



Meagan Fallone

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Profile

CEO Barefoot College International

Responsible for Barefoot College International, Meagan Fallon is currently steering the establishment of a further 6 Barefoot College Women's Vocational Training Centers throughout Sub Saharan Africa, Latin America and SE Asia/Pacific; to triple the size of the Barefoot College by 2018. In addition she is leading a significant move by the organisation towards digital integration both within the organisation and, in the hands of the thousands of rural poor illiterate and semi literate women the college trains throughout the developing world. Her team of young 'Barefoot Innovators' have developed and deployed a digital M&E platform to track QoL, empowerment, financial and sustainability impact within their programming. By leveraging a design centric strategy, grounded in the inclusion of grass roots women throughout its design and implementation, The Barefoot M&E process is fully integrated through a bottom up approach. She is working to further disseminate and reach more women in the developing world by leveraging 40 years of grass roots innovation with the support of technology.

The "Barefoot Approach" focuses on *Water management, Renewable Solar Energy, Livelihood & Enterprise* creation and a unique solution to *Rural Education* for rural children that has today educated more than 75,000 young people. This dedication to creating information sharing across literacy, language, cultural barriers in true South/South cooperation, is at the heart of the Barefoot College strategic vision.

Ms Fallon has achieved significant recognition for the *Barefoot Approach* through creation of Governmental and Multilateral partnerships since joining **Bunker Roy** in 2011 to scale the Women's Barefoot Solar Initiative of community based, self reliant and sustainable Solar Electrification. She has been a field presence in more than 52 countries since joining Barefoot College and currently guides operations and partnerships in 72 Countries. Meagan is also responsible for Development, Strategic Planning, Policy & Advocacy, Monitoring & Evaluation and Communications. Since her joining the leadership team at Barefoot College she has sensitively been able to manage a challenging and deep organisational shift from a grass roots, India centred entity to a vibrant global organisation, working towards its own sustainability.

Context

Founded by Bunker Roy in 1972, Barefoot College is the only fully solar electrified college built by the rural poor and managed by the rural poor. For 40 years the College has demonstrated the power and impact of demystifying modern technologies into rural settings focusing on basic quality of life improvement. Grounded in the lifestyle and work style of mahatma Gandhi; "Live simply so that others may simply live"

A strong commitment to developing women as agents of sustainable change and belief in communities to develop their own capacity to meet their own challenges within the developing world, is at the heart of every Barefoot Solution.

Focus

A Champion of women in the developing world, Meagan speaks regularly on the power of women as agents of systemic change and the key to poverty reduction. She advocates for better designed

Bio Meagan Carnahan Fallon

educational pathways that include mature women and allow them to realise their human potential. A donor to many projects through Asia and Africa targeted at capacity building of women and girls enterprise and education initiatives, she has been a strong voice for philanthropy; by, for, and about women. She consults directly to Private Foundations and Social Enterprises to help heighten their impact at both ends of the Philanthropic spectrum through her consulting company, Step Up Consulting, Ltd..

Transforming belief into concrete action. As an entrepreneur, since 2005, Meagan Fallone has created and restructured a series of companies in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors. Her company MFC Art Consulting Ltd in 2006 deepened her commitment to Empowering mature women, by mentoring rural women artisans in India, Africa, Asia and Latin America to gain unprecedented livelihood access in the luxury hotel sector.

She believes strongly in developing holistic programs which respond to the voices of women in rural poor communities, through development of their competence and confidence in tandem with realistic economic opportunity.

Other Endeavours

Board Appointments: Barefoot College International * Public Interest Registry * Sir Edmond Hilary's Himalayan Trust * Wanawake Kupanda, NGO

Other Participation: Geneva Executive Committee Human Rights Watch * Foundation 2041: For the preservation and protection of Antarctica * Playing For Change, NGO, UNICEFF India WASH interfaith planning committee

Most Recent Experience **Founder & Partner, Step Up Consulting, Ltd- 2012 to Present**

Step Up Consulting is an organisation specialising in bring *Not for Profit social enterprises* to scale. It stresses the importance of sustainable financial activity for organisational longevity and as a necessity to realising potential. It is particularly known for its design centric approach to strategic planning which involves deep assessment of organisational capacities and a strong road map for action towards greater impact.

Founding Partner, MFC Art Consulting Ltd – 2005-2012

Design consultancy working with Interior Architects and Designers specifically in the Luxury Hotel sector to place artworks and accessories within newly built hotels, in order to realise a unique ambiance from each geographic location. Targeting artisans and artists locally in order to mentor and develop them to have more comprehensive skills for selling good quality culturally relevant artisanal and artistic items.

Owner and Executive Director, Esprit Heliski (Heliski Valgrisenche) – 2008-2012

Heliski Valgrisenche is the only heliski operation in Europe of its kind, operating on a private terrain of 350 hectares in Italy's Aosta Valley, south of Mont Blanc. After a deep rebranding and reorganisation, heliski Valgrisenche was happily returned to the extraordinary Italian Mountain Guides who risk their lives to share their love of the mountains from which they come; offering clients a chance to share a truly unique experience.

Personal

Born in New Zealand, Meagan Fallone holds BFA from Yale University and an MA From UCL, Birkbeck London. She is the mother of three sons, a passionate mountaineer, skier and diver who lives between India, Tanzania and Switzerland.

<http://tedxtalks.ted.com/video/Learning-Re-Learning-The-Barefo>

<http://www.fastcoexist.com/1680956/technology-is-useless-if-it-doesnt-address-a-human-need>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fuqWucWSh-E>

