

100 PROJECTS FOR PEACE: *THE GOAL IS PEACE*

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Background

Growing up in West Philadelphia, I know violence is a part of daily life in Philadelphia but I also know the importance of soccer and music and the arts in providing children an outlet for constructive activity, creativity, and the chance to meet, work with and appreciate people who have come from different countries and who live in all neighborhoods of the City. My family believes in a global view of giving back and helping our community, and I have been inspired by my sister's stories about her work in Kanoni Uganda. In addition to the ideas of civic engagement taught to me by my family, I cannot ignore the level of crime there is around me in Philadelphia. In 2006, there were over 400 violent deaths in Philadelphia, and the number of youth killed or affected by violence is spiraling out of control. Every person and organization in the City is trying to deal with and prevent future youth violence.

Methodology

Although soccer goals are competitive, the peace goal is one everyone shares, so my project is called *The Goal is Peace*. The project will use soccer, the arts, and a workshop/games curriculum to spread the message of peace and non-violence to children and teens in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Kanoni, Uganda. *The Goal is Peace* Project will join the youth and summer soccer camps of Starfinder Foundation, the children and teens participating in the Dembe Talent Actors summer activities, the non-violence curriculum and Imani Pledge of the Philadelphia Partnership for Peace, and the summer reading program of the Free Library of Philadelphia in a project promoting local non-violence and future world peace through cultural exchange, arts, and playing soccer. *The Goal is Peace* project will give 100 Starfinder campers and 100 DETA youth methods of defusing potentially violent situations and show them how to avoid violence in the in the future.

After a morning playing soccer, Starfinder campers will spend time each afternoon "traveling" virtually to other countries, including Uganda, working on leadership and character development, and participating in different components of *The Goal is Peace* project. For example: on Monday, a library introduction workshop with library card registration and the Summer Reading Game, explanation of the Imani Pledge; Tuesday the curriculum workshop on non-violence and receiving homework materials to write letters and draw pictures to the Kanoni campers; Wednesday games and activities promoting and teaching non-violent solutions and peace; Thursday workshop on history and culture of Uganda, more peace activities/discussion and signing the Imani pledge; and on Friday campers will receive their tee shirt and one to customize for a child in Kanoni, finish letters and drawings, and take photos to send with the other materials to Kanoni. Each camp session is one week, and I plan to work with at least 100 children in Philadelphia.

In August, I will travel to Kanoni to present the DETA project youth with gifts that the Starfinder camp participants made. In Kanoni, I will meet with DETA staff and the Peace Corps volunteer to talk about their experiences with the project. I'll meet with the Kanoni youth (about 100 youth) to play soccer and participate in non-violence games and peace activities. I'll present the letters, drawings, and photos to the youth group and DETA and also distribute tee shirts and soccer equipment. In addition I will take more photos and collect the letters, drawings and photos from the Kanoni youth to bring back to Philadelphia. The last week of August, I'll return to the Starfinder Foundation camp to report on my trip and present the letters, drawings, and photos from the DETA youth to the Philadelphia participants. I will keep copies of all materials to use in the evaluation and final report I'll write in September, 2007.

Project Partners

Project partners include the Starfinder Foundation, Philadelphia Partnership for Peace, the Free Library of Philadelphia, DETA, and me, the student Project Manager. All involved are enthusiastic and fully committed.

The Starfinder Foundation is a youth organization utilizing soccer as a vehicle for children's personal growth and development through recreation and education. Starfinder coaches and teachers strive to be an important influence on the lives of children, as they are coached in soccer and encouraged to build a strong moral character, achieve academic excellence, and live with a positive approach to life. In addition to after school and year round programs, Starfinder Foundation conducts week long camps in 20 locations for 1,000 children every summer. As well as playing soccer, children learn about different countries, work on academic achievement, and build character.

The Philadelphia Partnership for Peace, a community anti-violence project funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, applies the lessons of a non-violent ancient African civilization to the streets of Philadelphia. Project staff have developed a non-violence workshop curriculum for use in the Library's and other after school programs. After the workshops, youth will sign the House of Imoja's Imani pledge for peace signifying their commitment to non-violence.

The Free Library of Philadelphia serves the almost 1.5 million people of the city with 54 locations that are active community centers in each neighborhood. Over 52,000 children and teens participated in the Library's 2006 Summer Reading Game, and in 2007 the Library is an active participant in the City's violence prevention initiative.

The Dembe Talent Actors (DETA) organization in Kanoni, Africa, created after Uganda's civil war with a mission of promoting unity and peace, DETA now provides community outreach and education on socio-economic and health issues through music, dance, and drama. Although based in Kanoni town, Mpigi District, DETA works throughout the entire Kyegonza Sub-County with children, teens, adults, and families.

Timeline

May, 2007- June 16th – Planning and organizing *The Goal is Peace* Project

- I will be trained by the Free Library of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Partnership for Peace for the workshops and summer reading.
- I will adapt the Philadelphia Partnership for Peace non-violence curriculum and create games, homework assignments, and other activities
- Design games and activities related to the themes of non-violence, intercultural exchange, soccer, and character development
- I will gather the necessary supplies and materials, including the Imani Pledges and the prizes, and I will send supplies to DETA in Uganda
- I will work with Starfinder Foundation staff in planning and organizing the integration of *The Goal is Peace* into the camp schedules and in being trained to work with the soccer camps as a coach

June 16th-July, 2007 – *The Goal is Peace* project in Philadelphia, PA – 100 youth

- Each morning, I will travel to different camp sites and work with the children in the soccer program
- Each afternoon the camp schedule will include a component of *The Goal is Peace* Project (For example: Monday – workshop, library and summer reading; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday – games, letter writing, drawing, and library card registration homework, discussions; Friday – photos, signing the Imani Pledge, summer reading prizes)
- I will gather all the letters, drawings and photos to take to the youth in Uganda. I will also bring soccer equipment provided by the Starfinder Foundation.
- DETA staff and Nora Peterman, Peace Corps Volunteer, will work with children and teens in Kanoni and surrounding villages. Youth will participate in the non-violence workshops and soccer games as well as peace focused music, dance, theatre, letter writing, and drawing activities.

August, 2007 – *The Goal is Peace* project in Kanoni, Uganda – 100 youth

- I will travel to Uganda for two weeks and meet with the DETA staff and the community
- I will meet with the Kanoni youth participating in *The Goal is Peace*. I'll present letters, drawings, photos, and soccer equipment from the Starfinder Foundation campers, participate in the DETA activities in Kanoni, and gather the materials from the Ugandan participants for the Philadelphia youth.
- At the end of August, I'll return to Starfinder Foundation camps to share the materials from the DETA program in Africa at the Starfinder final camp event

September, 2007 – Wrap up, evaluation, and reporting

- I'll meet with Starfinder Foundation staff for evaluation, plans for follow up activities and future expansion.
- I'll write and submit the 100 Projects for Peace final report on *The Goal is Peace*

The Goal is Peace project gives youth the inspiration, knowledge, and tools to become future community leaders for peace. I believe that the combination of soccer, literacy, and the arts will prove to be a powerful way of engaging children and teens in non-violence and the peace process. It is my hope that this summer is only the beginning of an inter-cultural non-violence peace project for Philadelphia soccer players and Ugandan youth groups. Everyone involved is excited about **100 Projects for Peace** and the opportunity to bring *The Goal is Peace* project to children and teens in Philadelphia and Kanoni, Uganda. It is my goal that through this project the participating youth are able to broaden their perspectives to embrace and articulate a local and a global view of peace.