



PARTNERING FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND RENEWAL – TRANSFORMING LIVES

YOUR IMPACT



Quarterly News

Second Quarter 2019

Investing in the World's Youth

We are REALLY bullish on young people at PEER Servants! If we are going to extend the kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven", it's high time we partner with the youth to create a much better world for them. They have a wonderful vision for the world they would like to create. We know because we've asked them, and we're walking with them to create that better world.

What is PEER Teens?

PEER Servants' youth empowerment arm is called "PEER Teens", a global community of young people who are learning together how to experience God's kingdom and finding ways to extend His kingdom to others. What started with six young people in northern Uganda in 2014 has now expanded to hundreds of young people in eight countries – Uganda, Zambia, the Philippines, Burundi, Guatemala, Peru, South Sudan, and the United States (Boston). PEER Teens affiliates are formed under the encouragement, mentoring, and oversight of a local PEER Servants microfinance partner or PEER Servants Chapter of volunteers. The young people cast the vision and lead the affiliate to execute it, acting locally in their community while networking globally with other PEER Teens affiliates for encouragement and new ideas.

Setting the Example

One key Bible verse that PEER Teens embrace is [1 Timothy 4:12](#) – they want their lives to "set the example" for others with a commitment to extend more of heaven to earth. That has led Teens into prisons, hospitals, schools, homes of the elderly, refugee settlements, orphanages, and beyond with their message of God's love and the hope that one can have in relationship with

Him. Their good deeds speak much more convincingly than their words. PEER Teens recently hosted their second global gathering called AKT 2 (Advancing the Kingdom Together) in northern Uganda. They have returned to their various corners of the world more passionate than ever to be kingdom agents for good.

Supporting Education

PEER Servants investment in global youth goes far beyond PEER Teens. Our partnerships in education are creating better futures for some of the most at-risk young people – those who have lived on the streets, are recovering from war, or have been historically oppressed because of their ethnicity. Our PEER Teens Scholars program makes a university education possible for a promising young servant leader whose family cannot afford tuition. We are also investing in vocational education to teach young people a skill. Our Ugandan partner is launching an apprentice program where Ugandan youth will learn a trade from some of their most successful micro-entrepreneurs. Education is central to creating better futures for our young people.

Creating Jobs

At the end of the day, the best way to create opportunity for young people remains creating the jobs that they and their parents so desperately need. Our microfinance partners have created tens of thousands of jobs for parents, and our microfinance partners are focusing more and more on lending to young people who can create the jobs that don't exist for them or their friends. The world's youth are committed to making this world a better place – what a privilege to partner with them to that end!

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
President



June 1: / A Record-Setting Walk

Our annual Walk for Economic Empowerment will be Saturday, June 1 and we're out to do what we have never done before – raise \$100,000 through the Walk to empower the materially poor. Are you in? Check out w4ee.org for all the details. Thanks!

WHAT TRANSFORMATION LOOKS LIKE



Global PEER Teens Visiting Prisons

The young people in the global network of PEER Teens are committed to “setting the example” (1 Timothy 4:12) for all of us in their commitment to extend the kingdom of heaven to earth. While gathered for their global conference in northern Uganda, they visited the local youth prison and extended God’s love and words of encouragement to the young inmates.



Creating Quality Jobs in Burundi

Japhet (pictured, right) graduated from university with a degree in graphic design. Hard as he tried, he could not find a job, so with the help of Hope Fund Burundi, PEER Servants’ Burundian partner, he created one! Through a series of micro-loans, he now owns an established printing business that is serving some of the top businesses in Bujumbura. He has created high-quality, full-time jobs for his 12 employees, helping address this critical issue of providing opportunity for young people.

THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS



That’s Paul and Duschia Bodet (lower right), with some of the guests at the “Business As Unusual” Africa Strategic Planning Conference. Paul oversaw the entire conference, including working closely with each of our four African partners in the year leading up to the face-to-face gathering. Duschia was his right hand. Together, they did a fantastic job as PEER Servants volunteers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We’d love to hear from you!

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

E-Mail: info@peerservants.org

Mail: PO Box 258, Woburn, MA 01801

Phone: 781-245-4059



Delegates at PEER Servants “Business As Unusual” Strategic Planning Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. Microfinance partners from Uganda, South, Sudan, Burundi, and Zambia gathered to map out their strategic plans for having greater kingdom impact in the years ahead.

Business As Unusual!

If we are going to successfully extend more of the kingdom of heaven to Africa and through Africa to the rest of the world, it’s not going to happen as a result of “business as usual”. It will require “business as unusual”. PEER Servants’ African microfinance partners know and embrace that, and they gathered recently in Nairobi, Kenya for training, networking, and thinking strategically how they could better accomplish such a great task in the years ahead.

Going to the Hardest Places

Our African partners are willing to go to the hardest places to extend the kingdom. Look at any list of the GDP per capita by country and right at the bottom of the list are Burundi and South Sudan. Hope Fund Burundi has integrated into their three-year business plan a strategy to expand to eight new branches to serve the rural poor of their country – those living on \$1 or less per day. Joint Effort for Development, our South Sudan partner, envisions a return to peace in their three-year strategic plan that will enable them to join in leading the effort to rebuild their war-torn nation. The work ahead in Burundi and South Sudan is going to be really hard, but our partners are up for the task and provide us with a very attractive opportunity to walk alongside of those who know best what their countries really need and how to move forward.

Serving the Most Challenging

There are two populations in Africa that have been largely ignored in microfinance efforts: farmers and the youth. According to the World Economic Forum, 70% of Africans make their living through agriculture. Yet, lending to farmers is risky, so many microfinance institutions avoid them. Hope Fund Burundi has already devised sustainable ways to support Burundian farmers, and our

Zambian and Ugandan partners are adopting similar methods while finding ways to mitigate risk and help the farmers retain a larger percentage of their profits.

All of the countries of our African partners have at least half of the population younger than age 16-18. There are very few jobs and options for these young people. Idle young people create a potential significant social risk, or a wonderful kingdom opportunity. Our partners are choosing to take the latter view. All partners have very active PEER Teens affiliates, promising PEER Teens Scholars, and some are introducing apprentice, microsavings, and microlending programs for the youth. We are working together on education initiatives that will prepare African youth for the promising Africa of tomorrow and to have the skillsets and ability to think strategically that will be in high demand.

Raising Funds Locally

While our African partners need and welcome global funding and provide a great kingdom return on an investment, they are reaching out to their own people to transform their communities and nations. Hope Fund Burundi provides a great example. Their current loan portfolio is around \$400,000. Where did the vast majority of the funds come from to make those micro-loans? From the savings and shareholder capital of the Burundian people. Many of Hope Fund’s shareholders today were their microfinance borrowers of yesterday. As they grew their businesses with support from Hope Fund Burundi, they developed a passion to bless others as they had been blessed.

So, don’t look for “business as usual” if you want to see how PEER Servants’ African partners are moving forward. Their passion for extending the kingdom is leading to “business as unusual”.