

The following is our story of our Malaria Campaign.

Malaria campaign for Grace Lutheran, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Debby Brown

debjt@wctc.net

The campaign was the idea of my husband and I, being moved, after seeing a movie made in Africa. The story was of a young man's medical mission to Africa to help save lives of many there, from malaria. It revealed to us the devastation of the disease. ("Mary and Martha," was the name of the movie). Our church is a very giving church and we donate a lot to community needs. We went to the Church and Society committee and presented our ideas. The committee liked the idea and Pastor Kent chose November for the month, as no other donation was being made for that month. I downloaded all of the resources of the ELCA and ordered envelopes, posters, and pamphlets. We posted the posters and pictures of the mosquito all around the church and Sunday School area, including on the mirror of all of the rest rooms. With the help of our clerical staff, we made two thermometers to represent how our campaign would be growing (one in the church and one in the narthex.) Pastor Kent set a goal of \$2500. Totally we received \$2556.97. We announced the campaign every Sunday, and passed around what we call a noisy offering. This is change from people's pockets and piggy banks collected in metal containers, to make noise. They got pretty heavy at the end of it each Sunday, especially one Sunday when we collected \$900. Pastor Kent also encouraged people to use envelopes that were located in the back of the church for larger amounts. For every \$50 earned, the children would throw a ball into a hanging net. They especially had fun throwing balls in for the \$900 Sunday. "Buzz" visited and told us about all of the info concerning the needs, contagion, etc. The short movie was shown one Sunday and a representative from the Malaria Campaign spoke in church and the adult forum. One Sunday, the children's sermon was held under the net. This would not have been possible without the enthusiasm, and creative support of Pastor Kent and our congregation, especially the children. Our church has a very relaxed and good sense of humored congregation and pastor. There is a real openness toward inclusivity of the children as much as possible. Pastor Kent is so encouraging for the congregation to try new and creative ideas.



Rick Merton, Buzz the mosquito. He did a very good job describing the need, the contagious factor, the people in Africa, etc. He did it in a very humorous way, as is his personality.



A mosquito net was hung and children through balls in it -- one ball for every \$50.



Pastor Kent Raddatz, participating throwing big ball in.



Children's sermon under the net.



The last Sunday of our campaign showed the thermometer on the wall of our church, measuring our progress to the goal of \$2500 and more!!