



PARTNERING FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND RENEWAL – TRANSFORMING LIVES

YOUR IMPACT

# For Such a Time as This

The world has been a different place since February 24, 2022 – the day Russia formally invaded Ukraine. We have seen the horrific pictures of the Ukrainian people suffering. Millions have fled as refugees to neighboring countries, one of which is Moldova, the materially poorest country in Europe. With all of the darkness this war has brought, there have been countless sources of light, including the work of our Moldovan partner, Invest Credit.

## 24 Years in the Making

Invest Credit is PEER Servants' longest standing Global Partner – started back in 1998 in Tintareni, a small, rural Moldovan farming village, with just a few thousand dollars lent that first year. Under the capable leadership of Ghena Russu, Invest Credit has since grown to an organization that is annually lending millions of dollars in multiple locations across Moldova. They have enabled many Moldovan families to stay together rather than split up and try to find economic opportunity beyond the country's borders. Now many of their clients have strong businesses and are able to use them to bless others.

The Invest Credit team has made many trips to the border to meet the Ukrainian mothers and children, feed them, and get them settled in safe lodging, even when it meant their own homes. But it was also the Invest Credit clients. One example – transportation businesses. Invest Credit had helped clients purchase vehicles to expand their businesses. They were now equipped to join the effort to go to the border and help transport the refugees. Invest Credit's 24 years of building Moldovan businesses had equipped Moldovans to respond to the needs of the Ukrainians.

## A Very Special Day

The world became a better place on March 8, 2022 – Mother's Day in much of the world, including Ukraine. While many Ukrainian mothers and children were still in despair as refugees in Moldova, Invest Credit made their day special – flowers for the mothers, sweet cakes, cookies, and balloons for the children as seen in the picture above.

## A Strategic Focus

Invest Credit wrestled with how best to respond to the needs of the Ukrainian refugees. The centers housing the Ukrainian refugees needed a means to clean the bedding. For many of the refugees, Moldova was not their final destination – they wanted to get to a NATO country. So, they may stay just 2-3 days and then move on. Different people using the same bedding could lead to disease. Invest Credit worked with a local cleaning business to fund industrial washing machines, dryers, and irons to clean the bedding materials.

## An Unbelievable Response

Neither Invest Credit nor PEER Servants solicited public funds to help Invest Credit meet the needs of the refugees, but many churches and individuals stepped up wanting to help. That led to another great day – March 10, 2022 – when PEER Servants was able to send \$50,000 that donors had sent to support Invest Credit in their response. Invest Credit has been working hard for 24 years for such a time as this – to empower the Moldovan people to not only experience more of the kingdom, but to be able to extend that kingdom to others. We are so inspired by great work of Invest Credit and the Moldovan people!

### 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*

Todd G. Engelsen  
President

### Our Global Walk – June 4



The 2022 Walk for Global Empowerment will take place Saturday, June 4 in Wakefield, MA, but there are other dates and sites as well. Our goal is to raise over \$250,000 through crowdfunding, and 100% of that will go into microfinance, education, youth empowerment, healthcare, and food/water security programs to empower the materially poor. This Walk will offer access to opportunity for many people in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Americas, and you can play a role. Will you join us? Go to [peerservants.org/walk](https://peerservants.org/walk) for all the details!

## WHAT TRANSFORMATION LOOKS LIKE



### Future Peruvian Entrepreneurs

Our Peruvian partner, Kallarisunchis, is preparing rural young people to start and grow their own businesses. They trained more than 120 at a Youth Camp in the Lanchu community in the Andes. With a bit of training and access to capital, they will enrich their communities in the days ahead!



### Teachers in South Sudan

Meet the six new SALT Scholars pursuing a two-year teacher certificate at Yei Teacher Training College in South Sudan. Sponsored by SALT and PEER Servants donors, they will soon be teaching young girls, enabling South Sudan to surpass its current level of 10% of girls completing primary school.

## THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS



That's a screenshot of nine of our volunteers sharing what they do in PEER at our recent Concert for Global Empowerment. Top center is Andrew Mahon, the volunteer who produced a fantastic online concert. Check it out at [peerservants.org/concert](https://peerservants.org/concert).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### We'd love to hear from you!

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

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*While God has used many people to support the significant growth in PEER Servants over these recent years, there is no couple God has used more than Bill and Judy Long. They are the first couple that has ever received the Persons of the Year Award. Bill and Judy are pictured here with Todd and Leslie Engelsen.*

## Our 2021 Persons of the Year

**Extending the kingdom of heaven to earth is a huge task.** Making progress in it requires having creative, innovative trendsetters among us, and our Person(s) of the Year Award honors such people. It can go to anyone in the PEER Servants family – micro-entrepreneurs, students, volunteers, donors, partner staff members, board members, etc. Past recipients have included Teens in Uganda for starting what is now a global youth empowerment movement (PEER Teens), volunteers in Kenya for starting our first Volunteer Chapter beyond Boston, a Peruvian loan officer for effectively extending God's love to indigenous peoples high in the Andes, and some legendary PEER volunteers named Esther, Carol, and Sandy! It's one of our most exciting moments each year when we announce the Person(s) of the Year. Who were the 2021 recipients?

### Meet Bill and Judy Long

For most of the readers of this newsletter, an introduction to Bill and Judy Long is not needed. For decades, they have been active in their local church, international student ministry, Alpha, and many other Christian ministries in the Greater Boston area. They were very intentional in reaching out to people who may have been far from the kingdom, far from knowing much of anything about Jesus. Through their friendship and their hospitality, they reflected the love of Jesus so genuinely that many people were drawn closer to Jesus and ultimately decided to become followers of Him. While the Boston area is their home and they are slow to hop on a plane to travel far, Bill and Judy's kingdom impact extends to the ends of the earth.

### What About the Poor?

Bill and Judy's path intertwined with many in the global PEER Servants family over a number

of years. At one point, God's Spirit started to speak to Judy and Bill about His concern for the materially poor. That's when they took steps to learn more about and get involved in PEER Servants.

### Go and Tell

Bill and Judy couldn't keep quiet over what they saw and heard of more of the kingdom coming to the materially poor through the work of PEER Servants' Global Partners. Families could now provide for themselves by starting or growing small businesses. Bright young people could now go to university through servant leader scholarships. Small (\$100) Social Entrepreneur Grants were enabling young people to touch the lives of others in their communities. The materially poor were gaining access to affordable healthcare and becoming food and water secure. They joined Team Guatemala, started praying regularly for the work there and far beyond, and then did what Jesus asks each of us to do as we see the kingdom – go and tell others what we are seeing. As Judy and Bill did that, they helped bring in more and more people who became passionate about PEER's kingdom work. While God has used many people to support the significant growth in PEER Servants over these recent years, there is no couple God has used more than Bill and Judy Long.

### Our 2021 Persons of the Year

We are so grateful to God for Bill and Judy Long. They are the first couple that has ever received the Persons of the Year Award. They have learned the joy of obedience to Jesus by simply going and telling others what they have seen and heard of the kingdom of heaven in our midst. As a result, God has used them to enrich the lives of thousands they will never meet. Thank you, Bill and Judy, for setting the example for many of us in simply doing what Jesus told all of us to do!