

**Davis 100 Projects for Peace  
Final Report - Summer 2007**

**Title:** The Goal is Peace

**School:** Franklin & Marshall College

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*(include each student's home country and whether or not each student attended a UWC)*

1. **Project Summary:** Describe location, timeframe, participants, other funding involved, scope of work, and goals intended.

*The Goal is Peace* was a two-part project that began in Philadelphia Pennsylvania, USA and then moved to a rural village in Eastern Uganda. Before the soccer camps commenced, I worked with the Starfinder Foundation and the Free Library of Philadelphia's Philadelphia Partnership for Peace to create a workshop that combined the campers' love of soccer with much needed guidance for dealing with conflicts. The soccer camps began in the middle of June and ran through the last week of August. Each camp was a week long and went from about eight in the morning until two in the afternoon. Campers would spend time with me every day, learning about different conflict resolution techniques and how to apply them in soccer and in every day life. Almost 800 campers participated in *The Goal is Peace*, and over 500 signed the Philadelphia Partnership for Peace Imani Pledge and drew pictures and wrote notes for the Ugandan participants.

The next piece of my project was held in a rural village in Eastern Uganda. For this section we worked with three different schools using a three-day soccer and life skills workshop. 105 children and teens from the three different school participated in the workshop. Eight Peace Corps volunteers and twelve officials from the three schools assisted me. The Ugandan workshop operated very differently then it had in Philadelphia. Teaching focused on issues that the students were dealing with in their everyday lives, and not as much on leadership. Through soccer, arts, games and discussion, the participants practiced life skills such as HIV/AIDS prevention, group cooperation, and how to avoid situations that could compromise their future.

In total, there were about 900 youth participants. In Philadelphia the kids ranged in age between seven and twelve years old. In Uganda the students were between fifteen and twenty three years old. The project also received funding from the Starfinder Foundation and the Philadelphia Partnership for Peace. Both organizations also provided in kind resources for the whole project.

The project was designed to create a lasting impression on the campers who participated. In the first part of the project I wanted campers to leave with knowledge that would help them in potentially dangerous situations for years to come. With the Ugandan workshop, I wanted to create a workshop that was enjoyable while still providing vital information even if the experience and teaching methods were outside the local norms.

2. **Project Results:** Self-evaluate the project; your assessment should enumerate what goals were and were not accomplished.

I believe the project was a success. I formed relationships with many of my campers in Philadelphia that I believe helped them retain the information I was teaching. Many campers began coming to more then one week of camp even though the location would change. In camp evaluation surveys *The Goal is Peace* workshop received an eighty seven percent approval rating

for the entire summer. In addition, students listed tools they had learned in my workshops under the question "Please list a few things you have learned at Starfinder this week."

In Uganda, the response was very similar. Students were very enthusiastic throughout the entire workshop and made great gains in their understanding of the life skills being taught. By the end of the workshop, boys and girls were answering questions at much higher rates than they had been at the beginning. It was exciting to see females allowed to participate in sports and open discussion, contrary to Ugandan tradition.

In terms of logistics the project was a complete success. The workshops went off very smoothly in Philadelphia and Uganda. In addition, Starfinder now has the capability to recreate the workshop. I held a training session with all of the fulltime Starfinder employees so that they can teach the workshop in their future camps. The Peace Corps volunteers were enthusiastic about using the teaching techniques, games, and discussion questions with other youth groups throughout Uganda.

I was very satisfied with the outcomes of the project. However, if I had the chance again I would not have made the project consist of two very different parts. The camp in Philadelphia was often exhausting because of long hours, lots of children, and different locations across the city, so that I was not able to plan for Uganda as thoroughly and early as anticipated. Coordinating the details with the Peace Corps volunteers was also a greater challenge than I expected. Electricity was very sporadic and cell phone service in the area of the workshop was poor at best. Additionally, the school that hosted the workshop had difficulty confirming the logistics and scheduling. What started out as a full week of afternoon activities was eventually cut down to two days of four hour time slots and one full day. It proved to be very challenging to fit everything in since the kids were often slow to get started. Although participants and the organization were enthusiastic, we could not extend the schedule because it was not safe to travel in the area at night. Despite these logistical challenges I still believe the project was a success for the students who learned conflict resolution techniques and important life skills information and who thoroughly enjoyed the games, activities, discussion and sharing pictures and notes from new friends in Philadelphia, and, of course, playing soccer.

3. **Implications:** What are the project's implications for peace? What are the future prospects for the project? What have you learned?

*The Goal is Peace* project combined participants' love of soccer with important life skills. In Philadelphia and Uganda participants were taught about conflict resolution and teamwork. The kids learned to be leaders within their peer groups in times of crisis and how to withstand negative pressure from the people around them. *The Goal is Peace* has laid the foundation for future conflict resolution workshops in Philadelphia. Starfinders' full time employees and Peace Corps volunteers have all of the necessary information as well as training to run the program for forthcoming camps and in other Ugandan locations.

Personally, I have learned important lessons of organization, working with youth, and dealing with outside organizations locally, nationally, and internationally. I have learned how difficult it is to make such a broad and geographically far-reaching project work and how rewarding it is to see everything actually happen and the excitement and enthusiasm of the participants. The most important outcome is that the participating youth will spread the word to their peers about non-violence, life skills, and other cultures, and *The Goal is Peace* has prepared these youth to assume leadership roles in their communities.

