

Hillary Rodham Clinton (1947-Present)

Hillary Diane Rodham was born in Chicago, Illinois, on October 26, 1947, daughter of Hugh and Dorothy Rodham. She and her younger two brothers grew up in Park Ridge, Illinois, as a close-knit family. An excellent student, she was also a Girl Scout and a member of the local Methodist youth group. Hillary also enjoyed sports and was always interested in politics.

She entered Wellesley College in 1965. As an undergraduate at Wellesley College, Hillary mixed academic excellence with school government. Speaking at graduation, she said, "The challenge now is to practice politics as the art of making what appears to be impossible, possible." Graduating with high honors, she moved on to Yale Law School, where she served on the Board of Editors of the Yale Review of Law and Social Action. While at Yale, she developed her special concern for protecting the best interests of children and their families. It was there that she met Bill Clinton, a fellow student. The President often recalls how they met in the library when she strode up to him and said, "If you're going to keep staring at me, I might as well introduce myself." The two were soon inseparable--partners in moot court, political campaigns, and matters of the heart.

In 1973, Hillary became a staff attorney for the Children's Defense Fund. A year later she was recruited by the Impeachment Inquiry staff of the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives to work on the Watergate Impeachment proceedings.

Hillary left Washington and followed her heart to Arkansas, marrying Bill Clinton in 1975. The couple taught together on the law faculty of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter appointed Hillary to the board of the Legal Services Corporation. Their daughter, Chelsea, was born in 1980.

As First Lady of Arkansas, Hillary continued to work tirelessly on behalf of children and families. In addition to chairing the Arkansas Education Standards Committee, she founded the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families. She introduced a pioneering program called Arkansas Home Instruction for Preschool Youth, which trained parents to work with their children in preschool preparedness and literacy. Hillary also served on the board of the Arkansas Children's Hospital. In recognition of her professional and personal accomplishments, Hillary was named Arkansas Woman of the Year in 1983 and Arkansas Mother of the Year in 1984.

When Bill Clinton won the presidential election in 1992 Hillary became the 43rd

First Lady of the United States. As the nation's First Lady, Hillary continued to balance public service with private life. Her active role began in 1993 when the President asked her to chair the Task Force on National Health Care Reform. She continued to be a leading advocate for expanding health insurance coverage, ensuring children are properly immunized, and raising public awareness of health issues. She wrote a weekly newspaper column entitled "Talking It Over," which focused on her experiences as First Lady and her observations of women, children, and families she has met around the world.

After Bill's re-election in 1996, Hillary penned the acclaimed book on child-rearing called *It Takes A Village*. Her book was hailed by many as inspirational in describing a community role in guiding the development of children. *It Takes a Village and Other Lessons Children Teach Us* was a best seller, and she received a Grammy Award for her recording of it.

As First Lady, her public involvement with many activities sometimes led to controversy. Undeterred by critics, Hillary won many admirers for her staunch support for women around the world and her commitment to children's issues.

After Bill's presidency ended, Hillary was elected United States Senator from New York on November 7, 2000. She is the only First Lady ever elected to the United

States Senate or a United States national office and the first woman elected statewide in New York. Her work as a senator continues to focus on issues concerning women, children, and healthcare.

The Words of Hilary Clinton

“I am and always have been pro-choice, and that is not a right any of should take for granted. There are a number of forces at work in our society that would try to turn back the clock and undermine a woman’s right to chose, and [we] must remain vigilant.”

“We currently have a system for taking care of sickness. We do not have a system for enhancing and promoting health.”

“It is important to recognize the limited ability of the legal system to prescribe and enforce the quality of social arrangements.”

“Probably my worst quality is that I get very passionate about what I think is right.”

“What we have to do... is to find a way to celebrate our diversity and debate our differences without fracturing our communities.”

“You show people what you're willing to fight for when you fight your friends.”

Hillary Clinton on Abortion

- Remain vigilant on a woman’s right to choose. (Jan 2000)
- Must safeguard constitutional rights, including choice. (Oct 2000)
- Recommended by EMILY’s List of pro-choice women. (Apr 2001)
- Voted NO on banning partial birth abortions (Mar 2003)
- Rated 100% by NARAL, indicating a pro-choice voting record. (Dec 2003)
- Voted NO on criminal penalty for harming unborn fetus during other crime. (Mar 2004)



Whole Woman’s Health

Whole Woman’s Health of Beaumont
3470 Fannin Suite 3 * Beaumont TX 77701
(409) 833-9207
www.wholewomanshealth.com

Women’s History Project

Hillary Clinton

First Lady, U.S. Senator, Author,
Mother



“The challenge now is to practice politics as the art of making what appears to be impossible, possible.”