



place where most people stop. A simple ceasefire or surrender does not address the other needs of the community nor does it really ensure that the conflict will not rise again.

The second component is caring for each person's basic human needs. As Victor Ochen says, "no one will listen to you about reconciliation if they are still bleeding." As such, if the community is hungry, sick, enslaved, maltreated, or subject to any number of inequalities, they will be unlikely to listen to talks of peace. People who work for sustainable peace and conflict transformation use this opportunity after the cease-fire to treat the community's needs. Once those are taken care of and people feel they have few physical needs, they may be more open to reconciliation and understanding. The problem or difficulty with this step is that so many communities are in need of so much assistance. During my experience in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, I was around people who were in need of clean, free drinking water, nutritious meals, real medical care, housing, meaningful and



will take the commitment of everyone in the world to ever hope of seeing world-wide sustainable peace, which is why many realists like myself see such a goal to be a little far-fetched. Even everlasting sustainable peace in a single community seems to be a lofty goal; how could a utopia like that exist in a world so filled with corruption, deceit, and greed? And it's true, there are many things that get in the way of social justice projects, peace plans, and right goals. But that is not a reason for peacebuilders to stop working for it.

I plan to continue working for peace for the rest of my life. At St. Norbert, I will work as a Norman Miller Center intern until I graduate. I hope to work with the current employees to continue to improve on the foundation we have and create a thriving resource on campus students and staff alike come to for assistance in student movements and worldwide problem-solving. At the Norman Miller Center, we highlight and promote ideas and organizations we believe wi

and understood. If there is a conflict in my classroom, no one will be able to learn. If John comes to school hungry or Susan comes in sick, no one will be able to learn. If the class cannot talk to the other half because of differences in political party or religion, again, no one will be able to learn. And if no one has a relationship with anyone else, the necessary communication skills and interpersonal skills that schools (especially language arts) provides will be lost. It is absolutely imperative that I, as an educator, continue to promote my ideas of sustainable peace inside my classroom and school. After I am finished teaching, I hope that my essays, articles, and maybe even books can help create ideas and projects that encourage conflict transformation. I plan to write about social change issues, case studies, empathy, and many other topics, but all will center on the importance of peace and social justice.