

Nets Are Nice



FOREWORD BY
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Laura Bush



Dear Parents and Educators,

Malaria is a devastating problem in many parts of the world. Each year more than a million people die of the disease, and the overwhelming majority of these victims are children under the age of five. The most distressing fact of all is that most of these deaths need not happen, because malaria is preventable and treatable.

The good news is that individuals of all ages can make a real and lasting impact in the lives of people who are vulnerable to malaria. *Nets are Nice* offers an opportunity to engage the energy, creativity and compassion of children, and to make them aware of ways they can help others who are in need.

Thank you for teaching your children and students about malaria and what they can do to help.

Gratefully,
Laura Bush



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With a Foreword by Laura W. Bush

Gary R. Edson

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There are all kinds of nets
in the world.

There are butterfly nets
for catching butterflies.



There are fishing nets
for catching fish.



There are basketball nets
for playing basketball.

Teams work **together** to get
the ball through the net.



There are soccer nets for scoring goals.

When the ball is stopped from going in the net, it's called a **save**.



There are nets to catch flying circus stars if they fall.

These nets keep them **safe**.

There are other nets that are used on the continent called Africa.

Can you find Africa on this map of the world?





Africa is a beautiful and friendly place made up of many countries.

The people of Africa speak many languages.



The weather in many African countries is hot and humid. In these countries there is a certain kind of mosquito that can be dangerous. This mosquito carries a sickness called malaria.



This mosquito bites people at night and can spread malaria.

If these mosquitoes bite a grown-up or kid, that person can get sick — and sometimes die.



But there is **good** news.



There is a special kind of net that goes over a bed and keeps people **safe**.

These are mosquito nets. They stop mosquitoes from biting kids and grown-ups at night while they are sleeping.



Many families in Africa do not have the mosquito nets they need for their beds. Sometimes there are not enough nets, or families cannot pay for them.

Wouldn't it be nice if every family in Africa that needed mosquito nets for their beds could get them?



Grown-ups and kids in our country can help those families living in Africa.

Each of us — and our clubs, teams, and towns — can help send more nets to Africa.

By working **together**, we can make a difference and **save** lives.



And that way every child
can grow up to
catch butterflies...
go fishing...
play sports...
and live a happy life with
his or her family.

Facts About Malaria

For Teachers, Parents, and Guardians

- Malaria is caused by a parasite carried by certain mosquitoes found in tropical climates.
- Malaria is a blood disease. It can destroy red blood cells and prevent the flow of blood to vital organs.
- Malaria has been eliminated from the United States and other developed countries. It is still a threat to more than 40 percent of the world's population.
- Every year, between 350 million and 500 million people are infected with malaria. Over one million die — mainly children under five. Every 30 seconds, a child in Africa dies from malaria.
- Malaria is preventable and treatable through a comprehensive approach: long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor spraying to kill mosquitoes, elimination of mosquito breeding areas, education, and medicine.
- Bed nets, which are just \$10 each, can be procured and delivered to African families at risk in the fight against malaria. Bed nets work by creating a protective barrier against mosquitoes. This is especially important at night, between 10:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m., when most transmission occurs. Most bed nets are big enough to cover a parent and a child.

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visit these sites online:**

President's Malaria Initiative
www.fightingmalaria.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/malaria

Red Cross
www.redcross.org

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund
www.unicef.org/health/index_malaria.html

World Health Organization
www.who.int/topics/malaria/en/

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