



PARTNERING FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND RENEWAL – TRANSFORMING LIVES

YOUR IMPACT

An Amazing COVID-19 Response!

Perhaps you'll recall that in our last quarterly newsletter, we encouraged a level of generosity reminiscent of the Macedonians! The Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 8 of the Macedonian Church that, even in the midst of their own economic hardship, gave generously to the church in Judea that was experiencing a deeper level of material poverty. Your generous response blew us away! Indeed, you became much like those in the Macedonian Church and enabled us to work through our global partner network to provide for many in some of their most challenging days.

Our Coronavirus Response Fund

The PEER Servants Board established a Coronavirus Response Fund (CRF) to respond to the overwhelming needs of our global partners and the thousands of families they serve during this pandemic. We committed every unrestricted donation to the CRF through June 30. As April closed, we were pleased to discover it was our best April EVER for donations. The same was true for May, and June was a strong month as well. The Second Quarter was the best second quarter we ever had. Altogether, we received over \$200,000 for our CRF, and 100% of that is helping our global partners get through this dire time and reach out to their local communities.

Humanitarian Outreach

The first part to our CRF was Humanitarian Outreach – empowering our partners to minister to the physical needs of the families they were serving, families who had their businesses shut down and their source of income cut off because of the pandemic. In Guatemala, a family put out a white flag if they were out of food and water – our Guatemalan partner was able to lower hundreds of those flags. Our Ugandan partner

reached over 600 families with PEER funding – many broke out in songs of praise to God as they received the food provisions. Thousands more were served in Peru, Zambia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka and Moldova through the PEER funding.

Payroll Protection

Our global partners were hit hard by the pandemic as their clients could no longer repay their loans and the interest associated with the loan. Our partners rely on those interest payments to pay their own operating expenses – staff salaries, rents, and more. Funding from PEER Servants allowed our Filipino partner to retain teachers and our microfinance partners in Africa and the Americas to retain their staff. We remain committed to helping our partners retain their dedicated staff during this season.

Portfolio Protection

For many of the microfinance clients served by our partners, paying back a microloan is virtually impossible at this time. While they intended to use the loan for income generation, many ended up using the loan to allow their family to survive. This has led to our microfinance partners losing a portion of their loan portfolios that they need for the better days ahead. PEER Servants has already sent Portfolio Protection funds to our global partners to give them a portion of the funds they will need to meet the demand for loan capital in those better days ahead.

By the time we distribute all of our CRF, we anticipate relatively equal distributions to these three needs – Humanitarian Outreach, Payroll Protection, and Portfolio Protection. **Thank you for enabling us to stand with our partners with such an amazing COVID-19 response!**

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

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President



October: House Banquets

We will not have 200+ people in a church hall for our 2020 Fall Banquet, but we will gather with up to 10 people in "House Banquets" around the world and bring the program to you! Stay tuned for more information as we finalize the details on an opportunity to gather responsibly with others and make a huge difference in the lives of others!

WHAT TRANSFORMATION LOOKS LIKE



Educating Filipino Tribal Students

PEER Servants is so blessed to partner with The Center for Community Transformation (CCT) and their education arm, Visions of Hope (VOH), as they educate tribal children in remote areas of the Philippines. Thanks to your generosity, PEER Servants was able to provide funding for this new school building at the tribal school in Palawan. The building will enable VOH to continue to expand and offer a high-quality, culturally-based, Christ-centered education to the tribal children. **Thank you!**



Celebrating Our PEER Teens Grads

Within the hundreds of young people involved in the PEER Teens Global network are some very distinguished university and secondary school graduates! Two PEER Teens Scholars graduated from university, and nine PEER Teens Scholars graduated from secondary school and will enter the university. We are especially proud of Taban Manyok, PEER Teens USA President. Taban recently spoke at an event hosted by Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley. Congrats, Taban, and all of our PEER Teens graduates!

THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS



Meet Osian and Bella – our two Global Summer Interns, both from PEER Teens Burundi. Osian just finished his Freshman Year at Cornell University and Bella at Gustavus Adolphus College. They have already had significant kingdom impact in Burundi – now in Boston!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We'd love to hear from you!

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Meet just a few of the PEER Servants family who joined us in the June 6 Global Virtual Walk for Economic Empowerment. Together they raised over \$150,000 to support PEER Servants Coronavirus Response Fund and its impact in Africa, Eurasia, and the Americas. Thank you, walkers, and the donors who supported them!

What a Global Virtual Walk!

How do we still have our biggest fundraising event of the year, the annual Walk for Economic Empowerment, in the midst of a global pandemic? It was an extremely important problem to solve because the materially poor clients, students, and youth served by our partner network were taking the brunt of COVID-19. Their businesses and schools were closed. They didn't have the nest eggs or the government problems some of us have to get through such a time as this. Given their urgent and daunting need, doing nothing wasn't an option.

As we prayed to God about this at PEER Servants, God's response was to pursue something that only He could achieve – set your biggest fundraising goal ever for the event! And that's what we did – we set an event fundraising goal of \$125,000. We started to identify ways we could connect walkers from around the world and do so in a fun way that would celebrate the global family we had become.

Global Walkers

Individuals love coming to a large Boston-area event with many other walkers and having a good time, but would they walk alone from their own homes? That question was quickly answered "Yes!", and our walkers came from all over the world more than ever before. Australians were the first to walk, with Asians, Africans, and Americans to follow. Instead of one larger group in Wakefield, MA, there were walkers in Boston and many of the suburbs surrounding the city.

A Record Amount Raised

We were grateful to God for a global group of walkers, but would they crowdfund amidst such dire economic news? That question, too, was quickly answered as we witnessed a depth and breadth of sacrificial

generosity that put us on course to not only reach the lofty goal, but surpass it. The crowdfunding remains open through Labor Day (September 7, 2020), but we have already raised over \$153,000 – an event record!

Poetry, Art, Photos, and More

We are used to potato sack races, tug of wars, and the like at our annual Walk – what could we do to make this Global Virtual Walk more than just a fundraising event? We came up with four contests – poetry (with three different age groups), art (for children up to age 12), photo, and a Global Scavenger Hunt (where participants took pictures with something from the ten countries in which we partner). We had global participation – a girl and boy from Haiti took top honors in the art contest, and an American (from a Haitian immigrant family) and two Ugandans took tops honors in the youth poetry contest. The PEER Kids won the Global Scavenger Hunt, and a photo from Peru received top honors in the photo contest. We gathered from all over the world via Zoom the day of the Walk to celebrate what God brought us together to do, and enjoy! We had so much fun!

Our Best Walk Ever?

As the event closed, more than one person was asking whether this was our best Walk ever! It brought us together as a global family like never before with a crowdfunding result like never before. The funds raised through the Walk have helped us make over \$200,000 in partner grants through the middle of the year, and those funds have been used by God to provide for thousands of families during these most challenging days. Thank you to our walkers, donors, poets, artists, and more that made our 2020 Global Virtual Walk for Economic Empowerment one of our best events ever! Thank you, God, for an outcome that only You could achieve.