy* (Viking Penguin, 2013), tells the story of how the organization successfully tackled the next steps of scaling beyond his wildest dreams while maintaining integrity and raising money in a collapsing economy.

John has been named by Goldman Sachs as one of the world's ...

John Wood

Speech Topics

- ☐ Philanthropy & Volunteerism
- ☐ Inspiration
- ☐ Education

