



PARTNERING FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND RENEWAL – TRANSFORMING LIVES

YOUR IMPACT

# Science Labs and So Much More

We started something new in 2017 – Special Project Grants for our global partners. It’s been almost a year since the grants were made and we’re amazed at the results! PEER Servants provides hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants each year to our global partners for loan capital, staff training, and much more, but these Special Project Grants are for a specific initiative identified by a select group of our global partners. These grants help them reach new clients or students, offer new programs, operate more efficiently, or proclaim the kingdom more effectively. We’re very excited to present the impact of the 2017 Special Project Grants and introduce our 2018 Special Project Grants.

## Some Amazing Results in 2017

Tribal peoples in the Philippines are used to being treated the last or the least. Visions of Hope, CCT’s education arm and our Filipino partner, wanted to treat these children like they were the first, so they asked for \$10,000 to create a Science Lab for their school for indigenous tribal children in Mindanao. PEER Servants donors gave generously, and today there is a BEAUTIFUL science lab where these children can take apart models of various parts of the body (a model of the skin is pictured above), see things they never saw through microscopes, and so much more. They are starting to envision a future where they could become doctors, chemists, or something else in the science field.

That’s not all. The 2017 Special Project Grants have allowed South Sudanese single mother refugees to get vocational training in tailoring (see the story on the back), have started a youth music band singing kingdom songs in northern Uganda, have solar panels providing power in

Burundi, and have women providing for their families in northern Sri Lanka as they recover from the effects of the war. [Click here to see some of the impact captured in photos.](#)

## Our 2018 Special Project Grants

Our global partners have submitted their 2018 Special Projects and we are pleased to announce the following specific opportunities to further support their kingdom work...

- A Microfinance Railway Station in Kolkata, India to help CSS extend their services to 200 more families. Proposed Grant: \$15,000.
- A Women’s Savings Program in Cusco, Peru to help Kallarischis empower indigenous women. Proposed Grant: \$20,000.
- An Event Planning Initiative in Arua, Uganda that will help CAFECC expand throughout West Nile District. Proposed Grant: \$15,000.
- A Branch Office Building in Makamba, Burundi that will enable Hope Fund to avoid higher rent and have more funds for loan capital. Proposed Grant: \$20,000.
- A Management Information System in Chisinau, Moldova that will help Invest Credit reach new clients. Proposed Grant: \$20,000.
- Scholarships for AKT 2, the next global gathering of PEER Teens, as young people who are transforming their villages head to northern Uganda to receive further training and encouragement in how they can change the world!

You gave so generously in 2017 – would you please do so again this year? We want to raise \$100,000 to support these 2018 Special Project Grants. [Click here to get more information](#) and have an easy means to give. Thank you!

## 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



## October 28: Fall Banquet

Please join us Sunday, October 28 for our annual Fall Fundraising Banquet as we celebrate what God has done to extend His kingdom among us in 2018 and join others in supporting His work in the year ahead. The event will be catered by Nzuko. Get all of the Banquet info and RSVP at <https://www.peerservants.org/banquet/>.

## WHAT TRANSFORMATION LOOKS LIKE

**Selling on the Indian Railway**

Saraswati heads up manufacturing and sales in her own micro-business! She sews beautiful garments for women with hand-embroidered stitching and then boards the "For Ladies Only" car on the Indian Railway to sell them to women as they head to/from work. She now employs two other people to help her keep up with demand. Look for Saraswati on a "For Ladies Only" car near you!

**Teens Changing Burundi**

The young people in PEER Teens Burundi aren't discouraged that they live in a country where the average income per person is less than \$1 per day. They are committed to seeing the kingdom "in Burundi as it is in heaven" and gathered recently to bring hope, the message of God's love, and a little parcel of gifts to young and old in the hospital. What joy they brought to those who were struggling, and what inspiration they bring to us to go and do likewise!

## THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS



Paul, Daniel, and Douglas are just three of the PEER Servants volunteers who participated in the 2018 Walk for Economic Empowerment and used crowdfunding to raise a total of \$87,555 – 100% of which will support programs in microfinance, education, and youth empowerment. It was a record Walk in 2018. Thank you for your support of people like Paul, Daniel, and Douglas.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**We'd love to hear from you!**

Web: <https://www.peerservants.org>

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*Meet just some of the inspiring South Sudanese single mothers who, despite now being refugees in northern Uganda as a result of the war in their nation, have worked hard to learn tailoring and more as a means of providing for their families.*

**Joy Amidst Hardship/South Sudan**

*Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.*

*Jeremiah 31:13 (NIV)*

**Imagine seeing your husband killed and having to grab your children and run and run and run into the bush.** That horrible image has been reality for far too many women in South Sudan. They ran with their children to northern Uganda, and there, despite their own material poverty, the Ugandan people welcomed them like God tells us in the Bible to welcome the foreigners in our midst.

*The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.*

*Leviticus 19:34 (NIV)*

**A Royal Welcome**

**Who would be some of those waiting and prepared by God to welcome these single mothers and their children?** None other than some other South Sudanese refugees who had also been refugees in Uganda before given the political and ethnic instability that has plagued South Sudan for many years. They formed Joint Effort for Development (JED), a South Sudanese NGO that had been formed to help single mothers rebuild their lives back in South Sudan, but with the latest conflict, found themselves once again being God's hands and feet outside of their native land. JED invited PEER Servants to partner with them in the long walk back to experiencing joy that these single mothers longed to experience.

God looks for extremely special people to work with single mothers with the experiences they have had, and He picked Florence Araba to lead the charge.

**Sewing Lives Back Together**

JED started a pilot program to provide training in tailoring to 20 of these single mother refugees. The six-month program was extremely well-received and there was huge demand from other single mother refugees to participate. Florence recruited other women to help her with the training and, thanks to a 2017 Special Project Grant from PEER Servants, JED started offering other vocational training programs beyond tailoring. Women would meet every day and save small, small amounts every week to put towards half of the cost of a sewing machine. If the women could save that amount (around \$50) by the end of their course, JED would match their savings and they would get their very own sewing machine. The vast majority of the women in the program did just that!

**Joy Instead of Sorrow**

Florence brought much more to this tailoring program than needle and thread. Every day the women would have a time of singing and opportunity to encourage each other. They would be prayed for and pray for each other while being encouraged spiritually. Florence, with her gentle spirit and endless joy, was the perfect ambassador to extend more of the kingdom of heaven to these women in such a dark period in their lives. Bit by bit, these single mothers started to experience joy again. They were ready to move forward with their lives.

Life is still challenging for these single women. Many of their children are still out of school, peace remains elusive in South Sudan, and men often try to take advantage of them. JED is committed to walking with them with micro-loans to build their businesses, discipleship to help them grow in Christ, and waiting for them in South Sudan when peace returns to help them experience the kingdom.