

Peter Corey
Alumni Volunteer of the Year 2014
Class of '01 & '12

Alumnus Peter Corey has been described as exceptional. An individual who IS changing the world.

With poverty alleviation occupying his thoughts since his late-teenage years, Peter chose an aquaculture education from NSAC with international work in mind, not knowing where, when, or in what capacity. A trip to the Congo and Mozambique several years ago inspired him to apply his knowledge and skills in aquaculture to alleviate poverty. Upon returning home, he immediately dedicated himself to this task. Fish for Hope, a volunteer initiative fueled and led by Peter, was born.

In just over two short years, Fish for Hope has helped revitalize hundreds of existing fish farming operations and inspired the start-up of new ones in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These operations bring much needed prosperity, improved food security and household income to thousands of people in the Equateur Province.

Through Fish for Hope, week-long training sessions educate fish farmers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, many of them women. They use a portion of the harvest for their own consumption and sell the rest locally for cash that can be used to purchase health care, other food items, and pay school fees. Countless fish farmers have even received a \$25 tool subsidy (worth three to four hand tools) for pond improvement and expansion.

Peter's initiatives are also providing a full-time salary to a local who serves as the regional aquaculture coordinator for Fish for Hope in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Not only does the coordinator's full-time salary provide a viable livelihood for his family of eight, it also supports his transportation costs for travel to the workshops and various fish farm sites. Recently this included the purchase of a reliable dirt bike for safe travel.

In addition to his work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Peter was also instrumental in the design and fundraising to construct a four-tank fish culture system in Mozambique, integrated with gardens and other agricultural initiatives.

When asked why he does this, Peter says he feels compelled. It's not out of a need to prove himself to others or to himself. It's ultimately about people, about responding to a need, about contributing to the solution.

Peter says the enthusiasm for aquaculture, increased productivity and thus greater contribution it makes to lives is admittedly not just more than he expected from their work, but even more than he had hoped for. The impact Peter has made through Fish for Hope's support of aquaculture in Equateur Province is obvious.

Peter is very connected to his church, where he is the leader of music and vice-chair of the board of directors. For the past two years, he has served on the board of the Aquaculture Association of NS. Since January, he has been leading this board as chair.

Peter is employed full-time as grow-out manager for Scotian Halibut, located in Woods Harbour, NS. He and his wife have three children.

It is most fitting that Peter Corey be named the 2014 recipient of the Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture's Alumni Volunteer of the Year award.