

# ELCA MALARIA CAMPAIGN MONTHLY NEWS



**ELCA Malaria Campaign**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

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## News from the Field: Sustainable Livelihoods in Zimbabwe

Malaria is a disease of poverty, and one way to reduce malaria is to reduce the burden of poverty. This is why the Lutheran Malaria Program in Zimbabwe seeks to ensure sustainable livelihoods for people in the communities where they work. The program grants seed money so that small businesses can commence their operations. The earnings of the businesses can then be used to help people affected by malaria with medical expenses or treatment.



The Chitekete Chemical Supply Shop in Chitekete, Zimbabwe is one such business. "The grant is really just to kick start the project," says Kelton Ncube, Malaria Field Officer in the Burure Region for the Lutheran Malaria Program in Zimbabwe. For the Chemical Supply Group, the seed money was returned to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe after just three months, as the group had already earned it back. "From stiff competition, we find ourselves ahead of competitors because of our reasonable prices," says Tendero Mutakanyi, one of the stakeholders in the chemical supply shop. With their success, Tendero mentions that earnings are used "So we can fund hospital bills and also buy food."

The shop is run by ten individuals – six men and four women. They take turns working at the shop and share management responsibilities. The team meets twice a week to deliberate and strategize. They pride themselves on operating with transparency.

Not only do the funds support people affected by malaria, but the goods that they sell help to keep the mosquito population under control. They sell insecticides and mosquito repellent to protect their neighbors from mosquito bites. The group teaches the community about the chemicals, ensuring safe and effective use. Their top seller is an agrochemical for cotton crops, as cotton is a popular plant in the region. The region sees healthy, more robust crops because these agrochemicals are available.

The Chitekete Chemical Shop is an asset in the community, and it is also good for the church. The shopkeepers are all members of Burure Lutheran Parish and some of their most loyal customers are members of their congregation. They often get visitors from church stopping by to browse and shop. "Parishioners buy their supplies from here, because they want to support them," says Shumba, a fellow parish member and lay leader in the Burure Parish. "They help us, we help them."

Indeed, by reducing the financial burden of malaria to families in need, and by working to control the mosquito population, the Chitekete Chemical Supply Group is helping the community in more ways than one.



## Now Available to Order: Catch the Buzz!

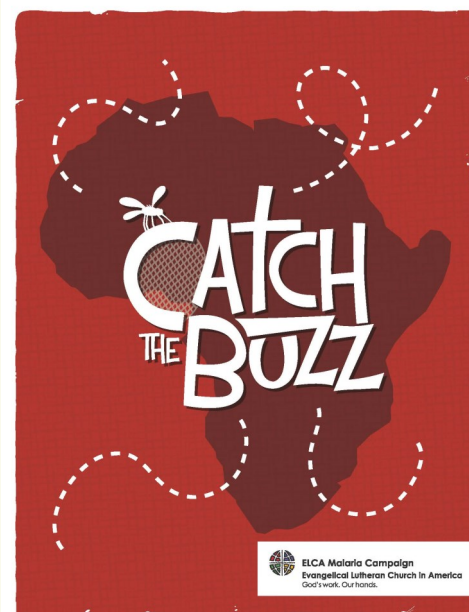
The ELCA Malaria Campaign is happy to introduce Catch the Buzz, a curriculum for Vacation Bible School. This curriculum is now available to download and order. Many of the themes, crafts and games in Catch the Buzz also work nicely for Sunday School education. The curriculum does not have to be limited to VBS; **it is our hope that this is an engaging children's ministry program in all seasons!**

**Printed copies are now available!** Order your copy by clicking [here](#) and adding a copy to your cart. Copies are free and will ship within a day or two of ordering.

You can **download your free copy** by clicking [here](#), which will direct you to the ELCA resource e-store. Click on "free download" to view the complete curriculum in a PDF, and save it to your computer. You are welcome to print any or all of it, and spread the word to people in your congregation or synod who might find it useful. *[Note: The PDF file is very large, and downloading may take several minutes.]*

If you have any questions about downloading, ordering or anything else, you are welcome to send inquiries to [malaria@elca.org](mailto:malaria@elca.org).

*Order your copy of  
Catch the Buzz  
today!*



## Here's the Scoop on World Malaria Week



World Malaria Week is just drawing to a close, and congregations all across the ELCA have stepped up to raise awareness and funds, and to take advantage of a \$100,000 matching pool. Even before World Malaria Week commenced, Allison and Jessica fielded calls and requests from dozens (maybe even hundreds!) of congregations that planned to lift up malaria-related themes during worship, Sunday school, adult education and other special moments of congregational life.

The response from individuals giving online was also quite strong (we keep learning this lesson over and over again: *ELCA Lutherans are very generous people*). In fact, we're already sure that we raised enough money to meet the \$100,000 matching challenge... and the congregational checks are just starting to arrive! We feel confident that, when the dust settles, we will have raised enough money in *just one week* to support the Lutheran

malaria program in Namibia for its first whole year!

We are excited to hear from you about how your congregation—or other congregations in your synod—drew attention to malaria this weekend! Email your stories and photos to [malaria@elca.org](mailto:malaria@elca.org).

We would love to be able to announce the grand total of World Malaria Week funds raised right this very minute... but today was just the postmark deadline for congregational gifts, so we need to wait for the US Postal Service, our bank and our gift processing wizards to do their jobs. And THEN we will announce the totals—with much cheerleading and fanfare and gratitude! So watch your email inboxes at the end of May; you'll be hearing from us!



## Fundraising Update and Milestones

Thanks to your great work and ELCA members' great generosity, the ELCA Malaria Campaign has raised **\$11.4 million** so far! This week has been very exciting, as our whole church commemorates World Malaria Week with extreme generosity. Some of that generosity is already reflected in the enclosed report, but most of that generosity is in the form of checks from congregations that have yet to be counted. So you can expect even higher numbers—and even more gratitude from us—in our June newsletter.

We are celebrating some wonderful milestones this month:

**\$300,000 raised:** Rocky Mountain Synod, Southwestern California Synod

**\$250,000 raised:** Northwestern Minnesota Synod, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod

**\$200,000 raised:** New England Synod

**\$150,000 raised:** Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

**\$50,000 raised:** Northern Great Lakes Synod

Thank you for your generous leadership! Keep up the great work!



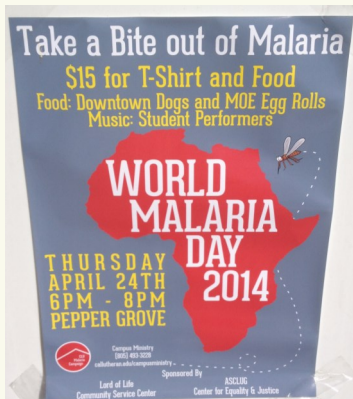
## Did you see the Easter Bunny?

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Reedsburg, WI raised money for the ELCA Malaria Campaign with the help of some cute and crafty creatures. The Church in Society Team sold netting bunnies as an April fundraiser. These adorable bunnies are thanks to the creativity of St. John's member Kathy Krolikowski. Each bunny was sold for \$10, roughly the same price as a mosquito net. They collected donations throughout April, and announced the results of their fundraising in church on World Malaria Sunday. Thanks to Kathy for her fine handiwork and the Church in Society Team at St. John's for sharing their clever idea with the wider church. Perhaps we'll see a multitude of netting bunnies come next Easter!





## Sorenson Grants Soar: Over \$100,000 Raised on College Campuses



College Campuses all over the country have been supporting the ELCA Malaria Campaign with creative and meaningful projects. Many colleges been inspired to participate thanks to the availability of Sorenson Grants. The grants work in two ways. First, colleges may apply for seed money. These funds can be used to kick start a fundraising or education program on campus. Second, all of the funds that are raised for the ELCA Malaria Cam-

paign on any college campus will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$125,000. We're happy to report that the combined efforts of ELCA colleges and Lutheran Campus Ministries have raised **over \$100,000** for the ELCA Malaria Campaign. From dinners to dances, from 5K races to flag football tournaments, from concerts to contests – the activity on college campuses has been varied and vibrant!

Recently, California Lutheran University hosted a World Malaria Day celebration. The event featured performances by student musicians, food trucks selling tasty treats onsite, and a talk by our very own Jessica Nipp Hacker. T-shirts and other merchandise were sold. This was just one event among many of CLU's anti-malaria efforts on campus. Previously, they hosted a film screening about malaria, sold merchandise at a farmer's market, enjoyed African food and dancing, and collected donations from people in the CLU community.

*Thanks to the all students and pastors from all participating campuses for your dedicated work against malaria!*



## 60 SECONDS TO CHANGE

