



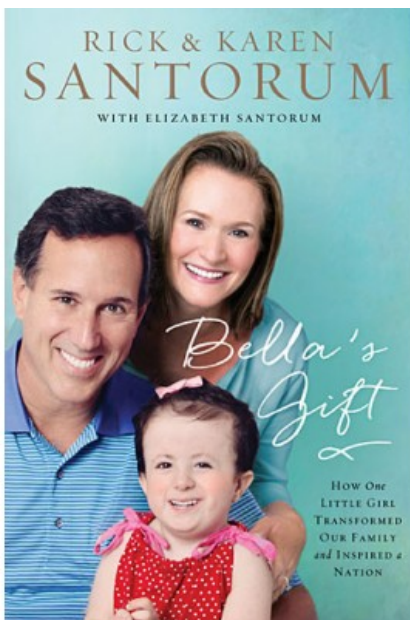
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Senator Rick and Karen Santorum Chronicle the Joys, Sufferings and Incredible Value of Life with a Special-Needs Child in *Bella's Gift*—Releasing February 10, 2015

Rick, Karen, and Elizabeth Santorum are available for interviews this February

Nashville, Tenn., January 9, 2015—Senator Rick Santorum became a household name when he made his bid to become the Republican candidate for President in 2012. This devoted family man was motivated to campaign with the hope that he might be able to put a stop to the Affordable Care Act—better known as Obamacare. His driving force? The marginalization of the elderly, the chronically ill and people living with a disability. Santorum's interest in this under-served, often forgotten group was born when his own precious daughter, Bella, was diagnosed with Trisomy 18.



Bella's Gift: How One Little Girl Transformed Our Family and Inspired a Nation (Thomas Nelson, February 10, 2015), written by Senator Santorum, his wife Karen, and their daughter Elizabeth, chronicles the life of their little girl and how her life touched not only their close knit family, but the whole nation.

Brought into the national spotlight during the campaign, Bella became a topic of national news, but her whole story has not been told until now. *Bella's Gift* tells the touching, and sometimes painful story of how the Santorum family was transformed by Bella's life and offers hope and guidance for parents of children with disabilities.

Trisomy 18, the condition of having three number 18 chromosomes, is often viewed as a death sentence. But Rick and Karen Santorum were not satisfied with allowing their daughter to be "incompatible with life." Instead, they relied

on each other, their friends and family, some trusted physicians, and, most importantly, their faith to guide them through the challenges of caring for and raising a child with a life-threatening disability. And while Bella cannot talk and walk and function as their other six children do, she brings the greatest gift of all to the family—her pure and unconditional love.

Bella's Gift is a tribute to Bella's spirit, but it is also about the tenacity and vigor that the parents and advocates of children born with Trisomy 18, and other disabilities, must fight with in order to keep their children from becoming the victims of some segments of society that too often value "normality" and cost efficiency. It is the story of how a parent's love can change the bleak diagnosis from the medical world and create a new level of expectation of care.

This poignant story is the personal journey of a very public family, a family rooted in faith and a belief that God has a greater plan for Bella and children like her. Now nearing her seventh birthday, Bella serves as a joyful and improbable reminder to everyone who reads this book that love is a gift that changes the heart.

Rick Santorum a native of Pennsylvania, was candidate for the Republican nomination for president of the United States in 2012. He served in the House of Representatives from 1991 to 1995 and in the Senate from 1995 to 2007 and is the author of several books, including the 2005 *New York Times* bestseller *It Takes a Family*.

Karen Santorum is a former neonatal intensive care nurse and attorney. She is the author of *Letters to Gabriel* and *Everyday Graces: A Child's Book of Good Manners*. Karen and her husband, Rick, are the parents of seven children. Her greatest role and love in life is being a wife and a mother.

Elizabeth Santorum graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Dallas. During the 2012 Republican presidential primary, she spent a year campaigning across the nation on behalf of her father, Senator Rick Santorum. Appearing on CNN, Fox News, NBC, and many other news outlets at twenty years old, she became one of the campaign's most requested speakers. Elizabeth has spent time doing mission work in Uganda, is currently a John Jay Fellow, and absolutely loves being a big sister.

Bella's Gift: How One Little Girl Transformed Our Family and Inspired a Nation

Rick and Karen Santorum with Elizabeth Santorum

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