



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 – Africa, and to beautiful Northern Uganda to meet three of the clients served by Christian Action for Empowering Church and Community (CAFECC).

...Improve My Community

Alex Edoma has come a long way from an initial \$120 loan for some cement to establish one of the best construction supply businesses in Arua, Uganda. He now has three business branches and is employing over 10 young men who would otherwise be idle. Idle young men in a place like Arua may take desperate measures to survive. Employing such men is a step Alex is already taking to make Arua a place of peace.

But Alex is doing much more. Roads in Northern Uganda can be quite bad and near impassable in the rainy season. Alex saw such roads and he knew he couldn't wait the many years it would take for the government to fix them, so he and his young male employees installed culverts in those roads. They did it for free. And that's not all. Alex has provided funding for a Christian daycare in a predominantly Muslim village near Arua where children are learning how much God loves them. Thanks to CAFECC, **now Alex Edoma can improve his community.**

...Overcome My Disability

Florence Achia was disabled and widowed with five children when she approached CAFECC for her first loan to grow her fledgling secondhand clothes business. She was hoping to find opportunity, not pity. CAFECC saw in her a woman who could establish one of the largest secondhand clothes businesses in Arua, and that's what Florence now has. Now she is employing children with parents who are disabled like she is, and using the profits from her business to not only sustain her family, but help the poorest of the poor in Arua – children orphaned by AIDS. **Now Florence Achia can overcome her disability.**

...Create Jobs

Richard Candia loves God, and he knew God's heart was broken when He saw the way many Aruans lived in such extreme poverty. Richard wanted to help create what Aruans really needed – jobs. He had a small retail business CAFECC had helped him grow, but it was still employing just one other person. Richard approached CAFECC with a vision for a cassava processing business to work with cassava farmers and turn their crop into cassava flour. Richard provided the brains and brawn, and CAFECC provided the capital. The result – over ten women have jobs and the cassava farmers have a good market for their crops. **Now Richard can create the jobs needed in Northern Uganda.**

Alex, Florence, and Richard (pictured above) are just three of hundreds of clients served by CAFECC who are able to say "Now I can..."



Quarterly News

First 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

Concert for Economic Empowerment

Join us for an evening of global worship, hear stories of transformation, and discover how your skills can bring economic and spiritual empowerment to the materially poor of our world.

Saturday, March 8, 7-9 pm

Revive Community Church
111 Terrace Hall Ave, Burlington, MA

Now You Can...

Now YOU can apply the skills and passions God has given you to extend more of the kingdom of heaven to the materially poor. Join us Saturday, March 8 for a free evening of great music and great food while hearing stories from folks like you whom God is using to enable more of the materially poor to say "Now I can...". It's our free 2014 Concert for Economic Empowerment – Saturday, March 8, 7-9 pm, at Revive Community Church, 111 Terrace Hall Avenue, Burlington, MA.

WHAT TRANSFORMATION LOOKS LIKE



Fishing Again in the Philippines

Super Typhoon Haiyan devastated large parts of the Philippines, killing thousands and leaving millions without home or means of livelihood. CCT, PEER Servants' Filipino partner, has already been at work, first by distributing over 5,000 relief kits, but now helping the survivors rebuild their lives. CCT has a multi-million dollar plan that includes helping families rebuild their homes and get back to work. The fishing boat pictured above is just one of hundreds they will be distributing to the fisherfolk who lost everything in the typhoon.



Transforming a Moldovan Village

Veronica Costiuc and her husband Ion have started two businesses with the help of Invest Credit, PEER Servants' Moldovan microfinance partner. These businesses support several families and employ ten people in their local village. God is allowing Veronica to establish stronger Moldovan families, helping prevent two major social issues – human trafficking and orphans.

THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS



While we have well over 100 "ongoing" volunteers, we also embrace the "one-time" volunteers who join us for a specific project – like Tim and Kate Robinson, professional filmmakers from Australia, who traveled to the Andes to complete a number of videos for our Peruvian microfinance partner. Interested in using your passion to empower the materially poor? Email us at volunteer@peerservants.org to start your adventure!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We'd love to hear from you!

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Export-quality Andean avocados. That's what Marylynne Mendoza and her husband, pictured here, have been able to grow thanks to the capital and business training provided by Kallarisunchis, PEER Servants' Peruvian microfinance partner.

Reaching Peru's Rural Poor

Somewhere near the top of the world live **Marylynne Mendoza, her husband, her two sons, her mother, and her 100+ year old grandmother.** They all live together in a small structure high in the Andes about 50 miles outside Cusco, Peru. The memories are still fresh for Marylynne of days when their meager income was only sufficient to feed the boys and her elder family members. She and her husband hoped for better income the next day.

Tapping Into Her Potential

Marylynne knew she could provide for her family if only she could access sufficient credit. She and her husband had plenty of land on which to grow many more crops and were both very hard working. She heard about a Christian microfinance program called Kallarisunchis ("to begin" in their local Quechuan language) offering small loans. She applied and was so excited when she learned she had qualified.

Marylynne started by planting locally popular crops – potatoes (there are over 4,000 varieties of native potatoes grown in the Andean highlands) and pumpkins. She did so well that she was able to transition from retail to wholesale business. Marylynne had a passion for learning and trying new crops, and so she started planting avocado trees. They, too, did extremely well, and after joining the Association of Exporters of Avocados in Peru, she even started exporting them beyond Peru. Marylynne's latest focus is on growing chia, a grain high in Omega 3 and highly nutritional. She is already thinking how she can best promote her new product and has her own website in the works! While Marylynne qualified for just a few hundred dollars in her first loan, she now qualifies for loans of a few thousand dollars.

A Much Brighter Future

In just a few years, Marylynne, together with the support and hard work of her husband, has been able to create a much brighter future for her family. Her two sons are now getting an excellent education – the elder is starting to plan for attending the university. They are building a new home. And the 10-15 jobs Marylynne has created for others during the planting and harvesting seasons are blessing many more families in their community.

The access to credit and business training Marylynne received from Kallarisunchis were integral to her success. Marylynne is quick to credit one other critical factor: "When God is in the home, there are very significant



Marylynne with chia plant.

changes." Amidst all of her hard work, Marylynne and her family have stayed very active in their local church.

Reaching Beyond Cusco

Kallarisunchis knows there are many more Marylynnes high in the Andes, away from the hustle and bustle of Cusco, but with huge potential. They are focusing their future growth on extending more of the kingdom of heaven to such places. Thanks to their vision, heaven is getting a lot closer to somewhere near the top of the world.