

Global Network of Good Guys

Governments, academics, business people, even *terrorists*, have organized **well-connected global networks**. But the non-profit sector? Not so much. "The heroes of the world should be at least as well-connected as the villains," says Atlas Service Corps CEO and founder **Scott Beale**.



Scott's organization aims to do just that: bring rising non-profit leaders from across the globe to DC for a year of **volunteering and cultural exchange**. Above, the most recent group. Scott calls the fellowship program a "**reverse Peace Corps**." (To which, a friend in India replied, "I like your idea, but why are you **against peace**?") Non-profit leaders from Pakistan to Brazil to Zimbabwe come to DC and volunteer at one of a dozen organizations, from the **Grameen Foundation** to **CentroNia**, a local non-profit which provides education and family-support services to bilingual, multicultural children and their families. Many of the fellows, average age of 29, live together in **group houses**. The host organizations pay **about 75%** of the fellowship costs, and Atlas covers

the rest. Scott tells us [applications](#) are accepted on a rolling basis and they're constantly seeking **host organizations** interested in receiving fellows.



Scott, who previously worked on anti-human trafficking issues at the US embassy in **New Delhi**, says Americans tend to see developing countries as the **recipients** of resources, **not partners** or providers. But why not bring an HIV/AIDS leader in Africa to volunteer at an organization tackling the disease in DC? He says the non-profit leaders bring just as much **knowledge** to their host organizations as they get back. The program is growing quickly. Atlas Corps already sends a few American non-profit leaders to **Colombia** and has plans to open a **New York office** this year. In the fall, he plans to honor the Peace Corps' 50th anniversary by bringing 50 non-profit leaders from other countries to DC. By 2017, Scott hopes to have **500 fellows** in cities across the US and the world. It now has a **1%** acceptance rate, with 1,500 applications pouring in each session.

This article can be found at:

http://www.bisnow.com/washington_dc_trade_association_news_story.php?p=8974

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