

# RESULTS ARE IN: GIFTS TO “CAST A NET” HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE

Mosquito nets sent to prevent malaria have measurable effect.

When St. Joseph’s Foundation began asking for donations in 2008 for malaria prevention nets, known more formally as “long lasting insecticide treated nets” (LLITNs), we were delighted to receive enough funding to send 62,000 nets to our Village Wellness Project (VWP) in the Karatu District of Tanzania. Now, we can tell our donors that, indeed, their dollars have made a difference.



Village Wellness Program director, Flora Myamba, Ph. D. (center), surveys villagers with a staff member

of age and pregnant women were sleeping under these nets each night. These statistics are significantly higher than those reported for this region by the World Health Organization. Additional data captured from health centers and the region’s hospital showed an **overall 25% decrease in reported malaria cases for the first seven months of 2009.**

A survey was conducted this past summer led by VWP director, Flora Myamba, Ph.D. The team included both Tanzanian and United Kingdom healthcare workers. Results revealed highly encouraging statistics. After distribution in 2008, over 86% of the homes surveyed had LLITNs in place and 80% of the children under five years

These outstanding results were made possible by the contributions of St. Joseph Medical Center employees, physicians, board members and friends to the “Cast a Net” campaign. Since the inception of the VWP, the St. Joseph community has been the cornerstone of this international outreach mission.

## Giving Back

Like several of our Foundation board members, Ned Hanna started his “career” at St. Joseph as a patient. With a family history of heart disease, Hanna’s doctors were proactive about his cardiac care, even when he failed to show any major symptoms. After a cardiac catheterization showed Hanna had major blockages, he underwent a quintuple bypass in 2007. Laughingly, Hanna tells of his sister flying from Pittsburgh to be with him for the surgery and her seatmate exclaiming, “I certainly hope your brother’s going to St. Joseph.”

For the former investment banker who travelled in circles with some of the biggest names in the financial world, his unexpected illness and experience at St. Joseph was a tremendous wake-up call to what really mattered in his life. Suddenly, it seemed vitally important to Hanna that he do something concrete to help people who are facing cardiac illness. For the past two years, Hanna has been a volunteer in The Heart Institute, reassuring patients

who are getting ready to undergo a catheterization or bypass surgery. “I absolutely can attest to the truth of St. Joseph’s mission to provide loving service. I see it everyday in the Heart Institute as the staff takes time to ease anxiety and reassure each of their patients. Their work is not so much a job as a calling. It’s a privilege to work alongside them,” concludes Hanna.



Hanna’s strong background in complex financial service operations, coupled with his desire to make a difference in his community, make him an excellent addition to the Foundation Board.

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*The Foundation sincerely regrets an error in the 2009 Annual Report. Photo caption for Philanthropy should have read Amy Pollokoff.*