

Holy Innocents Children's Hospital Uganda Rushooka Net Distribution Program

On April 29, 2009, Connor Johnson visited the community of Rushooka in Southwestern Uganda on behalf of the Holy Innocents Children's Hospital Uganda (HICH) to deliver 900 bed nets to children and pregnant mothers in order to decrease the spread of malaria in this highly susceptible region.

Holy Innocents Children's Hospital is the first dedicated children's hospital in all of Uganda. It is located in Mbarara, a region in the Southwest of Uganda that has one of the highest incidence of malaria in the world. As a part of our mission to reduce deaths from avoidable diseases, prevention has become key.

From a generous supporter, HICH received a donation for 1000 mosquito-repellant bed nets. It was determined that 100 of these would stay with the hospital to cover the inpatient beds, and the remaining 900 would go to blanket an area within the Mbarara with a very high incidence of malaria transmission.

Rushooka is located within the Archdiocese of Mbarara and has been recorded as having the second highest incidence of malaria within the entire district, behind Kyaburukwa, where we have already completed one net distribution program. It was determined that the Rushooka Health Center would receive the 900 nets, and distribute them within the Rushooka community.

It was raining when Connor arrived to Rushooka. Approximately 300 local community members had gathered under tents to await the presentation and distribution of the nets.



Connor met Sr. Marlene, a nurse and head of staff of the Rushooka Health Center. She explained that the villagers had arrived early in the morning, and had been waiting patiently for the distribution of the nets. News of the nets had spread, and the community was prepared for a large event.

There were speeches from the local Catholic priests, community leaders and politicians. A local primary school performed a beautiful song and dance ritual both in their local dialect and also in English, which described their daily strife, and highlighted their hope for the future.



After Sister Marlene introduced Connor, he explained to the crowd that the 900 nets had been designated for the children and pregnant mothers of Rushooka. The crowd applauded.



The Rushooka Health Center staff explained the proper installation and use of the nets. At the end of the presentation, Sister Marlene and her staff distributed the nets to those families that had been designated as recipients.





The people of Rushooka showed great gratitude over the donation of the nets, and expressed a sincere sense of hope for the future of their children due to the generous actions of Against Malaria Foundation, and Holy Innocents Children's Hospital Uganda.