

A Healthier Peace
Lusaka, Zambia
Bowdoin College
Lonnie Hackett, United States, Bowdoin College
www.HealthyKidsBrighterFuture.org

Project Goals: This year, with the Davis Project for Peace Grant I sought to implement a sustainable system of school based health services in the community of Ng'ombe in Lusaka, Zambia. I aimed to bring medical care and health education to the 10,000 school-aged children living in the compound.

Fundraising: To accomplish this ambitious goal, I had to supplement the grant with outside funding. Over the past year I successfully acquired 501.c3 non-profit status for my organization "Healthy Kids/Brighter Future". With the formal status, and the foundational support from the Davis Foundation, I was able to bring in an additional \$65,000 to expand our services and bring all 10,000 Ng'ombe students into our programs. Funding came from a variety of sources, including the Samuel Huntington Public Service Award, the Forest Foundation, Rotary International, as well as individual donors.

Project Details: With the additional funding secured, I sought out to pioneer a truly innovative model of healthcare delivery. The programs included traveling to schools with a staff of medical professionals to deliver direct care to children, providing every partner school with systems of clean drinking water, and training teachers as school health workers capable of running health education lessons, recognizing and referring children in need of care, and providing first line care. Over the course of the summer, I was able to bring medical screenings to almost 1,000 students, and I will remain in Zambia for the next eleven months in order to bring medical care to the remaining 9,000 students. Additionally, I was able to organize training for fifty school health workers and have enrolled another fifty teachers to be trained in December. In total, the one hundred salaried school health workers will cover a catchment area of over 16,000 students. Furthermore, with the teachers trained we will now be able to implement our clean water systems in the fall. I feel confident that I have created the organizational structure, both in the U.S. and Zambia, to ensure that the project will continue to provide medical screenings, safe drinking water, and safety nets to students for years to come.

Overall, the project was a resounding success, however, there were certainly challenges that arose throughout the summer. Turnover of school staff, miscommunication between various employees, shortages of medication, and variable school vacation schedules all made for challenges that had to be overcome. Through pragmatism and recruiting a truly superb staff of Zambians I was able to overcome all these challenges and ensure that the implementation of the project was a success. I now must continue to move the momentum forward in order to ensure that the project remains a successful over the next year.

A Healthier Peace
Lusaka, Zambia
Bowdoin College
Lonnie Hackett, United States, Bowdoin College
www.HealthyKidsBrighterFuture.org

Section II

a) Peace is not merely the absence of violence, but rather it is the ability for a person to thrive. There are several indisputable human rights that every person is entitled to and requires in order to achieve their full potential. Health is one of these rights. For a person, man or child, to feel true peace he or she must have the absence of war, food, water and sanitation, shelter, and health. In our age of globalization, I believe that my generation has the capacity and moral obligation to actualize our potential and help facilitate peace for all.

The Davis Foundation enabled me to help bring greater peace to over 10,000 children in the community of Ng'ombe through the creation of a system of medical care that will improve the health of the community for years to come. Through synergies between NGO's, raising capital, and empowering local community members, the project will ensure continued medical care for these vulnerable children. In doing so, we will improve the capacity of these children to thrive and reach their true potential. Additionally, I have partnered professors and students from Harvard Medical School and the Harvard School of Public Health to evaluate the project over the next year, and by proving that school health is an effective method for improving the health of children we will be making a meaningful contribution to public health around the world.

b) The time I have spent in Zambia has transformed the trajectory of my life. As a child from Northern Maine, I never imagined that my life would lead me to work in shantytowns halfway around the world. However, my experiences in Zambia have left me committed to improving the health of vulnerable populations. The project this summer proved that through perseverance, dedication, and unwavering humility it is possible to make a difference.

My interests fill my days with joy, but it is my work with HK/BF that energizes my life. After our final health screening last summer, I sat down with a group of Zambian children whom we had treated earlier in the morning. Their wide-eyed smiles and joyful laughter were reminders of why I changed the direction of my life. Wherever my future takes me, my contribution in life will be measured by my capacity to ensure healthcare access to these children in need.