Dorcus Acheng, a 2014 graduate of Kyambogo University, in Kampala, Uganda, was selected as a Fall 2016 AllPeopleBeHappy Fellow to work with Spark MicroGrants. She will be working as a Monitoring and Evaluation Fellow in Spark’s Northern Uganda office. Dorcus has been working as a Monitoring and Evaluation intern for the past six months and has offered invaluable support to the northern Uganda team in data collection, data entry and quality control. Dorcus shows great potential for growth and Spark is eager to bring her on as a Fellow to continue building her capacity and have her support in the management of their data. Spark’s Northern Uganda program serves over ten villages and is one of the highest need regions of the country. Dorcus will be an important asset in ensuring that Spark facilitators are collecting high quality data from community partners and monitoring community progress through the Spark process. Over the course of her year-long fellowship, Spark will be provided hands-on professional development opportunities to build her skills in data analysis and project management.

Theresa Bailey, a 2014 Yale University graduate, was named a Fall 2016 AllPeopleBeHappy Fellow to work with Comunidad Connect. Theresa will design and help implement a pilot project addressing sexual and reproductive health in two rural communities in northern Nicaragua. Health indicators in this region reveal high rates of teenage pregnancy, cervical cancer and intra-familial violence. The project will work to expand the scope of Comunidad Connect’s preventative health services in order to holistically address women’s sexual and reproductive health in the clinics and throughout the community. It will provide adolescents with accurate, unbiased, culturally-sensitive sexual and reproductive health information, and facilitate discussions of sexual and reproductive health among men and adolescent boys. Theresa will also oversee the training of health volunteers in topics of sexual and reproductive health, plan the possible expansion of facilities at Comunidad Connect’s health clinic, and initiate community discussions and preventative programs.