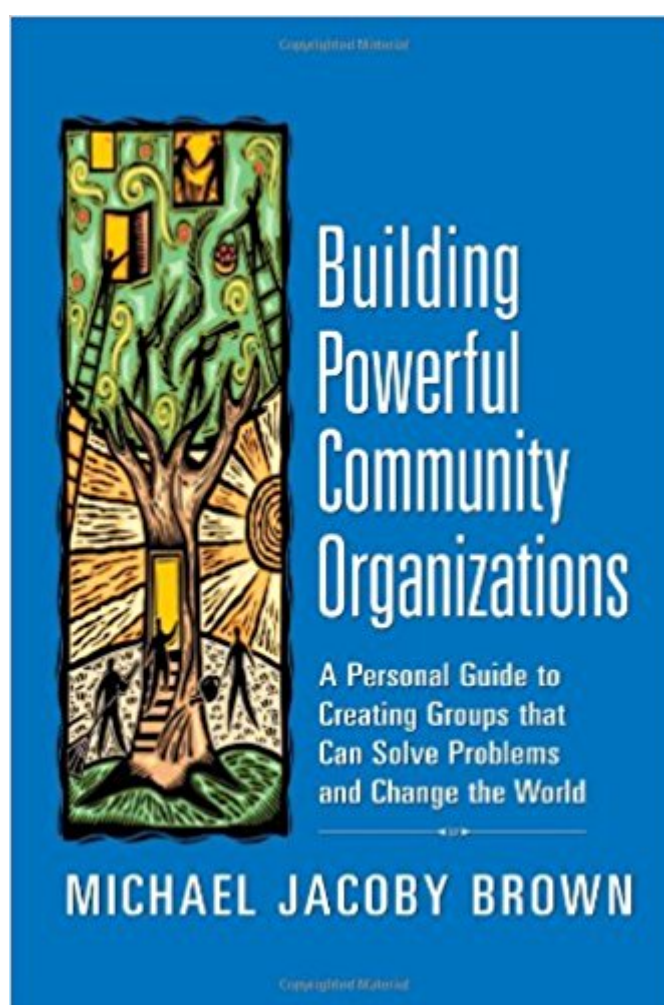


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# Building Powerful Community Organizations: A Personal Guide To Creating Groups That Can Solve Problems And Change The World



## Synopsis

Intended for individuals who want to start, strengthen, or revitalize a group to address a community issue, this indispensable guide includes a series of practical steps that help build a successful community organization and offers sample cases that more clearly illustrate each step. In addition to addressing common problems that are often encountered, the book also discusses how to run engaging meetings, recruit and motivate community members, raise necessary funds, and turn a passion into a powerful tool for social change.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Michael Jacoby Brown distills more than 30 years of organizing into his book, which every aspiring and veteran activist should own. This book is strongly recommended."  
Library Journal  
"At a time when national power is held by the wealthy classes, there is an urgent need, if democracy is to survive, for people to organize in their own communities. For this, Michael Brown is a superb guide. His book is full of thoughtful, practical advice for community organizers, and indeed for anyone who wants to participate at the grass roots in making ours a more just society."  
Howard Zinn, author, *A People's History of the United States*  
"Clearly relevant to precinct organizing and political campaigns."  
Michael S. Dukakis, former governor of Massachusetts  
"Covers all the organizing principles and methods and also breaks out 25 specific written exercises people can do."  
Social Policy  
"This no-nonsense, user-friendly guidebook is replete with sound organizing advice . . . the book's nicely illustrated, jargon-free,

pragmatic, and skilled pedagogical format makes it a wonderful textbook for teaching community organizing." – Journal of Community Practice "A practical, much-needed skills-building manual for a wide range of readers. Beginners will find a broad guide to the work. Veterans will find critical points of reflection, evaluation and re-orientation." – National Organizers Alliance Ark Magazine

Michael Jacoby Brown has more than 30 years of experience building community organizations. He has trained hundreds of individuals involved with a variety of nongovernmental organizations who have proceeded to build groups focused on social change. He lives in Arlington, Massachusetts.

I found Michael Jacoby Brown's Building Powerful Community Organizations to be a terrific guide for anyone who wants to do just what the title says. Early on, he lays out the 12 steps that it will take to build such an organization -- and then, in detail, and with really helpful illustrative stories, he spells out what to do, and provides helpful checklists and exercises. The book is 360 pages long, and packed with useful information and guidance. Anyone deciding to follow this as a guide will soon learn that building a community organization takes a lot of work and time, and some specific skills. But that's one of the things I so liked about the book-- the author is honest about the amount of effort it will take, lays out the journey clearly, and emphasizes the importance of sequence. Our organization, TimeBanks USA, gives provides material, guidance, and software for start-up and ongoing timebanks. We are looking to improve those materials, and were so impressed by this book that (with permission from the author) we shall draw on the book and its tools.

This is a practical resource idea book for those interested in starting or strengthening a community organization or nonprofit. Brown defined community organizing as "building the power of a group to change the world. . . it requires understanding of your self interest. . . building relationships with others, and a desire to change the world" (p. 3). The book is organized into 4 sections: Section 1 The Inside Story - definitions, step by step considerations for building a community organization including mission, goals, and objectives, and considerations for lasting organizations Section 2 Resources - recruiting, how to's and leadership development, meeting facilitation, raising money Section 3 Change - strategy, taking action, solving problems, results, building community Section 4 Future - where do we go from here Each section is accompanied by exercises, case studies, quick tips, and stories.

Incredible book! I'm "working" through it now... everything I need to know, so well laid out, so well written. What a find!!

I received the item on the day it was promised to arrive thank you for the book

Good book. Arrived in good condition.

Great book, takes you step by step in how to build a powerful community. Very simple language and straight to the point.

Prompt arrival, excellent book on important subject.

I usually don't read books a second time but Brown's book was well worth a second look. I would recommend his work to anyone involved in community organizing except maybe Republicans and conservatives. The method of community organizing is as old as Alynsky but Brown offers a fresh, humane take on hitting the doors, developing leaders and building organization. You get much more than your fair share from the investment in this valuable work.

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