

Davis Projects for Peace Final Report

Section I

a) Peace me the Ball Project

Lauro de Freitas, Bahia-Brazil

The College of Idaho

Mauricio Santiago (Brazil) and Luis Reyes (Peru) both alumni from UWC-Costa Rica

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/PMTBP>

Website: <http://peacemetheball.tumblr.com/>

b) Our project created a space in which kids from the community of Lauro Freitas developed conflict resolution skills and positive sense of community through football (soccer). We also educated the children about the dangers of drugs and juvenile delinquency.

c) We raised about \$300 on two fundraiser events: One PlayStation 3 FIFA 12 tournament and one 7x7 football tournament. Both events were held at the College of Idaho during the spring term and the winners were presented with a new PlayStation system and a Brazilian Dinner at the café of the college.

d) The activities were held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 3 pm. The first activity we had was the conversations, which last for about 1 hour and 30 minutes. The topics were juvenile delinquency, corruption, use of drugs, and discrimination. Each of the four topics of conversation we had during the month was lead by one participant. The way in which the leader developed the topic was as follows:

- a. First, the leader explained their definition and perception of the topic.
- b. Then, once they had defined it, they had to relate it to the football environment, and afterwards to their society.
- c. After they had done that, we (Luis and Mauricio) presented how other parts of the world viewed the topic being discussed.

At the end of the week an invited speaker came to talk about the topic more in depth. After having the talks the kids had some free time to prepare themselves for the football training. The training sessions started at 5 pm and were lead by the football coach Fabio Veiga, and lasted two hours. During this activity we started with a circle in which all the members of the Project had time to close their eyes and express their wishes.

Then, all the participants worked on their physical as well as their football skills in order to get in shape for the football tournament that was held on the third week. On the last Saturday of the month we had the graduation event, which was a day of recreation where we gave diplomas to the participants.

We faced some difficulties with the organization we were working with (the SOS Village). Those difficulties were caused by our relationship with the administration of the SOS Village because they did not make an effort to understand what we were trying to bring to the village. This led us to face bureaucratic barriers that affected the process of developing our ideas. Despite these barriers we adapted our project's proposal to the SOS Village administrative structure without losing our main focus and goals.

In terms of budget, the project's money was invested effectively in all the activities that were proposed. Moreover, we received donations to develop complementarity activities that

were not planned in our first proposal. At the beginning of the project, I (Luis Reyes) experience a language barrier because I was not proficient in Portuguese. However, as the weeks went on and with the help of the kids I started to improve my Portuguese and by the third week I could manage to have a proper conversations and interactions with the participants.

The people that benefited directly from the project were the twenty-five kids from the Lauro De Freitas community. Moreover, while our activities were developing we involved more than a hundred people. Also, as we proposed, the twenty-five kids that were part of the project shared with their family and friends what they learned in the project activities. So, we could say that Peace me the Ball had an influence in a group of about 200 people.

In terms of sustainability, after the project finished, a well structure football team was created. Its name is BolimBolacho, the coach is Fabio Veiga and the psychologist of the team that will do the pedagogical activities is Olivia Valente.

Section II

a.

- Metaphorically, peace is like the rainbow. When you see it, you want to reach it and enjoy its beauty. However, if you walk ten steps towards the rainbow it will go ten steps further away from you. Due to this, we can conclude that peace is an ideal that, even when we cannot completely reach it, make us walk believing that is possible to reach it.

- During our project we developed activities that helped the kids to get out of the bubble of criminality and drugs that surrounded their neighborhood. Also they had the chance to practice their favorite sport. This made it so that they had the chance to appreciate and enjoy opportunities that they did not experience before in their life. In other words, we walked with them together towards the rainbow. Probably we did not get to it, but we are sure that we enjoyed with all our hearts the journey. Now even when we are far away from them we completely sure that they will continue walking toward the rainbow, an example of that is the BolimBolacho football team.
- Personally this project gave me [Mauricio Santiago] an opportunity to have positive influences on people's lives. Now, I have a better understanding of other people's difficulties and the massive complexities that people face in everyday situations. It was an honorable experience in which I learned so much valuable knowledge and became a more sensitive, responsible, and thoughtful person.
- Personally I, Luis Reyes can say that Peace me the Ball showed me the real impact of football in my region. I understood that football is not simple a sport or a game. Now I see football as a cultural expression and as a space where different social groups can meet. Also, I understood that the best fountain of knowledge in the world is the "common" population. I share what I know and I was open to learn from them. I learned to be humble, to respect the participants and to acknowledge them. I understood that without the kids and the population Peace me the Ball was nothing. In general, I learned that to maximize the capacities and skills of individuals we need to work as a group.

