

LMI Update

March 2013



NOTHIN' BUT NETS

To celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week, Central Indiana Lutheran schools teamed up to join the fight against malaria. Motivated by the week's theme, "Baptized For This Moment," students realized that as baptized children of God, they can put their faith into action and respond to Christ's call to serve their neighbors in need by fighting malaria with the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI).

The schools shared the message that about half of the world's population is at risk for malaria, most of those at risk live in Africa and 90 percent of malaria deaths are children. They also shared how this life-threatening disease is caused by a parasite and is transmitted from person to person by the bite of a mosquito. But malaria is preventable and treatable, students learned. And each donation to LMI helps save a life!

Students of Lutheran High School of Indianapolis set a goal of raising \$5,000 for LMI. They created their own LMI page on the school's website (<https://sites.google.com/a/lhsi.org/nothin-but-nets-fighting-malaria/>), a "Nothin' But Nets" team fundraising page on www.lutheranmalaria.org and a YouTube video (<http://youtu.be/06fFhJpUIxw>), which featured wristband-wearing and net-protected students and faculty fighting off Martie the Mosquito, the LMI mascot. From the website students learned what specific gifts to LMI could accomplish. The simple message was: "Nothin' But Nets: You Can Save A Life."

Students asked their friends, teachers and parents to spread the word through social media. They asked everyone to post, tweet or share the school website, YouTube video or LMI website. They also encouraged everyone to get involved and participate in fundraising activities at their churches or schools. To date, the effort has raised \$3,042 toward the \$5,000 goal.

Much of the LMI fundraising effort at Lutheran High was spearheaded by the students in the Advanced Placement Biology

class. One of the many fundraising activities they planned was the "Nothin' But Nets Challenge" during Lutheran High School home girls' and boys' basketball games. Each participant was entered into a drawing for tickets to an Indiana Pacers basketball game and received a "Nothin' But Nets Fighting Malaria" wristband when they donated \$10, or when they paid \$1 and, at half-time, successfully made a free throw.

Schools involved in LMI efforts in Central Indiana included: Calvary, Emmaus, Holy Cross, Lutheran High, Our Shepherd, St. John, Trinity and Zion.

JUST HOW MUCH MATTERS? HERE IS WHAT CENTRAL INDIANA SCHOOLS SAID ABOUT LMI DONATIONS:

- **\$1 can help a child with malaria receive medicine.**
- **\$10 can provide one family with a treated bed net and proper education on its use.**
- **\$50 can pay for the cost of malaria prevention messages on a local radio station in Africa.**
- **\$300 can help train a health care worker to diagnose and treat malaria.**
- **\$1,000 or more can provide microscopes and other medical equipment to rural health clinics.**

Below: Images of bed net-protected and wristband-wearing teens fighting malaria clipped from the YouTube video created by students at Lutheran High School of Indianapolis.



THE LATEST BUZZ



The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz, president of the LCMS English District, shared these words in a recent issue of *The English Channel*, a monthly electronic publication from the district:

“It is my observation that **many of our laypeople are unaware** of this godly initiative of our church body, in partnership with LWR (Lutheran

World Relief), the United Nations Foundation, and our partner church bodies and missionaries in Africa.

“Sunday, Feb. 3, I installed the Rev. Dr. Vern Schindler as pastor of Christus Rex Lutheran Church, Rio Rico, Ariz. Following the installation rite, Dr. Schindler, a former missionary to Ghana with his wife, revealed that they were daily exposed to malaria and had to take weekly medication to keep from getting malaria.

“Also last month, I was at another of our Arizona congregations where a bed net was placed on the piano. Following the children’s talk, I shared with the kids and all those in worship about LMI. On the way out of church, a gentleman gave me a \$10 bill to get a bed net for a family in Africa. A lady who observed that then gave a \$20 gift. Three bed nets – lives that will be physically saved as our missionaries also share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior, Green Valley, Ariz., approved a three-year goal to raise \$50,000 as part of its 50th anniversary celebration. Many congregations and schools in the English District have adopted LMI goals and are now participating.

“I invite you to **proactively tell the LMI story** in your congregation and school over the next two years and to encourage support. Pray to the Lord for those who suffer from malaria for a return to health and for their spiritual wellness. Pray for those who are working to prevent, treat and contain this dreadful disease.

“Currently LMI is reaching out to countries where there are

partner Lutheran churches and missionaries on the ground. LMI also has partnered with Concordia Publishing House (CPH) in making available the Rev. Dr. John and Monique Nunes’ book, *Little Things Make Big Differences*, and gifting a \$10 bed net. Go to lutheranmalaria.org for a starter kit.

“Thank you for your personal support and encouragement of adults as well as children and youth in their support of LMI!”



Nicole Cushman, a teacher at Our Savior Lutheran School in Clearwater, Fla. forwarded a photo of her class, which was taken on hat day during National Lutheran Schools Week.

“During Lutheran schools week we learned about the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. Teachers displayed the bed nets in their classrooms, students colored mosquitoes, and told their parents all about malaria and what we were doing to prevent it. Our school collected money in each class, and all in all, we raised more than \$800. We are proud of our students and families and I wanted to share the good news with you!”

Orange Out Malaria! Week
April 21-27

World Malaria Day
April 25

LMI Sunday
April 28

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