Project Summary: To construct a self-sustaining grocery store in Dala's village that provides employment opportunities for the village's Youth Council members. The store's establishment will allow them to remain in the village as well as conduct social service activities that both promote stability and address the village's drug problem. In addition, profits from the store will be utilized to fund the village's social service activities and support the village's underprivileged youth in furthering their education.

Background: Thailand's deep south, which includes Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat provinces, is considered Thailand's most unstable region. A wave of insurgency occurred in 2004 and continues to the present. The violence between the insurgents and the government in Bangkok has caused over 7,000 deaths. This region's violent conflict and political instability have limited employment opportunities, thereby exacerbating poverty, drug usage, and drug trafficking. According to the World Bank, Pattani province has the second-largest poverty rate in Thailand. Between 2007-2017, more than fifty percent of Dalo's village youth are impacted by drug usage. For example, amphetamine was widely used among the youth's villagers. In 2018, village leaders founded the Youth Council to promote harmony and address drug problems. The Youth Council has been instrumental in helping reduce the number of addicts; however, around 10% of village youth still engage in drug use. In recent years, many of the Youth Council's most active members have left the village, with many moving to Thailand and Malaysia's large cities for employment opportunities. Subsequently, their exodus has depleted the Youth Council.

Implementation: After several virtual meetings with five village leaders and the Youth Council president, we agreed to build the Village's Grocery Store to employ villagers. Construction costs will amount to 4,550 USD. Construction on the store will occur between 31 June and 31 August 2023. When completed, the store will be 5 meters wide and 11 meters long. Furthermore, all stakeholders decided to use 3,456 USD to purchase the inventory goods for resale, which would occur between 1-14 September 2023. In mid-September, we will hire five eligible Youth Council members to take care of the store. The store will provide employment opportunities and allow young people to remain in the village. Between 15-31 September, we will set up 3,000 grocery store stocks, which will be open for investment by the village members. The price of each stock is 100 Baht (3.03 USD), and each investor is not allowed to invest more than 30 stocks: 3000 baht (90.90). The stock investments will allow the store to create a larger budget and operate from a position of financial strength. In addition, we will set up a village grocery store committee to ensure the store runs transparently. The committee will include five people. All of them are the village elders, and my father is one of them. The store employees will need to send the village elders a ledger report at the end of the month to ensure financial transparency.

Anticipated Results: There are currently three grocery stores in the village, and the sons of those stores' owners are the village's youth members. Rice is not the main product for them, and thus we agreed to make it the leading product wholesale for those stores. A contract will be made with them and that will help to avoid the competition. In addition, more than three grocery stores are needed to satisfy the demands of the Dala village. At the same time, three private schools are located in our town, each with several hundred students. Furthermore, the grocery store stocks will help those villagers who invest in the store persuade other family members to buy the goods from our store since they will benefit from the store's profit. Their store's stock investment will make the youth and the villagers believe that the store belongs to them and will become their responsibility to take care of its profit. To increase profits, they will have to buy goods from the store.
Title: Dala's Village Grocery Store for Stability and Peace
Location: Dala's village, Manangyong, Yaring, Pattani, Thailand, 94150
Nominating College: Hood College
Project Leader: Irafan Hayiarwae
Date range of Project: June 25-31 September, 2023

The store's profit will go to the Youth Council fund. Those funds will finance the social service activities. The Youth Council executive board and five village leaders will manage the fund. The fund will be used to support the village's underprivileged kids that need the money to pursue their education. If the Dala's Village Grocery store project succeeds, it would help reenergize the Youth Council and provide it with important funding. The objective is to promote harmony among the villagers and stabilize the village.

Oversight of the project: The five village leaders will be in charge of the on-site project. One of them is a building contractor. He will use his construction experience and contacts to ask a couple of his craftsman friends to build the grocery store, and they will do this voluntarily. The village's leader already purchased the land that will construct the store. Therefore, it has become a public property that belongs to Dala's village. The village's Youth Council executive board and its members will become volunteers in helping to build the store. In addition, the youth members and the village leaders agreed to volunteer to construct the store during the night after returning from school and work. The store will open seven days a week, starting from 7.00 am-12.00 pm. We will hire two youths to take care of the store in one day. One will work between 7 am-4 pm, and the other will work between 4 am-12 pm. Two of them will work between Monday and Wednesday. The other two will work between Thursday and Saturday, and one more will work the entire day on Sunday.

The village leader's name: Mahamasaudi Uma Dala's youth president contact: ----
Phone number: +6662-540-xxxx +6698-719-xxxx
Facebook: ---- Dala youth council Facebook contact: ----

The significance of the project: I am a Global Studies major and Economics double major. I grew up in Dala's village. This project would allow me to design a project which aims to solve my village's long-lasting problems-- drugs and poverty. It will contribute to my village's harmony and long-term prospects for peace. The village's youth need alternatives to the drug trade. They also need educational support and social service opportunities. Furthermore, this project will allow me to utilize my skills in managing the finances of this public project. Thus, this project would mean a lot to people in my village and me personally since I care deeply for my village's peace and long-term stability.