



[Name]
[Street Address]
[City, State, Zip]
[Number]

Dear [Title, Name]

We, the Global Health Forum of Swarthmore College, are writing to you to announce the establishment of a new student-education and lobbying campaign *Give a Net, Get a Vote*. Throughout our three year history, Global Health Forum has donated over 3,500 bed nets to regions in Sierra Leone and Uganda. An unprecedented action, the Give a Net, Get a Vote campaign doubles our efforts in the fight against malaria by combining physical action with political pressure. For every bed net donated through our fundraising campaigns, a letter will be sent to our representatives – your colleagues - asking for support on legislation that addresses malaria and other critical global health issues.

This summer one of our members had an opportunity to participate in one of the bed net distributions in the Malen chiefdom of Sierra Leone. The experience provided profound insight onto the burden of malaria – our member witnessed days during which children literally ‘dropped like flies.’ Malaria is a disease that infects communities, invades livelihoods, and strangles economic growth in the developing world. It’s reach is vast – over 250 million are infected annually, 1 million die, and 88% of deaths are of children less than five years old. Thorough analyses estimate that GDP for malaria-endemic countries was five times less than malaria-free countries.¹ As college students, we believe our most effective approach to directly address this disease is by providing bed nets to those communities in need. Insecticide-treated bed nets can reduce transmission rates as much as 90% if the area is properly covered.² And at \$5 a net, students can easily afford to donate a net, rather than more expensive medications or biotechnology derivatives.

But college students alone cannot eradicate malaria. We need your help. In the coming weeks as we roll out our campaign, you will receive letters from concerned students asking for your support on upcoming global health legislation. We hope that you can support this legislation that will improve the lives of millions of people throughout the world.

Sincerely,

Executive Board, Swarthmore College Global Health Forum

¹ Gallup JL and Sachs JD. “The economic burden of malaria.” *Am. J. Trop. Med. Hyg.*, 64(1,2) S, 2001. Pp. 85-96.

² NothingButNets.net. “Malaria Kills.” Nothing But Nets Campaign. Accessed 30 Sept. 2009 at <http://www.nothingbutnets.net/malaria-kills/> >