

UN Millennium Goals

- ❖ 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- ❖ 2 Achieve universal primary education
- ❖ 3 Promote gender equality and empower women
- ❖ 4 Reduce child mortality
- ❖ 5 Improve maternal health
- ❖ 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- ❖ 7 Ensure environmental sustainability
- ❖ 8 Develop a global partnership for development

ISSUES AND ACTIONS

October 2007



JOINING HANDS AND HEARTS TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD

Setting a World Record: During the month of October, millions around the world will mobilize to set a new Guinness World Record of people standing up and speaking out against poverty and for the Millennium Development Goals.

This year's Guinness challenge takes place from 5 PM EST – October 16th to 5 PM EST October 17 (**2 PM on the West Coast**) Check the Stand Up website: www.standagainstopoverty.org - plenty of information and ideas!

The UN Millennium Campaign supports citizens' efforts to hold their governments to account for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. This site provides a wealth of material on the subject. www.millenniumcampaign.org

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SHF SHALOM COMMUNITY: "TAKING ACTION TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE" by Caritas Foster

During our June day sponsored by the Peace and Justice Committee [at that time called the Social Concerns Committee] we heard about, reflected and looked at the Millennium Goals within the context of our commitment to the Earth Charter.

The UN Millennium Goals were launched in 2002 with a target date of 2015 to make sufficient changes in the levels of global poverty, disease, equality, illiteracy, and sustainability. These goals were agreed to by all the countries of the world as well as the world's leading developmental institutions. Countries of the world made monetary commitments to help achieve these goals. Sadly, the United States is the second lowest country in meeting its financial commitment to these goals. We rank only above Portugal.

During our June gathering we heard of one simple and easy thing we could do to help with Goal 6, that is to help with the combat of malaria. Malaria remains the number one killer of children under five in sub-Saharan Africa. Some other facts:

- 350 to 500 million people are infected with malaria each year
- 90% of deaths from malaria occur in Africa
- every 30 seconds a young child dies from malaria in Africa
- malaria is totally preventable and treatable
- bed nets protect children and adults from the mosquitoes that carry malaria
- malaria was eradicated from the United States over 50 years ago, yet more than 40% of the world's population is at risk

Ten dollars purchases one net. With the net, families and individuals receive education on the use of the net, prevention of malaria and insecticide treatment for the net. Nets last up to 5 years.

As part of our continuing effort to deepen our commitment to the Earth Chapter, Shalom Community has been collecting/saving money for malaria nets for about two years. At our June day and since, we have invited others, communities and individuals, to join in this effort. Some of the things we have done:

- save our change...coins really add up
- re-cycling
- inviting family and friends to join us....one woman gives all the money she finds on the street, etc. for the nets
- Lenten sacrifices...one person committed \$1 a day; another chose not to eat out and instead gave the money for nets; money is put in our jar when we found ourselves speaking, acting or thinking in a violent way
- raffles...the quilt during Chapter; smaller raffle during our community gathering
- donations given in name of others for birthdays, anniversaries, and/or Christmas

When Shalom Community sends in our donation toward the malaria nets, it is in the name of the Sisters of the Holy Family. Our most recent donation was \$230...thanks in part to individuals and communities in addition to ours. In our most recent conversation with Lazarus Community we discovered they had sent in donations for malaria nets.

We would like to join our efforts and, therefore, have a greater impact...larger donations given at any one time instead of several/many smaller donations all in the name of the congregation. As the ways we do ministry change with retirement, illness, etc., we can continue to serve the poor in new and creative ways. Shalom Community, and those who already joined us, invite you to consider in this effort to end malaria through the use of nets. Shalom Community is willing to collect money [and roll coins], make deposits and send donations. If you would like to do this, please send your donations to Caritas Foster as

well as any suggestions of ways to “raise” money. We will share these suggestions with the congregation. Thank you for your consideration of joining in this effort.

SAVE THE DATES

October 27, 2007 – San Francisco Cathedral 9:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Point 7 Now !

Keeping America’s Promise to Make Poverty History

website: www.sflifeandjustice.org

Nov. 9-11 Green Festival: Sustainable Economy –

Ecological Balance Social Justice

San Francisco Concourse Exhibition Center

www.greenfestivals.org

We will have time to reach the Millennium Development Goals – worldwide and in most, or even all, individual countries – but only if we break with business as usual. We cannot win overnight. Success will require sustained action across the entire decade between now and the deadline...."

United Nations Secretary-General