



# PEACE CORPS RESPONSE

## DESCRIPTION OF PEACE CORPS SERVICE

### PEACE CORPS RESPONSE

#### COLOMBIA

#### JAMES FISHER

11/03/2015 to 09/09/2016

After a competitive application process stressing technical skills, motivation, adaptability, and intercultural understanding, Peace Corps invited James Fisher to serve as a Community and Economic Development Specialist in Colombia.

### BACKGROUND OF SERVICE

Peace Corps Response Volunteer James Fisher started his service on November 2, 2015 in Colombia. Following an orientation in Barranquilla, he began to work with the municipal government and other partner organizations in Aracataca, Colombia.

### OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

James Fisher was responsible for collaborating within a small group of Response volunteers to conduct a diagnostic of the economic climate in coastal Colombia, advise Peace Corps staff on design of new CED framework, and develop projects with local community leaders. In this role, he carried out the following duties:

#### Community Assessment:

- Created detailed documents of Aracataca's current community and economic assets.
- Documented community outreach meetings.
- Employed GIS to create asset maps of critical infrastructure, tourism assets and public opinion data about priority needs.

#### Economic Development Plan:

- Collaborated with municipal planning staff to prepare four year economic development plan.
- Identified priorities at neighborhood scale.
- Prepared GIS thematic maps and other documents.
- Posted survey and planning documents online ([www.madfisher.info/Colombia](http://www.madfisher.info/Colombia))

Project Pilots

- **Tourism:** Surveyed local hotel and restaurant owners, tour guides, foundations and transportation providers. Created full-color visitor information brochure for web, print and wayfinding signs.
- **Higher Education:** Created work plan and draft memorandum of agreement for future Peace Corps-SENA (Colombian Community College System) collaboration. Co-instructed two classes with SENA. Introduced technical materials in agronomy, environmental sustainability, business and English language skills.
- **Environment and Infrastructure:** Directed \$1,000 SPA Grant to build and install 30 recycling bins in approximately 20 Aracataca Schools. Trained college students to present recycling classes to more than 2,000 secondary school students. Presented classes to hundreds of primary school students. Designed interpretive signage that was installed with recycling bins. Worked with municipality to identify critical infrastructure needs for future economic development.
- **Entrepreneurship:** Assisted local businesses and artisans to develop internet presence and marketing gateways. Assisted in business planning following the Building Your Dreams format.
- **Agriculture Extension:** Provided local research and outreach for the “Cacao for Peace” program. Worked one-on-one with local farmers to identify assets, needs and aspirations. Worked regionally with US Department of Agriculture, United Nations, US land grant research faculty, SENA, and multiple Colombian governmental and non-governmental organizations to create a scope and plan for future programs. Created GIS maps indicating production locations.

James Fisher completed his Peace Corps Response service in Colombia on September 9, 2016.

Pursuant to section 5(f) of the Peace Corps Act 22 U.S.C 2504 (f) as amended, any former volunteer employed by the United States Government following her Peace Corps Volunteer service is entitled to have any period of satisfactory Peace Corps Volunteer service credited for purposes of retirement, seniority, reduction in force, leave and other privileges based on length of federal government service. Peace Corps service shall not be credited toward completion of the probationary or trial period or completion of any service requirement for career appointment.

This is to certify in accordance with Section 6.0 of Peace Corps Manual Section 285 that James Fisher served satisfactorily as a Peace Corps Response Volunteer for a full term of service under an appointment of 11 months.

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Geralyn Sheehan  
Country Director  
Peace Corps Colombia

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September 9, 2016

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James Fisher  
Peace Corps Response Volunteer

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September 9, 2016