Section I

Goals
The goal of the project “Peace Means Staying Healthy” is to address the acute problem of access to quality health care services in the city of Zinder in Niger Republic. This goal is to be achieved by sending a container of donated medical equipment and supplies to a non-profit known as ONG AFUA, and by using the experience to raise awareness among non-profit healthcare providers in Niger that high-quality medical equipment and supplies from the United States can be obtained at significantly reduced cost.

Sources of revenue
Three sources of revenue contributed to the execution of the project: the $10,000 grant by the Davis Projects for Peace organization, for which we are very grateful, PGH fundraising efforts ($325), and a contribution by ONG AFUA, the project beneficiary ($3,900).

Project execution
This project is still ongoing. It has been delayed due to a high level of demands from other deserving non-profits of our partner, Advocate for World Health, which is in charge of the collection and shipment of the medical equipment to the port of Cotonou. As a result, our container was shipped on July 15th instead of June 7th as initially planned. Although this delay has changed the timeline of the project, it has not undermined the overall execution of the project. The container reached the Port of Cotonou on August 17th and is now being processed by the coastal authority. It will be transported to Zinder in the coming weeks. The estimated date of delivery at the ONG AFUA address in Zinder is September 20th.

Despite the delay in the arrival of the shipment, Ibrahim Yahaya Ibrahim, one of the students involved in the project, and Dr. Leonardo Villalon, the faculty advisor for the project, traveled to Zinder from the 25th to the 28th July. The initial goal of their visit was to supervise the ground transportation of the equipment and to deliver the equipment to ONG AFUA officially. Though they weren't able to accomplish that, they did make Nigerian state officials and other NGO's aware of the opportunity to apply for donated medical equipment and supplies from the US.

During their visit Ibrahim and Dr. Villalon met with ONG AFUA’s board of directors and talked about the ground transportation of the equipment to Zinder from Cotonou. They were assured that the equipment would be well-received and well-used. They also held a total of 8 meetings with various actors including leaders of humanitarian organizations and states officials to talk about the project and publicize the initiative.

Difficulties
So far we have faced two unanticipated difficulties in the execution of the project: the first one was the limited success of our fundraising efforts, which created a budget deficit of $3,900. The second is the delay of the shipment by our partner in the United States, Advocates for World Health. We addressed these difficulties by re-negotiating the terms of the agreements with both Advocates for World Health and ONG AFUA. With the first, we renegotiated the cost of the processing and shipping cost to a total of $10,000 ($6,900 processing fees and $3,100 shipping cost). With ONG AFUA we agreed that they will supervise and pay for the ground transportation from Cotonou to Zinder.
Impact of the Project
We expect to increase ONG AFUA’s treatment capacity by 50%, meaning from the current 150 patients per month on average to 225. The beneficiaries are the poor patients who seek treatment in general medicine, gynecological treatment, and laboratory medical exams. In the future, we expect to continue this collaboration with ONG AFUA. This year we are putting together a new project that aims at expanding the activities of the organization’s mobile clinics.

Ibrahim will go back to Zinder in November of 2015 and then from February until August of 2016. This will allow him to follow up directly with ONG AFUA on the impact of the medical equipment.

Section II

Relevance to Peace
This project impacts peace in Niger in three different ways: First, In Hausa, the dominant language in Niger, the word “health” is lafiyah, and “peace” is referred to with the phrase zaman lafiyah, meaning “staying healthy.” Locally, this means that peace is only possible when people are healthy, which echoes the famous quote by Ralph Bunche, a 1950 Nobel Peace Prize winner who said that “Peace, to have meaning for many who have known only suffering in both peace and war, must be translated into bread or rice, shelter, health, and education.” Second, the rapid spread of the Ebola virus in West Africa has revealed the level of deterioration of the healthcare system in that part of the world, notably the drastic shortage of healthcare institutions and the lack of adequate equipment in places where those institutions exist. The epidemic has also revealed the danger that a degraded healthcare system in a remote part of the world can cause not only to the local population but also to the safety of the entire world. Third, terrorist groups rally the support of local communities and recruit fighters by providing welfare services, especially healthcare in remote areas where neither the state nor the NGOs are present.

How has the Project changed us
This project has had significant impacts on us. One of the most important impacts is that it has enhanced our confidence in our ability to carry out complex projects that could make real impact in the world. For the last two years, we have been working on the project of creating a nonprofit that will collect surplus medical equipment and supplies from the United States to allocate them to underserved medical facilities in developing countries. Throughout this period we have made progress in terms of establishing our organization, Project Global Health (PGH), but this is the first time that we've had the chance to execute a substantial humanitarian project. It is our first real experience as a non-profit; our dream becoming true, thanks to the Davis Projects for Peace organization. We are very proud of this achievement and excited to continue this journey for many years to come. We also learned valuable skills such as working as a team, writing grants, negotiating with partners, etc. All of these skills will be useful for us in the pursuit of our goals in this humanitarian journey.

Personal statement
The most important thing I learned from this project is the amount joy you receive from helping people in need. This project allowed us to help a very deserving non-profit medical facility cater to their patients’ needs. The project’s value lies with its ability to contribute to ONG AFUA’s mission of helping those in need. The joy of helping others is as infectious as the illnesses we combat. -Joshua Dieudonne
Peace Means Staying Healthy
Niger, Africa
University of Florida
Joshua Dieudonne, United States of America, University of Florida
Ibrahim Yahaya Ibrahim, Niger Republic, University of Florida

Joshua at Advocates for World Health’s warehouse with some of the medical supplies being ship to ONG AFUA.

Ibrahim Yahaya Ibrahim (forth row second to the right) with the staff of ONG AFUA (above)
Ibrahim Yahaya Ibrahim with the medical directors of ONG AFUA (below)