



PARTNERING FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND RENEWAL – TRANSFORMING LIVES

YOUR IMPACT



Quarterly News

Third Quarter 2019

Education and Much, Much More

While microfinance remains PEER Servants' core program, many of our global partners are making significant strides in their education programs, and asking PEER Servants to partner with them. Microfinance and education complement each other in our efforts to extend more of the kingdom of heaven to earth. Microfinance allows a family to generate income that can send their children to school. For families beyond the reach of microfinance or not yet fully benefiting from microfinance, education offers a means to break the cycle of material poverty. Check out what different partners are doing in the education space.

Guatemala: Public Partnerships

Our partner in Guatemala, Potter's House, has been working with public schools in the Chiquimula district to strengthen their physical infrastructure while also addressing the spiritual needs of the children. Public schools, like the one pictured above, acknowledge their need to encourage children spiritually, but they are limited in being able to do it. Potter's House does it respectfully and effectively while helping the schools with desks, chairs, fresh paint, and more.

Philippines: Tribal Schools

Visions of Hope (VOH), the education arm of CCT (PEER Servants' Filipino partner), has two culturally-based Christian tribal schools in Mindanao and Palawan. The students are often the first in their families to receive formal education, and VOH is committed to offering a first-rate education. The Science Lab that PEER Servants funded in 2017 is now allowing tribal children to see themselves as future scientists. PEER Servants also provided funding for a dorm that will allow 50 girls to attend the school.

South Sudan: Vocational Training

SALT, PEER Servants' South Sudanese partner, is offering vocational training to single mother refugees who are in northern Uganda during this period of civil war in their country. The training is in great demand. SALT staff go far beyond the technical aspects to encourage the single mothers emotionally and spiritually as they recover from this season of trauma.

India: Village Pre-Primary Centers

CSS empowers the materially poor in hundreds of Bengali villages on the outskirts of Kolkata. A growing number of these villages now have a pre-primary education center for their young children that not only teaches the basics in ABCs, math, and more, but encourages the parents to support their children's education. The centers are funded through the microfinance surplus.

Sri Lanka: Post-War Recovery

The long civil war in Sri Lanka limited access to quality education for many children. YGro is working in war-affected areas to help children learn English and math that will prepare them for their standardized exams. They also provide financial assistance to indigent families to assist with books and other school supplies.

Africa: PEER Teens Scholars

The PEER Teens youth empowerment movement is developing promising servant leaders who, unfortunately, often cannot pursue a university education due to their families' limited income. There are now fifteen PEER Teens Scholars in Uganda, Burundi, Zambia, and South Sudan attending university and preparing to be the servant leaders of tomorrow.

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



Aug. 3: Lydia Award Celebration

It's one of our favorite nights of the year, and you're invited! Join us to hear the stories of three very inspiring micro-entrepreneurs who, like Lydia in Acts 16, used their small businesses to bless many others. Vote for your favorite to determine our 2019 Lydia Award winner. Enjoy cuisine from the countries of the three finalists, and it's all FREE! Sat, Aug 3, 6-8 pm, Rm 205, Grace Chapel Adult Learning Ctr, 2 Militia Dr., Lexington, MA.

WHAT TRANSFORMATION LOOKS LIKE

**Cookout – Peruvian Style!**

Indigenous clients in the Calca Credit Group just completed repaying their micro-loans. How did they choose to celebrate? With a cookout, and high in the Andes, you do that with “cuy” (guinea pig). Alejandro (kneeling) is the loan officer from Kallarisunchis, PEER Servants’ Peruvian partner, who lives out and communicates God’s love for these clients while empowering them economically.

**Growing Business Profits in India**

Tula wanted to help provide for her family’s basic needs, so she started a snack shop at one of the stations on the Indian Railway. She needed more capital to expand her product offerings, so she turned to CSS, PEER Servants’ Indian partner, to get an initial \$50 micro-loan. Now, many micro-loans later, Tula serves a number of satisfied customers every day, driving her profits up 66%!

THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS



That’s Paul McGonagle who, a couple of years ago, vowed not to spend the second half of his life watching “Mash” reruns, and has since become PEER Servants Co-Director for Event Management. Paul led a team that managed the 2019 Walk for Economic Empowerment. They recruited great corporate sponsors, like Chick-fil-A, to show our appreciation to all who participated.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We’d love to hear from you!

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Meet just some of the folks who gathered in Boston (Wakefield) on June 1 to use crowdfunding as a means of raising \$100,000+, 100% of which will go to empower the materially poor through microfinance, education, and youth empowerment programs.

Having A Blast Raising \$100,000+

PEER Servants volunteers set out to do this year what they had never done before – raise \$100,000 through our annual Walk for Economic Empowerment. By the time you are reading this, the support of many generous donors will have allowed us to exceed our goal! That was a bit surprising, but what was REALLY surprising is how much fun we had doing it. Here’s a bit more of the story.

Boston and Far Beyond

While PEER Servants’ base may be in Boston, the organization has a growing global footprint. That was certainly the case with the 2019 Walk! Walkers joined us from Australia, Moldova, and Burundi along with Charlotte and Chicago. Boston walkers were treated to food provided by our corporate sponsors Chick-fil-A, Honey Dew Donuts, and Stop&Shop before enjoying games for all ages. It was a spectacular early summer day – perfect for an easy 3-mile walk around beautiful Lake Quannapowitt.

Telling What We’ve Seen/Heard

Jesus had a very simple strategy for extending more of heaven to earth – go and tell others what you have seen and heard. Through crowdfunding, that’s exactly what our walkers did. They went and told the stories of micro-entrepreneurs and their families now living with sufficiency and dignity through their own hard work. They talked about young children and single mother refugees getting access to education to prepare for better futures. They beamed when that shared about young people going into prisons and hospitals to bring God’s hope and love. Like the first witnesses that went out in Acts, they returned full of joy as they saw God’s hand bless the sharing of their message. They were encouraged by God’s power accomplishing far more than they could have thought or imagined.

What’s Going to Work? Teamwork!

“The Wonder Pets” often communicate a basic truth: “What’s going to work? Teamwork!” That was certainly the case with the 2019 Walk. Walkers joined at least one of twelve Country- or Program-Focused Walk Teams, and the goal of every Team was to try to raise \$10,000. Raising \$100,000 may have seemed daunting to most, but raising \$10,000 felt within reach with a little hard work. Every individual walker committed to raising part of that \$10,000 – some a few hundred and some a few thousand. Working together, many Teams reached their goal.

Generous Matches

Those Walk Teams that reached their \$10,000 goal were rewarded with a \$5,000 bonus match! PEER Servants is so grateful to a group of our most generous donors who made these \$5,000 matches possible. Walk Teams celebrated surpassing their \$10,000 goal after working together to unlock their match.

Every Penny Empowers the Poor

Perhaps most encouraging for the walkers was the reality that 100% of the funds raised would go to empower the materially poor through microfinance, education, and youth empowerment programs. Every penny was going to go to help the last become first – one of many signs Jesus gave us about the kingdom of heaven.

The 2019 Walk crowdfunding effort isn’t over yet! Walkers have until Labor Day (Sept. 2, 2019) to continue to communicate what they are seeing and hearing of the kingdom of heaven coming near. More Walk Teams are approaching their \$10,000 goal. It’s not too late to support them with a Walk donation. Go to w4ee.org to encourage a walker or two with your donation. Thank you!