

Martin J. Fisher, Ph.D.

Martin is the co-founder of KickStart International, an award-winning social enterprise which has helped over 400,000 people escape poverty permanently. He and co-founder Nick Moon, have created an innovative approach to fighting poverty that brings together the power of technology and the entrepreneurial spirit of the world's poor.

After receiving his Ph.D. in engineering from Stanford, he won a Fulbright Fellowship to study the Appropriate Technology Movement in Kenya. A ten-month fellowship turned into seventeen years of fighting poverty in Africa. The lessons about what works, and what does not, formed the foundation of KickStart.

Martin leads a team of designers and engineers to create a number of money-making tools. The most successful have been KickStart's MoneyMaker irrigation pumps, with over 120,000 sold to date. Individually, users of KickStart's pumps see an average ten-fold increase in farm income. Combined, users of KickStart tools are generating over \$83 million in new profits and wages each year.

Martin holds a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from Cornell in 1979. He earned a M.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering in 1980, and a PhD in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics in 1985, both from Stanford.

Martin is a frequent conference presenter on topics of social entrepreneurship, design, poverty, water, and related issues. He serves on the Board of BuildChange, and the advisory boards of the XPrize, and the Global Social Benefit Incubator at Santa Clara University.

Martin's work with KickStart has been recognized internationally. Notable awards and accolades include:

- Lemelson-MIT Award for Sustainability, 2008
- Peter F. Drucker Award for Nonprofit Innovation, 2008
- Design News, Engineer of the Year, 2008
- Fast Company, "Social Capitalist Award", 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008
- Skoll Foundation Social Entrepreneur, 2005
- TIME Magazine "2003 European Hero" Award Winner, April 2003
- Schwab Foundation "Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2003" Award
- Beacon Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Social Enterprise, 2003
- AGFUND International Prize for Pioneering Development Projects, 2003
- Gleitsman Award of Achievement for Commitment & Leadership in Initiating Social Change, 2003
- San Jose Tech Museum Award for Technologies Benefiting Humanity, 2002