



PARTNERING FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND RENEWAL – TRANSFORMING LIVES

YOUR IMPACT

Coronavirus: Be A Macedonian!

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (NIV)

Especially in times like this, we desperately need Macedonians! They had every reason, given their own extreme poverty, not to respond to the needs of those in Judea who were worse off. But God gave them grace, and so they gave sacrificially with overflowing joy. We need that grace and joy!

Our Coronavirus Response Fund

PEER Servants has a global network of ten indigenous partners who are on the frontlines of empowering the materially poor. The families they serve through their microfinance, education, and youth empowerment programs are currently in dire need. We want to walk closely with our global partners and the families they serve at this time, and that has led the PEER Servants Board to develop a Coronavirus Response Fund (CRF) that will provide funding to these partners in three areas.

Humanitarian Outreach

The countries of virtually all of our partners are in lockdown. The materially poor have had to close their businesses that provide their family's daily income to eat. Our partners will provide food and clean water to as many of the families they serve

as they possibly can. PEER wants to support their humanitarian outreach efforts.

Payroll Protection

The micro-entrepreneurial clients of our partners will use what remains of their micro-loans not to generate business income, but to survive. Lockdown prevents them from being able to make loan repayments, and so our partners will not receive the interest income on which they rely to cover their operating expenses, including their staff salaries. That means the local staff, who already receive a very modest income, will have their wages further reduced and even lose their jobs. This is already happening in April with some partners. PEER wants to provide funds for payroll protection through the CRF.

Portfolio Protection

As the microfinance clients struggle to repay their loans, the short-term impact becomes a long-term impact. The loan portfolios of our partners will take a big hit from this pandemic, and that will limit what they have to empower the materially poor in the better days ahead. PEER wants to provide funds to guarantee the loans of the best-paying clients and thereby provide the partner with a loan portfolio for the future needs of the families they serve.

The need to respond to the impact of this global pandemic is so great that the PEER Servants Board has committed 100% of all new unrestricted donations received in the Second Quarter (through June 30) to the CRF. Can you please help? Go to peerservants.kindful.com, choose "Where Most Needed" and we will direct your gift to those who really need it at a time like this. **Thanks for being like a Macedonian!**

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



June 6: Virtual Walk

The needs have never been greater given this global pandemic that has crippled much of the world, especially the extremely materially poor. The good news is we all CAN do something about it. Our 2020 Walk for Economic Empowerment has gone virtual – we will ALL be walking from our own doorsteps around the world on Saturday, June 6 in an effort to raise \$125,000+, 100% of which will go to our Coronavirus Response Fund. Are you in? Please go to peerservants.org/walk to choose a Walk Team, register, and start your crowdfunding today. **Thank you!**

WHAT TRANSFORMATION LOOKS LIKE

**A Very Happy Guatemalan Family**

José always dreamed of having a happy family. That dream seemed far from reality when he was young and forcibly recruited into the Guatemalan army during their civil war. For three years, his family didn't know whether he was dead or alive. Eventually peace came and José moved to Guatemala City, started as a janitor, became a chef, and now, thanks to micro-loans from Vida Nueva, has his own store and restaurant. More importantly, José has a very happy family, with four daughters he is committed to sending to the university!

**Ugandan Teens Going to Prison**

What a beautiful picture of members in PEER Teens Uganda preparing for their monthly outreach to the local prisons. On this occasion they were bringing Bibles, in both English and Lugbara (the local language), they had purchased with a \$100 PEER Teens Social Entrepreneur Grant from PEER Servants. The Ugandan Teens are very active in bringing God's hope and love to those who need it most and are passionate about extending the kingdom.

THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS



That's Francois and Stephen at the end of their recent trip to Peru where they worked together to help our Peruvian partner build a new website. Francois is from Burundi and Stephen from Boston (Go Bruins!). The website is now live – check it out at <https://www.kallarirusunchis.org.pe/>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We'd love to hear from you!

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Meet just a few of the very promising PEER Teens Scholars – Margaret preparing to be a nation builder in South Sudan, Christiane an anesthesiologist in Burundi, Mukuma a human rights lawyer in Zambia, and Justin, an IT Specialist in Uganda. There are many young people awaiting Sponsors to allow them to pursue their dreams – read below to find out how you may be the answer to their prayers!

High-Return Kingdom Investment

For years now, you've read the story of these extremely inspiring young people around the world who make up PEER Teens. They are on the frontlines of making their communities better places to live. They are extending more and more of the kingdom of heaven into their own neighborhoods.

Out of these young people have developed some very promising servant leaders. They are completing their secondary schools and wanting to further develop their leadership potential at university, but their parent(s) just can't afford to send them. That's where the PEER Teens Scholar program comes in – matching very promising future leaders with a Sponsor who can send them to university for no more than \$1,500 per year for four years.

Margaret, Nation Builder

Margaret grew up in South Sudan. War forced her family to Uganda where they live in a refugee camp. Margaret lost her father and, with him, much more – her dream of ever getting a university education. But that's when a family of six from Connecticut stepped in and said "Margaret, you're going to college!" Now Margaret is studying community development and looks forward to helping her nation rebuild upon her graduation. She and her Connecticut family have become one, each extending a bit more of the kingdom of heaven to the other.

Christiane, Anesthesiologist

Christiane didn't let growing up in one of the world's materially poorest countries dim her dreams. She became active in PEER Teens Burundi, reaching out to streetkids, cleaning hospitals, and much more. She never knew God would use her faithfulness in serving Him to allow her to qualify for a

university scholarship to study medicine – thanks to a couple in the Boston area. Now she's in her second year of university and looks forward to using her medical degree to heal many in the years to come.

Mukuma, Human Rights Lawyer

God puts the passion for justice into the lives of some at a young age – such was the case with Mukuma in Zambia. In his own words: "My dream since my third grade has always been about becoming a lawyer. Not just any lawyer, no! A lawyer to impose positive change in societies that can't afford a proper legal representation, and, thank GOD, through PEER Teens Global, that dream is only a step away from reality." Thanks to a young single woman and her sponsorship, Mukuma will graduate this year with a degree in law! That will make the poor very, very glad.

Justin, IT Specialist

Justin grew up loving computers, but he was pretty down about being able to someday use them to make the world a better place. That's when an empty-nester couple (the husband of whom is also an IT Specialist!) stepped into Justin's life and now Justin is preparing for a life of significant impact at Uganda Christian University.

Sponsor a PEER Teens Scholar

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 \$1,500 per year for four years and a willingness to pray for and encourage the Scholar. Given the impact on the Scholar, their family, and the countless people they will touch in their lifetimes, this is a very high-return kingdom investment! Interested? Email us at scholars@peerservants.org.