



# Peace Corps Success Story Community Economic Development



## **Aaron C Washington** **District and Community Liaison** **Botswana 2010-2012**

**EDUCATION:** B.A. Adolescent Education from the State University of New York at Fredonia & M.S.in Education Policy from the State University of New York at Albany

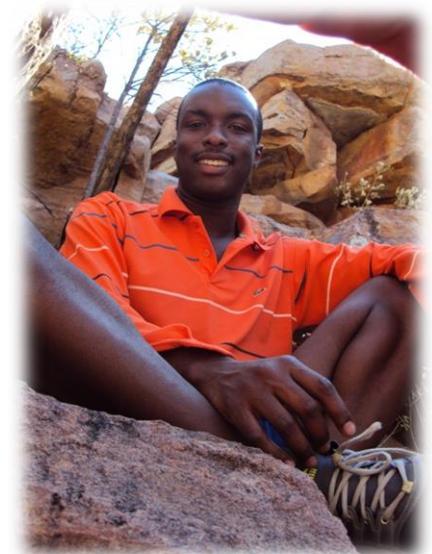
**NOTABLE PROJECTS:** My most notable project was probably my most simple project. I taught a hip hop dance class for an hour each day after school in collaboration with the Botswana National Youth Council. It gave me the opportunity to speak with youth about issues affecting them, have fun, learn Setswana, exercise, and share a part of my culture with people from Botswana.

**CAREER/SKILLS GAINED:** I am currently a Field Coordinator for early intervention programs for children with special needs with the District of Columbia Public Schools in the Central Office. Peace Corps played an integral part in understanding how to speak to a diverse group of individuals. I developed a broad understanding of needs assessment, evidence based programming, grant writing, collaboration and leadership.

**WHY DO PEACE CORPS:** There is a common myth that you “must” be in the closet during your full two years of Peace Corps service. “Coming out” is a uniquely personal choice that a member of the LGBT community must make on their own terms and in their own time. While I would never encourage an individual to come out in the United States or overseas before they are completely ready, I made the personal decision to come out during my Peace Corps service to country nationals of Botswana. Being a gay man was the ultimate blessing during my service. I made the greatest friends and had the greatest dialogues about diversity in my community.



***“It’s the simple acts  
that make all the  
difference”***



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