(Commercial)

>> John Roberts: I know that you did a lot of travel in the early 2000s with your parents, you want to Africa back in 2003. Was there a particular moment when you were struck by something, where you said, "Wow, I really have to pitch in here. I have to give back, and this is how I want to do it"?

>> Barbara Bush: I did. I got to go in 2003 to Africa with my parents, to five countries. And it was when they were just launching PEPFAR. And PEPFAR really was just an idea then. We hadn't seen what was going to happen yet.

And I went to a clinic with my parents and saw at that time so many people so excited about the idea of PEPFAR and the fact that they were living with HIV and were going to be able to benefit from it.

>> John Roberts: We should just say that PEPFAR is President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief.

>> Barbara Bush: Yes. Exactly. And so it was sort of the first large U.S. aid plan focused on AIDS relief.

And I met so many people that were living with HIV that were doing okay because they were taking antiretrovirals. And then I also met a little girl that was not, and she had -- her mom had brought her to come to this event, I think sort of under this idea that the American president was in their village and it was this really big deal. And she was just a really sick little girl, and I just at that time couldn't -- I just had never seen anything like that. And I know she ended up passing away afterwards.

And so I was struck by that, but I was also struck by meeting so many people that were working in this clinic and working on these different initiatives that had really devoted their life to health and to bringing changes in it, and I think that was the first time that -- I was not pre-med, I hadn't studied health. That was the first time that I thought, "Well, maybe -- what am I doing? Maybe I should focus on this, and I can." And you really can work in the health field even if you're not a doctor or nurse.

>> Kiran Chetry: And you talked about just marvelling at the fact that there were people dying of preventable illnesses --

>> Barbara Bush: Yes.

>> Arthur Miller: -- where here, you or John or anybody could go to a clinic or go to their doctor and get treated. And in many cases, they're seeing half a million kids dying unnecessarily. And so you founded and you're now the president of Global Health Corps, and you're recruiting other young people to do this as well.

   Explain what your Corps does.

>> Barbara Bush: I guess we -- you know, we really wanted to capitalize on the energy and the enthusiasm of people in our age group, young professionals, that can work in the health field. So what we do is we recruit young professionals that are 30 years and younger to work for a year in health organizations.

   And, really, they're not doctors and nurses, they're filling any needs that the organizations have. And what we found is, all of our partners want people with technology skills, they want program management skills, they want monitoring and evaluation support, they just want general program support -- which are skills that tons of people have, they just don't know that they can use them in the health field.
>> John Roberts: So you chose 22 fellows --
>> Barbara Bush: Yes.
>> John Roberts: -- this year out of 1200 applications.
>> Barbara Bush: Yes.
>> John Roberts: So you got a lot of people who want to get into
this. You're going to
bump that, I think, up to 40 fellows in the next
year and maybe 500 five years from now?
>> Barbara Bush: Yes.
>> John Roberts: So that's terrific! But you said everybody is under
the age of 30. Why do you limit to people under the age of 30?
>> Barbara Bush: We limit to people under the age of 30 because we
really want to -- we want to build the next generations of leaders in
health.

We had seen how Teach for America and City Year had really changed the
idea of young people approaching careers, to go into education. And there
wasn't something like that for health, and so what we really want to show
is that we can build the next generation of leaders. So that older people
that have been working in the health field, when they retire, there's more
people going in to take their place.

>> John Roberts: Somebody to backfill, in other words.
>> Barbara Bush: Yes.

>> Kiran Chetry: And the question is: In this time, we talk about it
being a rough environment for graduates. You know, of course we're in a
recession, we're dealing with a high rate of unemployment.

Does this actually help nonprofit groups in some way? Because you
figure, if I'm not going to be able to get a paying job in my field,
getting experience and getting those contacts may prove to be vital as
well.

>> Barbara Bush: Absolutely. I think the talent of the people that
have been applying to us are unbelievable. One of our fellows was working
at Google doing product management, and now he's working on health
management information systems in Tanzania. So he's someone that has
really applicable skills but never thought that they would fit in the
health field. So he started rethinking about his career path because of
the recession, because of the economy.

And that's just one example of the types of skills that people have
right now but they may not continue working in their field.

>> John Roberts: You know, many people have said that PEPFAR is going
to be your father's enduring legacy. And I know that your mother has been
very concerned about health issues particularly regarding women: breast
cancer, heart disease.

Did they give you any advice when you were getting into this?

>> Barbara Bush: They gave me a lot of advice, really. And I
really -- through exposure from them, that's how I got involved in health
and that's how I got interested in health.

>> John Roberts: So what did they tell you?
>> Barbara Bush: I mean, everything. Literally! Starting the
nonprofit from the beginning is something that I had never done. And then
working in the health field and trying to figure out the smartest people
and the best people to talk to and the best organizations to partner with
was a whole new thing for me. And so really, they've given me advice on
everything.

>> Kiran Chetry: And personally for you, where do you see yourself
going next or what are your goals for the future?
>> Barbara Bush: You know, I want to keep working on this. I'm
really excited for -- in five years when we do have 500 fellows and in ten
years when we see these young people that have done our program, are really
committing their lives to the health field and changing what's -- the
outcomes, I think that's the most exciting, is to think what are our
fellows going to do with their future and how are we all going to benefit
from that. So that's what I want to see in my future.

>> John Roberts: So what's the best piece of advice your dad gave you?

>> Barbara Bush: I'd say -- I was nervous just starting this in the first place, and my dad said, "You know, you're going to really regret it if you don't do it, so just do it. You know, there's nothing to lose, it's a good idea, and you're essentially helping young people get involved in a field that needs more young people, so do it!"

Transcription by www.HRICART.com