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President Bush Issues Statement On Malaria Awareness Day



President George W. Bush delivers remarks during a ceremony marking Malaria Awareness Day Wednesday, April 25, 2007, in the Rose Garden. White House Photo by Eric Draper.

Since 2000, African leaders have observed April 25 as “Africa Malaria Day,” raising awareness of achievements and setting goals toward eliminating malaria in Africa. On April 25, 2007, President Bush issued the following statement marking the first “Malaria Awareness Day.”

“Americans are fortunate to live in a land that eliminated malaria decades ago. Today, our country helps fight this disease in Africa, because we believe in the timeless truth: To whom much is given, much is required. On Malaria Awareness Day, we renew our commitment to helping combat malaria in Africa and around the world.

Tragically, one child in Africa dies every 30 seconds from malaria, a disease that is highly treatable and preventable. To reduce malaria's mortality rate in the hardest-hit African countries, I announced the President's Malaria Initiative in 2005, a five year, \$1.2 billion program.

At last year's White House Summit on Malaria, Laura and I were pleased to announce the

expansion of this initiative to several additional countries. These efforts are making a difference, and millions of people have already benefited from insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor spraying, and anti-malaria medicine.

Across our Nation, Americans are answering the call to act. By simply donating an insecticide-treated bed net, one individual can help save a life. For more information about how to help and for a list of humanitarian organizations, visit fightingmalaria.gov.

Americans are a compassionate people who care deeply about the plight of others and the future of our world, and we can all be proud of the work our Nation is doing to fight disease and despair. By standing with the people of Africa in the fight against malaria, we can help lift a burden of unnecessary suffering, provide hope and health, and forge lasting friendships.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2007, as Malaria Awareness Day. I encourage Americans to answer the universal call to love a neighbor and join in our goal of eradicating malaria on the African continent.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.”

GEORGE W. BUSH

FACT SHEET: Global Efforts To Fight Malaria

- On April 24, 2007, President Bush challenged the world to dramatically reduce malaria as a major killer of children in sub-Saharan Africa and pledged to increase funding of malaria prevention and treatment by more than \$1.2 billion over five years. The goal is to reduce malaria deaths by 50 percent in targeted African countries.
- The additional funding provided by the United States will eventually benefit more than 175-million people in 15 or more African countries. This commitment to expand malaria prevention and treatment programs in Africa is in addition to the \$200 million the U.S. spends today on malaria prevention, treatment, and research worldwide.
- This initiative, in combination with a similar program announced by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and efforts by Marathon Oil Corporation and Noble Energy, Inc., will increase malaria interventions in five countries: Angola, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Equatorial Guinea.
- The President calls on other donors, foundations, and private, public, and voluntary organizations to complement the United States commitments by providing additional funding

For Full Fact Sheet, see:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/06/20050630-8.html>

First Lady Addresses National Summit on America's Silent Epidemic



Mrs. Bush talks with student Lyle Oates of the YouthBuild Alternative School in Cambridge, Mass., at the National Summit on America's Silent Epidemic. White House photo by Joyce Boghosian.

On May 9, 2007, Mrs. Bush addressed the National Summit on America's Silent Epidemic in Washington, DC. Sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, MTV, *Time* Magazine, and community organizations from across America, the Summit joined students, teachers, and community leaders to discuss high school dropout prevention.

In her keynote address, Mrs. Bush discussed "Helping America's Youth," a White House initiative to encourage education and mentorship which began in 2005. Mrs. Bush stated:

"When adults are involved the lives of young people, they can see these warning signs, and they can act, then, to help students stay in school.

Encouraging adults to invest in the young people is at the heart of Helping America's Youth. President Bush announced the Helping America's Youth Initiative in his 2005 State of the Union address, and he asked me to lead it. So over the last two years, I've traveled throughout the United States, visiting with young people and with the adults who are so important to their lives.

All of these visits led to the White House Conference on Helping America's Youth, and then since then to three regional conferences. At these conferences, we introduced an online, interactive Community Guide. The guide's "program tool" helps adults find youth initiatives that have been proven to reduce substance abuse, gang activity, and other risk factors faced by young people. In fact, the "program tool" offers information on 29 research-based programs that help students stay in school."

For more information, see the following:

www.helpingamericasyouth.gov
www.silentepidemic.org

