



PARTNERING FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND RENEWAL – TRANSFORMING LIVES

YOUR IMPACT

Now I Can...

Whether it's spoken in English or through translation from one of the world's many languages, there is a common phrase we are hearing more and more micro-entrepreneurs say, and it's "Now I can..." Throughout 2014, we will visit many of the places in which our microfinance partners operate to hear the "Now I can..." stories of the amazing people they serve. Our first stop in last quarter's newsletter was Africa. This quarter we head to Latin America and to our newest partner in the PEER Servants Network, Potter's House (Casa del Alfarero), in beautiful Guatemala.

...Educate My Children

Claudia (pictured above) is one of thousands served by Potter's House with a number of different services, including personal development, education, healthcare, community support, and, of course, microfinance. Through the training and capital provide by the microfinance program, Claudia has started not one business, but two! She makes jewelry *and* operates a small beauty salon. Her increased income now allows her to take much better care of her three children.

Claudia's dream is the dream of many micro-entrepreneurs around the world – to provide her children with the education she was never able to get. Her three children now regularly attend a good school and even get tutoring assistance from Potter's House. They are smart children, work hard each day to complete their homework, and have a very bright future. Thanks to Potter's House, **now Claudia can educate her three children.**

...Take Care of My Parents

Claudia not only takes care of her children, but she takes care of her disabled father as well. One of his seizures left him with severely compromised mental and physical function. Claudia needed a means of making an income that would still allow her to care for her father. Thanks to the capital and business training from Potter's House, she can make her jewelry and operate her small beauty salon from home. **Now Claudia can take care of her father.**

...Move to a Safer Place

Claudia has been able to say "Now I can..." to many things, but one remains. She and her family live next to Guatemala City's dump – one of the largest in Latin America. Crime rates are high and health threats are ever present. She thanks God every day when her children return home safely. Claudia dreams of the day when she can move her family to a nicer, safer place. It won't happen overnight, but by participating in Potter's House savings program, Claudia is putting aside any extra income here or there towards that day. **Now Claudia can put her savings in a secure place that she can one day use to provide her family a safer place to live.**

Claudia is a hardworking, visionary, inspiring Guatemalan woman. We are so excited to be able to partner with Potter's House in Guatemala to serve thousands of others just like her. She is one of over 150,000 clients from around the world served by our microfinance partners who, thanks to God's work and your generosity, are able to say "Now I can..."



Quarterly News

Second Quarter 2014

How we thank God for you, a very important part of our PEER Servants team! Through your prayers and financial support, God is at work enabling tens of thousands of the materially poor and non-poor to experience economic, social, and spiritual transformation. Thank you!

If you would like to send a tax-deductible donation to PEER Servants, you can do so by mailing a check, giving securely online, or gifting appreciated stock. You can direct 100% of your gift to any of our Microfinance Partner Funds. See the back side of the newsletter for contact info. Thank you for your generosity. **God bless you!**

Todd G. Engelsen

Todd G. Engelsen
President

Lydia Awards Celebration



Join us for an evening of inspiration and celebration as we hear the stories of and vote for our 2014 Lydia Award winners recognizing the micro-entrepreneurs having the greatest impact through their businesses.

Tuesday, August 12, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Grace Chapel ALC, Room 205
2 Militia Drive, Lexington, MA

Now YOU Can...

Now YOU can celebrate with us at our Annual Lydia Awards Celebration! It's our favorite night of the year in PEER Servants as we honor our three Lydia Award finalists and give you the opportunity to help us choose the winner. We'll have delicious cuisine from the Philippines, India, and Uganda. It's our **free** 2014 Lydia Awards Celebration – Tuesday, August 12, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, in Room 205 of Grace Chapel's Adult Learning Center, 2 Militia Drive, Lexington, MA.

WHAT TRANSFORMATION LOOKS LIKE



Empowering Moldovan Women

Invest Credit in Moldova is pursuing an ambitious initiative to empower 250 more rural women within the next 3 years. A greenhouse to grow tomatoes, melons, or other vegetables or fruits would be a typical business. Why are Moldovan women so strategic? Because they invest their profits in their families and homes, educating their children, and protecting the family from the risks of human trafficking that have made Moldova one of the leading source countries for such.



Creating Jobs in Zambia

Maleki and her husband weren't sure how they were going to be able to provide for their four children when he lost his job. Thanks to CEMFIN, Maleki could establish a stronger tailoring business and not only provide for her own family, but create two more jobs in Mongu, Zambia to help others provide for their families.

THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS



Have you ever tasted elephant fruit? Brandon Lewis has. All part of interning with his wife, Jenn, at CAFECC, PEER Servants' Ugandan microfinance partner. Mambo Charles (right) was Brandon's instructor – not only in eating elephant fruit, but in learning how to extend more of the kingdom of heaven to the Ugandan people. PEER Servants currently has six interns around the world and close to home. None can match Brandon's ability to eat elephant fruit. Interested? Email us at volunteer@peerservants.org to start your adventure!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We'd love to hear from you!

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Some of the young men trained by CCT/Philippines who went to the Tacloban area to help men there learn how to build their own homes and have a livelihood that will provide an income to their families for years to come.

More than Building Houses

Super Typhoon Haiyan left in its wake utter devastation in the Philippines. Thousands died. Millions were left without homes. Yet in such great tragedy, with God there is always a light, a story of hope, the potential that things can become even better than what they were. This is such an account.

Idle and Up to No Good

It is easy for a young man growing up very poor in the Philippines to have little hope and become idle. Idleness can lead to extreme frustration and even wandering into a life of drugs and crime. As much as there are inspiring stories of micro-entrepreneurs served by The Center for Community Transformation (CCT), PEER Servants Filipino partner, who are able to provide a university education to their children, some cannot. As their sons become young adult men, they can stray to unhealthy places.

CCT observed this and established a program that has helped these young men achieve their God-given potential. The program focuses on vocational training – teaching these young men how to do carpentry, plumbing, electric wiring, and masonry. It's a boarding program that attracts young men from all over the Philippines who want a second chance on life. CCT also incorporates a strong discipling program such that the men graduate from the program not only skilled, but committed to closely following Jesus.

Perfectly Timed for Good

The most recent graduates of this vocational training program were particularly impressive. They entered the program the same young men at risk, but God had His hand on them. In November 2013, they graduated able not only to pass the test for government certification, but eventually able

to pass the test to go and train others in the very skills they had learned.

That's when Super Typhoon Haiyan struck. Because CCT was Filipino and already present in many of the areas hit by Haiyan, it could respond quickly. After initial relief, CCT built some of the houses needed, but it didn't just build them and leave. Because they had already seen these young idle men the way God sees them and invested in them, they were able to achieve much more. It was these young men who went to Tacloban and other hard-hit areas – not just to build a house, but to teach the men there how to build their own houses. Now there were not only houses, there were many men in Tacloban trained and skilled for years to come to generate income to provide for their families. The same young men who had been idle and at risk just years before had been prepared and used by God for such a time as this.

Project Nehemiah

This strategy may remind you of that used by the prophet Nehemiah in the Old Testament. Each family rebuilt the protective wall outside of their house, and they made certain they built it well. The same is true of the men rebuilding their own houses in the Philippines. It's why CCT calls their multi-year response to Haiyan "Project Nehemiah". If you gave to CCT for their response to the typhoon, your donations were well spent! (Check out <http://vimeo.com/97006717> for a 7 minute video showing CCT's typhoon response.) CCT still needs our partnership to help those affected by Haiyan to fully recover. It's our great privilege to partner with young men like those pictured above, and with an organization who sees such young men the way God sees them.