

STATE OF OKLAHOMA



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

Whereas, malaria is a disease affecting 500 million people, annually, with more than one million deaths each year – approximately one-third of the population of the State of Oklahoma; and

Whereas, more than eighty-five percent (85%) of all malaria cases and deaths from malaria occur in African countries South of the Sahara desert; and

Whereas, 3,000 children less than five years of age die in Africa each day of malaria – one child every 30 seconds; and

Whereas, the World Health Organization (WHO) has endorsed availability of insecticide-treated mosquito bed nets (ITNs), including free nets to those who cannot afford, as a simple and cost-effective strategy to significantly reduce illness and death due to malaria; and

Whereas, President Bush launched the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) in June, 2005, and pledged to reduce deaths due to malaria by 50 percent in 15 African countries and challenged other donor countries, private foundations, and corporations to help reduce the suffering and death caused by this disease; and

Whereas, His Nets, a non-profit organization with headquarters in Oklahoma has sent scores of volunteers to African countries over the past three years to distribute nearly 30,000 ITNs, gratis, to recipient families at high risk of malaria and without the financial resources to purchase such nets, including appropriate recipient use training and follow up of distribution effectiveness; and

Whereas, the problems of Africa seem half a world away from the citizens of Oklahoma, we acknowledge our global community, and the understanding that for the price of a simple "fast-food" meal a child can be given the gift of life, free from the burden of malaria; and

Whereas, the World Health Assembly (WHA) of the WHO has resolved that April 25 shall be commemorated, annually, as "World Malaria Day"; and

Whereas, the United States proclaimed April 25, 2007, as "Malaria Awareness Day";

Now, therefore, I, Brad Henry, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2008, as

"Oklahoma Malaria Awareness Day"

in the State of Oklahoma, in recognition and appreciation of the humanitarian activities of His Nets.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.



ATTEST:

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 26th day of March, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the State of Oklahoma in the one hundredth year.

M. Susan Conway
SECRETARY OF STATE

Brad Henry
GOVERNOR