



PARTNERING FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND RENEWAL – TRANSFORMING LIVES



YOUR IMPACT

A Sacred Act – Creating Jobs!

When is the last time you saw someone perform what you considered to be a sacred act? We get to see it every day in PEER Servants as we see micro-entrepreneurs around the world create what their communities really need – jobs! Jobs are very hard to find in much of the materially poor world, and the lack of them has economic, social, and spiritual consequences. Not every micro-entrepreneur can create lots of jobs, but some of them can. Here are three of our favorite stories of sacred job producers.

Mimosa, a Filipino Crab Processor

Mimosa was devastated when her crab canning company closed and she was laid off. Down but not defeated, she took her severance pay and put it towards a *bangka*, a Filipino motorized fishing boat. While she could initially only employ a few family members, access to credit from CCT, PEER Servants' partner in the Philippines, allowed her to quickly expand her fishing fleet. A few years in to the business, she had eleven *bangkas* and eight *barotos*, a smaller boat to catch squid. More importantly she had 80 employees! The profits from her business allowed her to cover the school and university fees of her children and many of her nieces and nephews, changing the future of her extended family. She was also able to generously support the work of her local church and support her employees as they transformed their families, churches, and communities. Mimosa considers her work sacred as she joins God in extending very practical aspects of His kingdom to many.

Japhet, A Burundian Printer

Japhet did everything right – he studied hard as a young man, attended a very good university, and graduated eager and willing to apply his degree.

There was one problem – there were no jobs available in his native Burundi, one of the materially poorest countries in the world. Japhet needed to create a job – not only for himself, but for other young people in his situation. He started a printing business using loan capital from Hope Fund Burundi, PEER Servants' Burundian partner, and purchased equipment that grew his business. Japhet established a topnotch printing business and created jobs for twelve other young people with degrees in marketing, graphic arts, accounting, and beyond. His employees can embrace bright futures for their families and are part of a brighter future for Burundi.

Sohagi, An Indian Recycler

Sohagi, a Muslim woman living on the outskirts of Kolkata, India, never had the privilege of getting a formal education. She knew she needed to generate income for her family, so she saved up for a bicycle and started collecting garbage that she could recycle. With micro-loans from CSS, PEER Servants' Indian partner, she grew her recycling business and eventually employed over 20 men. An extremely generous woman, Sohagi also used her profits to help the extremely poor and to give her daughters what she was never able to receive – an education!

Hundredfold Investment Returns

Jesus told a story of seed landing on different types of soil. The last of the four types of soil yielded a hundredfold crop and it is clear from the story what type of soil Jesus wants us to be. How can we be that best soil that yields such a bountiful crop? By investing in the likes of Mimosa, Japhet, and Sohagi as they perform the very sacred act of creating jobs for many.

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



March 14: Fantastic FREE Concert

Please join us for a night of great music and food, inspiring stories, and info on how you can get involved in PEER Servants. It's our FREE Concert for Economic Empowerment on Saturday, 3/14, 6:30-8:30 pm, Grace Chapel (Wilmington), 128 West Street, Wilmington, MA. Please come!

WHAT TRANSFORMATION LOOKS LIKE

**Over \$5 Million Loaned in Sri Lanka**

PEER Servants' Sri Lankan partner, YGro-HEED, recently surpassed \$5 million in micro-loans to empower the materially poor. Over 75% of their loans went to women, especially women who were the primary breadwinners in their families given the impact of the long war. Some of the loans were made to men, like Naveendran, an organic farmer, who recovered from the war's devastating impact through a series of HEED micro-loans.

**Volcano Cleanup in the Philippines**

PEER Teens Philippines members went right to work cleaning up after the Taal Volcano left heavy ash in the Philippines, and they did it with a smile! PEER Servants' partner, CCT, is taking many steps to respond to the natural disaster. Let's pray the volcano remains calm while thanking God for these inspiring young people.

THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS



That's Peter and Lori Dupre with one of their newest friends, Bonifacia, a remarkable woman served by Kallarisunchis, PEER Servants' Peruvian partner, in their elder care program. Peter and Lori were in Peru as videographers to capture the impact of Kallarisunchis's many programs – stay tuned for the world premiere of the elder care program video featuring Bonifacia!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We'd love to hear from you!

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Meet Gift, a PEER Teens Uganda Scholar who recently graduated with a Bachelors degree in Education from St. Lawrence University in Uganda. Thanks to the PEER Teens Scholars program, Gift was able to attend university and prepare for a lifetime of servant leadership that will bless his community in northern Uganda.

You Can Be a Life Changer!

One of the best pieces of weekly journalism comes on "CBS Evening News" virtually every Friday evening. It's Steve Hartman's "On the Road" piece. And one of Steve's best segments aired recently concerning a man named Pete Kadens who grew up in Toledo, Ohio and wanted to give back, so he provided \$3 million to pay tuition, fees, and books for ever graduating Senior at a local high school to attend university. Pete's generosity is changing the lives of many deserving young people who couldn't otherwise afford college. And he'd be the first to say he is the one being changed the most. [Click here to see the story on Pete](#), or Google "Toledo students surprised with free college tuition". Bring some tissues – you'll need them!

Not everyone can donate \$3 million to send a class to college, but many of us can invest what it takes to make it possible for one bright young person in Africa to be able to attend university. That's what the PEER Teens Scholars program is all about. And, like with the story on Pete, if you choose to become a Sponsor of a PEER Teens Scholar, your life might be the one most changed. Read on to meet three PEER Teens Scholars.

Gift, Ugandan Educator

Gift's father passed away suddenly, leaving his mother to somehow find a way to educate her son. The despair sent Gift down a dark path, but through his involvement and ultimate leadership in PEER Teens Uganda, Gift became a fantastic servant leader among other youth. Thanks to the generosity of his Sponsor, a single woman from Connecticut, he was the first PEER Teens Scholar to graduate with a Bachelors degree and is now encouraging other PEER Teens Uganda Scholars in their pursuits of higher education

and a lifetime of kingdom service. Gift was a pioneer in the PEER Teens movement and has now had global impact in encouraging young people to follow Jesus.

Persis, Zambian Radiologist

Persis lost both her mother and father in western Zambia but thankfully had a family relative who welcomed her into their immediate family. She excelled in school and was accepted into the Lusaka Apex Medical University to study radiology. She also excelled in service and participated in many of the PEER Teens Zambia activities that enriched her community. Thanks to the sponsorship of an empty nester couple in upstate New York, Persis will someday become a Zambian medical doctor.

Anitha, Burundian Economist

Anitha grew up in Burundi, one of the world's materially poorest countries. She joined PEER Teens Burundi and visited those in prison, reached out to the street kids in Bujumbura with God's love, and became one of the leaders in her PEER Teens Chapter. Her sponsors, an older couple in Pennsylvania, made her dream come true – to be able to attend university and become an Economist.

Become a PT Scholar Sponsor

You, too, can change the life of an aspiring servant leader by becoming a Sponsor in the PEER Teens Scholars program. All it takes is a financial commitment of \$1,500 per year for four years and a willingness to pray for and encourage your PEER Teens Scholar through regular correspondence. Interested? Email us at scholars@peerservants.org to express your interest, ask any questions you have, and prepare to change the future of a very deserving young servant leader in Africa!