

NEW YORK **LIVE**

Behind the Mask

INSIDE



Offbeat Soap Stars:
Ties That Bind



Fortune Cookie
Fetish



Man-hatters

ALSO

Puzzles

Horoscope

**AIDS &
THE CELEBRITY
CRUSADE**

**Who's On Board,
Who's Not**

BY GLENN PLASKIN

PAGE 14

**Liz Taylor:
No. 1 Crusader**

UA239808

**Your personal lucky number. You may have already won a super prize!
See sweepstakes ad in main paper PAGE 19.**

Elizabeth Taylor now dedicates her time to AIDS.

If people want to hear from me, it's not going to be about how to apply lipstick!" exclaims **Elizabeth Taylor**, one of the seven notable Americans **FAMILY CIRCLE** interviewed about the charitable causes closest to their hearts. "I'm going to thunder through your brains about AIDS." Our other outspoken activists include **General Colin L. Powell**, who talks about his crusade to enlist mentors for at-risk youth; Buffalo Bills quarterback **Doug Flutie**, who speaks about caring for his autistic son and the foundation he started to help families coping with autism; Microsoft founder and CEO **Bill Gates**, who devotes time and money to getting life-saving vaccines to children in developing nations; actor **Christopher Reeve**, who explains his efforts to galvanize spinal-cord research; pop diva **Patti LaBelle**, who delivers a message about diabetes prevention; and country star **Reba McEntire**, who tells how she's getting books to disadvantaged children.

★ Famous Families ★ by Glenn Plaskin

Cause Célèbre

Seven prominent people describe a passion for helping others and what you can do too.

Elizabeth Taylor

I have dedicated my life to helping people with AIDS," declares Elizabeth Taylor, fiercely passionate in her crusade to educate the public, raise money and generate caring for those afflicted with the deadly disease.

"Oh God, how can people not care?" asks the legendary actress, now leading the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation, which provides direct services to people with AIDS worldwide and also raises funds for prevention, education and new treatments.

"I give money to hospices for food, medicine and supplies; money for something as mundane-sounding as

walking the dog of an AIDS patient, money for condom giveaways and clean needle exchanges," says Taylor, appalled by a recent drop in donations.

This drop, some say, is caused by a growing complacency due to the effectiveness of new medications,

Glenn Plaskin is an author and celebrity interviewer based in New York City.

"I saw a stigma rising against innocent people struck by a poison arrow. I was so angry!" —Elizabeth Taylor

leading people to conclude that the AIDS crisis is actually over.

"Oh no! Absolutely false," she bristles. "Because of that notion, the infection rate is growing again. AIDS is still a raging epidemic," with 33.4 million people infected worldwide. "And teenagers," she says, "are being hardest hit." Half of all new HIV infections in the U.S. are among people under 25, the majority of them infected sexually.

"AIDS," Taylor adds, "is not a gay disease. Heterosexual teenage football players who are healthy and drink milk can get it too."

Indeed, the disease has struck Taylor close to home: Her ex-daughter-in-law, Aileen Getty (formerly married to Taylor's son, Christopher Wilding), is now living with AIDS. "A family copes with love and support," the actress says.

Taylor, who has four children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild, believes education should start at home. "Talk to your kids straight-on about sex when they start feeling sexual urges or asking questions."

Moreover, Taylor remains troubled that people still believe HIV can be transmitted through hugs, saliva, tears or shared drinks.

"AIDS is transmitted through blood [and semen, breast milk and vaginal secretions]. When people don't

want to hug or kiss someone with AIDS, it's ignorance and fear."

Considered one of the most beautiful women of the century, Taylor, who has appeared in 52 films, is currently pursuing new movie projects. In addition, she concentrates on her fragrance business. White Diamonds, which was introduced in 1991, is still regarded as the nation's most successful celebrity fragrance.

An astute businesswoman, she runs her AIDS foundation with the same acumen. "I do all the fund-raising out of my own pocket, and not one cent is spent on a stamp, an envelope or a salary," says the 67-year-old star, who has raised \$150 million since 1985, the year her friend and former costar Rock Hudson died of the disease.

"I saw a stigma rising against innocent people struck by a poison arrow. I wanted to go out and kill, I was so angry! Also, I'd resented my fame," she admits. "People wouldn't leave me alone—they were so interested in my marriages! Finally I thought, 'I'll use my fame instead of resenting it.'"

Recently recovered from hip-replacement surgeries, depression and the removal of a benign brain tumor, Taylor believes helping others is the best prescription for overcoming personal problems. "If you can't give money or volunteer, then offer your prayers. Jesus would have wanted it. You'd better read your Bible again if you don't think so!" ★

The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation
P.O. Box 55995
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413
800-986-AIDS

Colin Powell now fights for disadvantaged kids.

General Colin L. Powell

I'm on a crusade," declares General Colin L. Powell, man of America's Promise. The Alliance for Youth enlisting an army of co-sponsors, mentoring agency community volunteers wielding the nation's 15 million at-risk

find success in the 21st century. "These kids," explains Powell, "are trapped in communities that a sense of despair, making them extremely vulnerable to the path that exist in our society: gang violence, high dropout rates, ill drug addiction, teen pregnancy, juvenile crime."

The 62-year-old former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and national security advisor to Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton believes the danger starts early. "These children live in neighborhoods. They're raised in broken homes by teenage mothers. They're not being read to. They learn their colors and number."

"They're not getting proper

OUR FAVORITE TV FAMILIES

Over the past 50 years, they've been beloved guests in our homes. We laughed with them and cried with them. We watched raptly as they leapt from the TV screen into our hearts.



1949–1952
The Goldbergs
(The Goldbergs) A Jewish family welcomed viewers to a Bronx apartment.

1949–1957

The Hansens (*I Remember Mama*) A Norwegian-American family thrived in turn-of-the-century San Francisco. Do you remember Lars, Marta, Dagmar and Nels?



1951–1961
The Ricardos
(*I Love Lucy*) Oh, Luuuuuuucy! A ditzy redhead and a Cuban band leader made merry mischief—and sitcom history.

1952–1966

The Nelsons
(*The Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet*) The couple spawned a 14-year run and TV's first teen idol.



1954–1963
The Andersons (*Father Knows Best*) Kitten, Bud and Betty all vied for father Jim's attention and mother

1957–1963

The Cleavers
(*Leave It to Beaver*) June and Ward expected perfection, but Wally and the Beaver just wanted to pal around with Lumpy, Whitey and Eddie.



1958

The Simpsons
(*The Simpsons*) Don't mess with the Simpson family. Both parents are heart-throbs for kids J and M.