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America's Path Forward Conversations with Social Innovators on the Power of Communities Everywhere Konstanze Frischen and Michael Zakaras, Editors

“One-by-one, the changemakers whose stories are collected in this book are inventive, brave, and effective. Taken as a group, they are full of positive, practical insights for increasing America's opportunities and addressing its failures.”

—**James Fallows**, coauthor of *Our Towns*

We are living through a period of tremendous upheaval: a global pandemic, an accelerating climate crisis, a racial reckoning, and a hobbled democracy. But all over the country, social entrepreneurs are effectively meeting today's challenges at the grassroots level by leveraging their unique perspectives to effect systemic change. *America's Path Forward* is a collection of interviews with 22 of these inspiring changemakers.

Coming out of Ashoka—an international organization dedicated to promoting social entrepreneurship—*America's Path Forward* is a window into the inspiring work of a diverse array of individuals who are often underrepresented in our national dialogue. Readers will meet people working to revitalize Appalachia by investing in organic growth and human potential; support fishing communities through regenerative ocean farming to narrow inequality and improve sustainability; and end poverty, improve democracy, save lives, unleash potential, and revive human dignity in ways that are ambitious, exciting, and transformational. While the innovators within these pages are as diverse as the country itself, they share something important in common: they are all close to the problems they are trying to solve, and they listen to the communities they are seeking to serve. In 22 ideas-packed conversations, they share the analyses, practical insights, and policy recommendations that have come out of their work.

America's Path Forward is inspiring, optimistic, and important. As the complex challenges facing us mount, these stories serve as a reminder of what can be achieved when smart, creative individuals with a wide range of experiences come together to untangle real problems for real people.

Konstanze Frischen is a member of the global leadership group of Ashoka, a global organization that invests in transformative ideas for social change. **Michael Zakaras** is the director of Ashoka US and co-founder of Ashoka's All America initiative.

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