



MORE WORLDLY **BARBARA BUSH**

## Corps Fitness

Mention malnutrition, AIDS or HIV, lack of clean drinking water and general health care access, and the conversation will frequently veer toward Africa, but Barbara Bush wants you to know that regardless of where you live, global health issues can be found in your own backyard. “You don’t have to go far to see some of the same staggering problems,” Bush says. “One in 20 people in Washington, D.C., are HIV positive. It’s not just elsewhere. Global health is not defined by boundaries.”

As CEO and co-founder of Global Health Corps, Bush has been mobilizing a new wave of global health leaders, tapping recent college graduates and young professionals for yearlong paid fellowships with high-impact health organizations around the world. This year, GHC is adding 138 new fellows to its impressive ranks and building out alumni hubs across eastern and southern Africa and the U.S. to increase collaboration. Rather than placing an individual focus on each fellow, GHC has built a thriving network since its founding in 2009, connecting past and present fellows through conferences and strong alumni relations. “The strength of community is amazing,” says Bush, adding: “To partner with other organizations can exponentially impact the change. Partners in Health and the Clinton Health Access Initiative were so fundamental to the start of GHC. I think this speaks to the importance of community as well.”

Bush credits the globetrotting she did while in college with jumpstarting her interest in global health and establishing the exhaustive itinerary she keeps up today. “I travel about 70 percent of the year, and my world changes every time I do,” she says. “Honestly, the more firsthand exposure you have to the issues, the better.”

Find out more about Global Health Corps at [ghcorps.org](http://ghcorps.org)

### HEALTH CONNECTIONS

In its five years of existence, Barbara Bush’s Global Health Corps has graduated 322 fellows, including alums Nargis Shirazi, from the class of 2013, and Raymond Besiga, in 2012.



MORE FEROCIOUS **NARGIS SHIRAZI**

## BODY LANGUAGE

Nargis Shirazi of Uganda is a community psychologist, a playwright, and one of the founders of the Wo-Man Foundation, a nonprofit that takes on the taboos surrounding reproductive health in her native country. Wo-Man brings the conversation out in the open, with outreach campaigns that use creative and entertaining mediums to educate young people about their bodies and their rights. Going up against a long history of shame and superstition isn’t easy, but the group has been able to make a huge difference with programs as simple as providing underwear and sanitary pads to young rural women and teaching proper condom usage. Shirazi’s comedic play, *THE TWIST*, was recently featured as part of a PBS documentary on women’s health advocates and focuses on men’s roles in family planning.



MORE LIVE WIRE **RAY BESIGA**

## Giving Off Sparks

Ray Besiga, in a recent post on his personal blog, outlines lessons he took away from an eventful 2013. While all of the entries—don’t stall, don’t give up, play the long game, etc.—are well-articulated by Besiga, one in particular stands out: “Be kind and fair,” Besiga writes, “but always speak your mind.” This, more than anything, governs the way he operates his company. Sparkplug, which engineers business-to-business proprietary software and technology services for its clients, chooses its customers (both businesses and NGOs) carefully, selecting those that work unequivocally and outspokenly to improve the lives of the disadvantaged. This past year, Besiga and Sparkplug developed products for the Starkey Hearing Foundation, the world’s largest hearing health charity, and BBOX, a British solar energy provider.

Find out more about Ray Besiga at [sparkplug.com](http://sparkplug.com)



**ORS** THE CLINTON HEALTH ACCESS INITIATIVE and the IKEA Foundation recently partnered to increase access to oral rehydration salts (ORS) and zinc, which

can prevent 90 percent of diarrhea-related deaths and costs only U.S. 50 cents, in Kenya and India.