



PARTNERING FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND RENEWAL – TRANSFORMING LIVES

YOUR IMPACT

A New Chapter: Kenya

As you may have heard, our PEER Servants volunteers have become very much a global family. In fact, in 2020 the PEER Servants family crossed an exciting strategic line – for the first time, the majority of our volunteers were people born outside of the United States! That’s not all. Also in 2020, an important event happened that may change the face and make-up of PEER Servants forever – a Chapter of volunteers outside of Boston was formed. It may be the first of many to come!

PEER Volunteer Chapters

Like many things in this very historic city, PEER Servants was birthed in Boston. As a group of Bostonian PEER volunteers eventually started to gather, at some point we called it a “Chapter” of volunteers. Boston would forever be Chapter 1. Before long, volunteers started to join us from far beyond Boston. As geographic critical mass started to take place among those volunteers outside of Boston, it became clear this was going to become more than a one-chapter organization!

Chapter 2: Kenya

If truth be told, Boston didn’t come to Kenya – Kenya came to Boston! Education and job opportunities drew some visionary and talented Kenyans to the Boston area. They became Boston volunteers in PEER, and, with close ties to friends and family back home in Kenya, soon welcomed in those living in Nairobi, Kisumu, Homa Bay and beyond as PEER volunteers. PEER was a great place for the Kenyans to invest their time and talent – a place where they were loved and respected as family, valued for what they brought strategically to the organization, and able to pursue their God-given passion to witness

many around the world experience the kingdom of heaven on earth. Soon they were active in Peru, the Philippines, Africa, and beyond.

Initial Outreach: Tuale

As the PEER Servants Board witnessed PEER go beyond just Global Partners to include Volunteer Chapters, it enthusiastically supported those Chapters in their local (not just global) outreach. That meant the Boston and Kenyan Chapters started asking – how can we see more of the kingdom of heaven much closer to home? While the Bostonians pondered, the Kenyans acted! They identified a remote Kenyan village called Tuale, the place of the Animist Samburu people (see picture above). In partnership with a church in the closest town, the PEER Kenya volunteers respectfully approached the elders of this community to ask if there was any way they could be of benefit to them. The tribal elders identified a few initiatives, especially in the areas of finding a reliable water source and educating their children. The PEER Kenya volunteers are taking the first steps to follow through on the tribal elders’ requests. In so doing, they have had many opportunities to express God’s love to the people of Tuale, and such good news has been well-received.

The Road Ahead

The PEER Kenya Chapter has exciting days ahead! They already have an active PEER Teens affiliate and will soon welcome their first PEER Teens Scholars. They have joined the Bostonians as PEER pioneers, for they sense that God never intended PEER to be just a two-chapter organization either! Stay tuned for the Chapters to come!

Celebrating 30 Years of Partnership!

How we thank God for 30 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 Global 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



Our Global Walk – June 5

Since 2006, PEER Servants volunteers and friends have been walking to empower the materially poor. What started with just a few raising a few thousand dollars in one site is now a global event involving hundreds raising a hundred thousand dollars plus! The 2021 Walk for Global Empowerment will take place Saturday, June 5. Our goal is to raise over \$150,000 through crowdfunding, and 100% of that will go into programs to empower the materially poor. If we succeed, we will surpass \$1 million raised since those first steps in 2006! **Will you join us? Go to peerservants.org/walk for all the details!**

WHAT TRANSFORMATION LOOKS LIKE

**Mushroom Growing in Sri Lanka**

Meet Thanannayaki, a successful mushroom producer. Her husband's epilepsy meant Thanannayaki needed to generate additional income for the family. HEED, PEER's Sri Lankan partner, provided loan capital that has allowed her business to expand tenfold. Their daughters are now in school and they have their own home!

**PEER Teens Enriching Burundi**

That's Evariste, facilitator for PEER Teens Burundi – an amazing group of young people who went on not one but three outreaches in recent weeks to enrich the Burundian people. The Teens provided a feeding program for the elderly, brought joy to a home for mentally-disabled children, and visited a home for abandoned children.

THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS



That's Gift (background, in red cap), whom God is using to disciple young men in Northern Uganda – like these three talented PEER Teens Scholars (Eric, Justin, and Mi Ka) who performed in our Global Concert.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We'd love to hear from you!

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

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PEER Servants volunteers and friends from around the world brought their talent together in our 2021 Concert for Global Empowerment. The event received raving reviews (from a somewhat biased audience!). The bar has been set high for events to come as we lift up our praise to our very awesome God!

One Talented Family!

You may know PEER Servants as a global group of volunteers eager to use their time, talent, and treasure to witness a bit more of heaven on earth. What you may not know – and to be honest with you, what we ourselves didn't know until recently – is the amazing talent God has given many members of this global family in different areas of the arts. Our 2021 Concert for Global Empowerment brought together this talent in a celebration of "Perfect Peace" – something God yearns for us to experience – with Him, within, and with each other. Check out the different areas of the arts expressed in this gathering

Music

What's your music fancy? A bit more Pop, Latin, Country, Rap, Folk, Contemporary, or Traditional Hymns? Whatever that fancy, there was something for you at the Concert!

PEER takes special joy when we can highlight those talented artists who rarely get much global attention. That may be especially true with our four artists from Africa. How encouraging to see the PEER Teens South Sudan members write their own song and sing about "Courage" while young men from Northern Uganda rapped about "Perfect Peace". Then the Teens from Zambia sang a beautiful rendition of "What A Friend We Have in Jesus" before our Kenyan friends sang about "Hope". This music was making a very joyful noise in God's ears and ours.

Dance

The only thing our PEER Teens like to do more than dance is to dance globally! That's exactly what they did while communicating

Micah 6:8 – that we are called to walk humbly, love mercy, and act justly. What started with the Philippines Teens in beautiful attire and dancing so gracefully made dance stops in Uganda, Burundi, South Sudan, Zambia, Kenya, Peru, and the United States. The video itself was produced by the PEER Teens! And who will forget the dance of the Filipino B'Laan tribal people as they expressed what it meant for the kingdom to come to them?

Poetry

As we experience and extend this kingdom of heaven on earth, we are becoming more and more a family of PEER poets! We all still fall far short of our Poet Laureate Jephtha Malelah, from Kenya. Jephtha has published anthologies of poetry and what a blessing it was to hear him read one of his poems addressing peace. The young poets are growing up! What a special treat it was to hear young Isaiah Lys passionately present a poem that captured what children wished adults would do to make our world a better place.

Scripture

While the music, dance, and poetry made for an evening featuring global talent, the favorite part of the program for many was hearing the PEER Kids recite their Scripture. We used to get ribbons for reciting Scripture as children. What peace those memorized words of God often brought us, and the PEER Kids recited their peace passages with passion!

Did you miss the program? No worries! It's online at [peerservants.org/concert](https://www.peerservants.org/concert). Enjoy, and join us in thanking God for such a special, talented family!