



**Richard Stearns**

President, World Vision U.S.



Richard E. Stearns is President of World Vision, one of the largest non-profit organizations in the United States. After a quarter-century business career serving as CEO of two different corporations, he joined World Vision in 1998, leading the Christian relief and development organization to unprecedented growth and calling on the American Church to respond to the global AIDS pandemic.

World Vision has more than 1,200 staff in the United States, and partners with U.S. corporations, government agencies, foundations, churches and more than a million individual donors to help children and their communities reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty. It is the largest member of the global World Vision Partnership, which last year touched the lives of an estimated 100 million people internationally, with total revenues exceeding \$2.6 billion worldwide.

Since joining World Vision U.S., Stearns has built a strong leadership team focused on bringing corporate best practices to the non-profit sector and inspiring a culture of outcome-focused management at all levels of the organization. Donations have tripled for World Vision's U.S. office from \$358 million in 1998 to over \$1.2 billion in 2009 and overhead has been reduced by almost one third.

As one of his first initiatives as World Vision's president, Stearns empowered World Vision's senior leadership to increase awareness and funding for AIDS programs. This came at a time when the organization's own research found that donors had little interest in helping to stop the spread of the disease; donors actually were less interested in helping children orphaned by AIDS than other disadvantaged children.



Stearns chronicles his journey from corporate CEO to advocate for those affected by poverty and injustice in his best-selling book, "The Hole in Our Gospel," published in 2009 by Thomas Nelson. Named the 2010 Christian Book of the Year by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association, *The Hole in Our Gospel* challenges readers in the faith community to rise out of apathy to meet the challenges of global poverty and injustice.

In 2009, Stearns was appointed to President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. He has served on the boards of InterAction, the USAID's Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid, the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, the Center for Interfaith Action on Global Poverty and the ONE Campaign. Stearns speaks frequently to audiences ranging from local churches to the World Food Program's NGO Consortium. He has received honorary doctorates from Eastern University, Azusa Pacific University, and the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.

As a spokesperson for World Vision, he has appeared on CNN, Fox, ABC, NBC, and PBS, and has written op-eds for major newspapers and magazines around the U.S. on topics such as AIDS and global poverty.

*For speaker availability, please contact:*

**Speakers Bureau**

253.815.2555 | [speakers@worldvision.org](mailto:speakers@worldvision.org) | [www.worldvision.org/speakers](http://www.worldvision.org/speakers)



**Richard Stearns**

President, World Vision U.S.

**Richard E. Stearns** is the second of two children of working class parents in Syracuse, New York. He worked his way through Cornell University, earning a bachelor's degree in neurobiology in 1973. After receiving a master's degree in business administration from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, Stearns began a career in marketing for several Fortune 500 companies, starting with the Gillette Company.

From 1977 to 1985, Stearns held various roles with Parker Brothers Games, culminating in his appointment as President in 1984. He joined Lenox, the American gift and tableware company, in 1987 as division President. He was named President and CEO of Lenox Inc., in 1995, overseeing six manufacturing facilities, 4,000 employees and \$500 million in annual sales.

Since joining World Vision, United States in 1998, Stearns also has participated in the larger World Vision Partnership, leading efforts to refine the organization's business practices and advocating for global impact standards to evaluate programs effectiveness.

Stearns has traveled to more than 40 of the nearly 100 countries where World Vision works. He and his wife Renée have been World Vision donors since 1984. A lawyer by training, Mrs. Stearns also travels and speaks on behalf of World Vision. The couple has five children.

*Rich Stearns is based in the Seattle, WA area*

*For speaker availability, please contact:*

**Speakers Bureau**

253.815.2555 | [speakers@worldvision.org](mailto:speakers@worldvision.org) | [www.worldvision.org/speakers](http://www.worldvision.org/speakers)