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**www.NothingButNets.net**

**Sample Op-Ed—[Headline “I slept under a mosquito net for one week. Here’s why.”]**

Here in the United States, we think of mosquitoes as a nuisance. They ruin cookouts and sporting events, spoiling the joy of spending a summer night outside. But for more than 3 billion people around the world, or 50 percent of the world’s population, mosquitoes are deadly. They spread diseases like malaria, which claims the life of a child every two minutes.

This year, nearly 438,000 people around the world will die from malaria, more than 75 percent of them children under the age of five. Even more shocking is the fact that malaria is completely preventable and treatable – all it takes is a $10 bed net to help protect someone from the mosquitoes that spread this disease.

To show my support for the billions of people around the world who are at risk of malaria, I have partnered with the United Nations Foundation’s *Nothing But Nets* campaign to raise awareness about the fight against this deadly disease. In order to better understand the importance of these simple yet powerful tools, I spent the past week sleeping under a net in my own home. While the mosquitoes here in [**INSERT NAME OF HOMETOWN**] don’t carry malaria, I felt safe going to bed each night knowing I had my net to protect me.

Although they are not the only solution, long-lasting insecticide treated bed nets truly make a difference. By both protecting children and families while they sleep and killing mosquitoes on contact, a bed net is a life-saving tool. Thanks to the delivery of over 1 billion nets by global health organizations such as the President’s Malaria Initiative and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, along with other interventions such as indoor residual spraying and increased testing and treatment, tremendous progress has been made. An estimated 6.2 million lives have been saved since 2000, and childhood deaths in Africa have been reduced by 71%. That’s a lot more kids who are able to grow up healthy and thrive.

But malaria doesn’t just affect people in Africa or other parts of the developing world. Africa loses $12 billion per year in economic productivity because of malaria, which hurts markets globally. Malaria is a contributing factor to global poverty, which has long been a breeding ground for violence and extremism that spills over into other countries. And the U.S. military has identified malaria as one of the primary health threats to American troops stationed around the world.

Many Americans like me, who are committed to protecting kids and families around the world from this disease, have joined *Nothing But Nets*, which is working with the UN and other partners to help beat back the spread of malaria and protect vulnerable populations, like refugee families, from this disease. Now in its tenth year, *Nothing But Nets* is about to deliver its ten millionth bed net protecting vulnerable children and families. And I have a role to play too. As a *Nothing But Nets* champion, I raise awareness and funds in my community, and advocate to my elected leaders in Congress, who have the power to fund life-saving programs such as the President’s Malaria Initiative and The Global Fund.

Whether you’re a student or a CEO, anyone can make a huge difference in this global fight. All it takes is $10 to change someone’s life. Join the movement. Visit [www.NothingButNets.net](http://www.NothingButNets.net) and get involved.

Together, we will defeat malaria!