



PARTNERING FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND RENEWAL – TRANSFORMING LIVES

YOUR IMPACT

Let's Celebrate!

You may recall that this is a very special year for PEER Servants as we celebrate 25 years of partnerships, but it's also a very special year in the life of some of our microfinance partners. These partners are also celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2016. PEER Servants is very committed to sustainable development, and that leads to some very long-term partnerships as new funds can go to reaching more and more of the materially poor. Join us in this global celebration as we see God's hand at work in long-term sustainable transformation.

Uganda - Celebrating 10 Years

Northern Uganda is a beautiful place with very hopeful, hospitable people. But it's not an easy place to live – over 75% of the population lives on \$2 or less per day.

So can you imagine how the people of Northern Uganda celebrated on April 1 when one of their own organizations – CAFECC (Christian Action for Empowering Church and Community) marked 10 years of empowering the materially poor? God has worked through CAFECC to allow micro-entrepreneurs to rise up and create the jobs needed in the community. In fact, even though CAFECC is smaller than some of our other partners and the length of our partnership is shorter, none of our partners has had as many Lydia Award finalists as CAFECC! CAFECC also gave birth to PEER Teens (a global network of kingdom-focused young people) who danced at the April 1 celebration. How we thank God for the leadership of CAFECC and their 10 years of service to the people of Northern Uganda!

Philippines - 25 Years

On March 31, a day before CAFECC celebrated 10 years of service in Uganda, the Center for Community Transformation (CCT) celebrated 25 years of service in the Philippines. CCT has been used by God in tremendous ways to allow more of the last to become first. Their network of 150+ microfinance branches and community centers around the country have touched the lives of millions of people and enabled CCT to become a place where others come from around the world to be inspired by and learn from them. CCT was very honored to have a very special guest for their March 31 25th Anniversary Celebration – none other than His Excellency President Benigno Aquino, the President of the Philippines! He applauded CCT's work in effectively empowering the materially poor and encouraged them to not grow weary in doing good.

Guatemala - 30 Years

For 30 years, Casa del Alfarero (Potter's House) has been serving the "Treasures" (what others call "scavengers") living in or off of Guatemala City's dump. The transformation witnessed in many of the lives of the "Treasures" has been nothing short of miraculous and led to some serious celebrating on February 27 (see picture above of the foreign guests). Potter's House is not resting – in fact, they are expanding throughout Guatemala in the years ahead.

PEER Servants partners with very impressive indigenous Christian MFIs which are structured and staffed to have a lasting impact for the kingdom. Let's celebrate!

Celebrating 25 Years of Partnership!

How we thank God for 25 amazing years of extending more of the kingdom of heaven to earth! 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 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 June 25 for the Walk!

Saturday, June 25 is going to be a great day for the materially poor! On that day, hundreds will be walking around the world to raise funds that will go to 10 of our indigenous Christian microfinance partners to enable them to extend the kingdom of heaven to more of the materially poor. You can walk right where you are or join us in Boston (around Lake Quannapowitt in Wakefield) at 10 am ET. We'll make it a very fun day with lunch from our corporate sponsors, games, and more! Go to w4ee.org for all the details and to set up your crowdfunding page within minutes! Please take some steps to bless the materially poor today.

WHAT TRANSFORMATION LOOKS LIKE



Overcoming Disability in Sri Lanka

Sujeewani (left) suffered a terrible accident in Sri Lanka that led to her lower right arm being amputated. What would have been a huge setback for most turned into an opportunity for Sujeewani as, with help from HEED (PEER Servants' Sri Lankan partner) she opened her own coconut husk processing business that creates particle board. She employs four others through the business, including her husband (right), and is looking to HEED to help her grow the business even further in the future.



Zambian Teens Ready to Serve

Who are the most recent group of Teens stepping forward to extend the kingdom and "set the example" (1 Timothy 4:12)? These PEER Teens in Mongu, Zambia. CEMFIN, PEER Servants' Zambian partner, had seen the impact of PEER Teens Uganda in a recent visit to CAFEECC and returned to Zambia to mobilize their own young people. Young people often have vision and selflessness that allows them to do good things older adults would never do. Go PEER Teens Zambia!

THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS



PEER Servants recently had a team of five volunteers visit HEED in Sri Lanka, including George Bourie (center). George provided training in Human Resource Development to help HEED address its growing staffing needs. A retired HR executive, George enjoys using the skills God has given him to strengthen PEER's partners.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We'd love to hear from you!

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Through PEER Servants' network of indigenous microfinance partners, hundreds of thousands of the materially poor have received micro-loans that have enabled them to grow small businesses, including Joshua in Uganda, the Chifeacs in Moldova, and Luxala in Sri Lanka. They have been great examples of those who bless others as they are being blessed.

25 Years of Inspiring Entrepreneurs

As we celebrate 25 years of partnership in 2016, we can't help but reflect on some amazing micro-entrepreneurs that have been served by our microfinance partners.

This is the second in our 25th Anniversary Series recognizing some of those who stand out the most among a very impressive crowd!

Joshua, Ugandan Event Planner Northern Ugandan. Disabled. Uneducated.

Those are three strikes in life that might keep some from pursuing their dreams. But not Joshua Muki.

Joshua's father died early in his life, so he had to provide for his mom and siblings. That kept him from getting the education he longed for, but he vowed to work hard so that someday, he could educate his own children. His dream – to employ other disabled people in an event planning businesses. Through a small loan from CAFEECC, PEER Servants' Ugandan partner, he was able to get his first shipment of chairs. He repaid that loan and got a larger loan for more chairs. Soon he had a tent. Amidst serving the key weddings and events of Arua, Uganda, he was creating jobs for others who were disabled.

Joshua did so well, he was able to educate not only his own children, but others in the family and community as well. A close follower of Jesus, he rejoices that God has allowed him to be his brother's keeper.

Chifeacs, Moldovan Farmers

As Christians growing up in the former Soviet Union, Victor and Lilea Chifeac were denied a university education. They turned to farming to provide for their growing family – eight children! Invest Credit, PEER Servants' Moldovan partner, provided micro-

loans that allowed the Chifeacs to be able to purchase a greenhouse, and that significantly enhanced their production and sales. They could now offer vegetables and fruits at times when they weren't normally available and at a higher price than at peak season. Another loan from Invest Credit enabled them to get a second greenhouse, a third, and a fourth.

The Chifeacs are now job creators in rural Moldova. They provided more than half the funding for a church to be constructed in their village. And those eight children? Four of them now have university degrees.

Luxala, Sri Lankan Super Mom

The 25-year civil war destroyed many families in Sri Lanka. Luxala and Suman were living peacefully in northern Sri Lanka where Suman was a fisherman. Then the war came to their small village, destroyed everything they had, and forced them to flee with their three children. Worse yet, Suman died soon thereafter. What hope was there for Luxala and her children?

HEED, PEER Servants' microfinance partner, has amazing Sri Lankan staff that saw great potential in Luxala. Through a series of micro-loans, Luxala start a dried fishing business and then started pounding rice into flour. She raised chickens, opened a tea stall, and the even started a small convenience store. To top it all off, she purchased one of the small village's first refrigerators and rented out space in it to her neighbors!

Those three children? They're getting a great education because their mom wouldn't dream of allowing it to be otherwise. And when heavy rains led to floods in the village, who was running to bring food to neighbors but Luxala! An amazing woman with local people who believed in her potential.