



PARTNERING FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND RENEWAL – TRANSFORMING LIVES

YOUR IMPACT

# This Never Happened Before!

We are so excited to have welcomed the first PEER Servants-supported micro-entrepreneur to the United States! Richard Candia, a cassava processor and client of CAFEECC, our Ugandan partner, visited Boston in June 2015. An excellent communicator, he inspired many audiences with his amazing story of transformation. Here are some highlights...

## Born an Entrepreneur

Richard is typical of more than a handful of the clients served by our microfinance partners around the world – he was born an entrepreneur! Even in his young school years, he was setting up small stands along the roadside to sell something! His father wasn't pleased with it, but his mother secretly encouraged and supported him. An entrepreneur was born!

Richard decided to study business after secondary school, but his education was off and on given available funding. As he married and started a family, it was increasingly difficult to pay for further education and that of his children.

## Talented, Needed Credit

Richard heard about CAFEECC, a new Christian microfinance institution in his town that was providing access to credit and business training to people who wanted to grow their small businesses. That's exactly what he needed, and he was particularly encouraged that it was Christian and concerned about his spiritual welfare as well as his physical well-being. He applied for and received a \$100 initial micro-loan.

## The Sky's the Limit!

Richard started with a small grocery store and employed one more person, but as he looked around his community and saw idle young people and desperate women with children, his dream was to start a business that could create many jobs. He started a cassava processing business (cassava grows in the ground like a potato and is a staple in the local diet) that could turn the cassava into flour. He worked closely with farmers to get the best crop. His business grew quickly – with access to larger and larger micro-loans from CAFEECC, he was able to create 10+ jobs in short order. His business success together with a passion to bless his church and community through his business led him to receive the 2013 Lydia Award, given annually by PEER Servants to recognize the micro-entrepreneurs having the greatest impact.

## Approved for a US Visa

No one tells their story better than the person living the story, so PEER Servants arranged for Richard to come to Boston to tell his story. The US Embassy provided the needed visa and Richard joined two other CAFEECC associates for his June visit. He inspired many audiences and even achieved his dream – joining a small US business (Boston BeaN, owned by Peter Johnson – thank you, Peter!) for part of a day, sitting in on their staff meeting, and learning from business here what he could apply back home. Richard returned to Uganda more eager than ever to create more jobs and bless the community through business. He cannot stop thanking you for helping him do it!

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



## Join us for the 10<sup>th</sup> Kopano Walk!

Back in 2006, a handful of PEER Servants volunteers decided to start a fundraising walk to empower the materially poor. Now, 10 years and hundreds of thousands of dollars raised later, we would love for you to join us! It's much more than a fundraising walk – we'll have great good, games for the children, and more! Saturday, May 30, 10 am, Lake Quannapowitt, Wakefield, MA. Come make a difference!

## WHAT TRANSFORMATION LOOKS LIKE



## Rebounding in Sri Lanka

Chandrakumar was affected in every way possible in Sri Lanka's long civil war – his family lost everything, was forced to become refugees, and he was affected mentally for a season. But HEED, PEER Servants' Sri Lankan partner, came alongside of Chandrakumar after the war and has helped him cultivate lady fingers by providing capital with which he has bought water pumps. Now his family is doing much better and is looking forward to a peaceful future.



## 50+ Meals/Day Served in Peru

As Luisa sets up her small roadside restaurant in Cusco, Peru, you may question whether it's much of a business. Luisa's primary customers are the Cusco taxi drivers, and if anyone knows where to find good food in Cusco, it's them! Luisa makes her food at home and generally sells out by 10 am. It's a good business enabling her to watch her three small children. Kallarisunchis, PEER Servants' Peruvian microfinance partner, is helping Luisa grow.

## THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS



How does a volunteer touch nine different countries through her work? Angela Laforest did it by setting up PEER Servants Online Gift Catalog. Angela did a beautiful job making it possible for folks to honor their loved ones by giving life-transforming gifts to the materially poor. Check out Angela's impressive work by visiting the [Online Gift Catalog](#).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

We'd love to hear from you!

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*Amy, Beth, and Jake (left) on a New York City subway and Johnny (right) getting a bit too close to a lion in Zambia. Just two examples of how PEER Servants' internships are a bit out of the ordinary!*

## Creating Global Ties through Interns

**It's intern season at PEER Servants, but the 2015 season is different than any past seasons have been!**

For many years, we have provided opportunities for young people to work with our indigenous Christian microfinance partners around the world. Interns have served in places like Peru, Uganda, South Africa, Zambia, Moldova, the Philippines, and India. The experiences have been very rich as young people, primarily from the United States, learned to work with organizations that were not from the States. The technical and creative skills they brought to our partners were much needed and appreciated.

## No Longer Just Americans

**As the world gets smaller, it's no longer just American young people who are applying to become PEER Servants interns.** Johnny Hanna, a Danish university student, applied to fulfill his desire to use his skills with an African microfinance institution. Jake Hudson-Wood, a young man from the UK studying in the States, had recently returned from a powerful experience in Kolkata, India and wanted to return.

## A Dane in Mongu, Zambia

Johnny Hanna jumped with both feet into the Zambian context. Not only is he working with CEMFIN, PEER Servants' Zambian partner, but he is living with a Zambian family in a very modest but very hospitable home. He is older brother to more than a handful of younger Zambian siblings and enjoys Sunday worship at the local Zambian evangelical church.

In the office, he is helping enhance CEMFIN's program reporting. He loves working with numbers and his skillset complements the

skills of the Zambian management and staff. It's not all work for Johnny – he enjoys the personal warmth of the Zambian people, and getting to see wildlife that doesn't generally roam freely in Denmark!

## A Brit in Kolkata, India

Jake Hudson-Wood lived in Kolkata, India for six months serving with a British mission agency. While the frantic pace of Kolkata can be a tad intimidating for most Westerners, Jake embraced the Indian people and wanted an even deeper experience. The opportunity to work for an indigenous Indian microfinance institution was right up his alley! CSS, PEER Servants' Indian partner, was excited to welcome Jake to their team.

Jake has spent his first days getting to know the CSS staff and clients along with the young boys and girls supported through the surplus generated by the microfinance program. He is taking great pictures, documenting stories, and helping CSS better understand risk management issues. He's also playing a key role in helping "Team India", PEER Servants' volunteers serving CSS, understand what daily operations are like. He is staying in a flat provided by CSS and enjoys getting out to meet the many friendly vendors in the neighborhood.

## More to Come!

Oklahomans Amy and Beth are serving PEER Servants in their Corporate Office as interns. While there, they got to know Richard Candia visiting from CAFECC/Uganda and learned of ways university students like them can help micro-entrepreneurs like Richard. Amy and Beth are heading back to campus to organize a group of students to head to Uganda next spring. They're excited to go, knowing they will receive far more than they will be able to give.