***NetsforLife®***

**Race Participant Packet**

**About *NetsforLife*®**

Since 2006, *NetsforLife®* has distributed over 11 million nets as part of its campaign to fight malaria resulting in less sickness, fewer deaths and stronger communities. Combined with the community education and net monitoring work of nearly 77,000 trained Malaria Control Agents, these nets have saved the lives of over 100,000 children under five and reduced the number of malaria cases by up to 45% in communities where *NetsforLife®* is active. *NetsforLife*® is a program partnership of Episcopal Relief & Development.

*NetsforLife®* combats malaria by training community agents to deliver life-saving nets, educate community members about proper net use and maintenance, and provide ongoing monitoring and evaluation of net use. Launched in 2006, the program is now active in 17 countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Five of these countries – Angola, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Zambia – have adopted aspects of *NetsforLife®’s* methodology as part of their national malaria policy, and many more have solicited the program’s input in country-wide strategic planning.

**About the *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund**

The Episcopal Church initially dedicated itself to supporting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the 2003 General Convention, and put its commitment into action in 2006 by endorsing the MDG Inspiration Fund, which raised over $3.2 million in three years.  The 2009 General Convention pledged 0.7% of its budget to support the NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund, a grassroots effort to educate, engage, and unite Episcopalians to support the MDGs through the fight against malaria.  Our goal is to build awareness about this disease, how it can be prevented, and raise $5 million by December 2012.

Episcopal Relief & Development’s Inspiration Fund enables Episcopalians to live their faith by making a positive difference in the lives of millions around the globe through local, grassroots engagement in communities across the country.

**About Episcopal Relief & Development**

Episcopal Relief & Development is the international relief and development agency of The Episcopal Church and an independent 501(c)(3) organization. The agency takes its mandate from Jesus’ words found in Matthew 25.  Its programs work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Episcopal Relief & Development works closely with the worldwide Church and ecumenical partners to help rebuild after disasters and to empower local communities to find lasting solutions that fight poverty, hunger and disease, including HIV/AIDS and malaria.

**Key Contacts**

**Episcopal Relief & Development:**

 815 Second Avenue

 New York, NY 10017

1.855.312.HEAL

 [www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org)

**Primary Contact:**

**Chad Brinkman**

Associate, Engagement

1.855.312.HEAL

cbrinkman@episcopalrelief.org

**Secondary Contact:**

 **Pamela Penn**

Program Officer, Engagement

1.855.312.HEAL

 ppenn@episcopalrelief.org

**Runner/Walker Responsibilities:**

As a participant, you will be responsible to register for the race, raise money for *NetsforLife*®, and be an active participant in team related activities. You will be responsible for promoting fundraising within your network of friends, family, and colleagues.

**Timeline:** (suggested timeline for runners)

**Two to three months before –** Begin training

**Two months before –** Begin fundraising efforts. \*\*\*See tips on how to fundraise below\*\*\*

**One month before –** Deadline to register for race

**The week before –** Suggested day to complete pledge drive

**Race day –** Enjoy your race!

**The week following the race -** Report to your supporters withpictures and stories from your journey, as well as submit funds to Episcopal Relief & Development

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**How can I take part?**

1. **Join as a runner!**
2. **Support Team *NetsforLife®***

To make an online contribution, go to <http://www.episcopalrelief.org/> and select donate. Choose *NetsforLife®* Inspiration Fund and enter gift amount. Under the *Gift Information*, select the option “Yes, in honor of” and enter **Race Title** and **runner’s names.**

You can also mail checks or money orders to Episcopal Relief & Development. Checks should be made payable to *NetsforLife*®. Please insert the **Race Title** and **runner’s name** in the memo Line.

All donations are tax deductible, and should be mailed to:

 Episcopal Relief & Development

 c/o *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund- **Race Title**

815 Second Ave

 New York, NY 10017

Questions? Call 1.855.312.HEAL for assistance or to contribute by credit card over the phone.

**What percentage of the funds that I raise will be donated to Episcopal Relief & Development beneficiaries?**

Due to the support we receive from the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society in the form of contributed services as well as our own investment income, 92% of every donor dollar goes directly to programs.

**If I raise money, and then drop out of the race, can my donations be refunded?**

No, sorry. We are unable to refund any donations at any time.

**Are contributions to the *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund and Episcopal Relief & Development tax deductible.**

Yes. Episcopal Relief & Development is a 501(c)(3) corporation and as such all contributions that we receive are deductible against federal income taxes if no goods or services are provided in return. Upon receipt of donations, Episcopal Relief & Development will send donors a receipt detailing the amount of their contribution that is deductible.

**Fundraising Tips**

The thought of raising money may sound intimidating or even impossible right now, but do not worry! It’s a lot easier than it seems—especially if you start to get creative with your fundraising efforts.

First, we suggest that you send an e-mail out to your friends, family, coworkers, and anyone else you know, letting them know that you are embarking on this training and fundraising mission and inviting them to support you. Then, continue to send out updates about how your training is going and include stories of some of the people the donations are helping.

Face to face requests and a comprehensive letter writing or email campaign will probably lead to the majority of pledges. More ideas to supplement those sources include:

* **Set a goal:** Set the bar high among your teammates and keep each other accountable for fundraising
* **Bake sale:** Tie up your apron and bring out the flour, because bake sales are a fantastic fundraising event! Pick a date and a location, and ask each runner to bring their favorite baked goods. If they cannot bake their own, they can always get some goodies from Whole Foods or another store.
* **Popcorn and movie night:** Have all the runners invite their friends and family to go to a popcorn and movie night and ask for a minimum donation to attend, such as $12. You can show a family -friendly movie, a running movie, or any other popular movie.
* **Car wash:** Grab your bathing suits and buckets of suds, and have a car wash! This is an incredibly fun way to raise some money *and* spread awareness about the team and the cause at the same time.
* **Potluck benefit dinner:** Have each runner bring a big dish to share and at least one friend (hopefully more)! Ask for a minimum donation from each guest. If you want to get extra fancy, you could invite a special speaker or include a small raffle.
* **Matching gifts:** Your employer may choose to pay Team Member’s registration fees up to a preassigned amount, or many companies may match the Team Fundraising of their employees, be sure to check!
* **Email marketing:** Let people know what you are doing and direct traffic to the campaign website, by adding a signature line to your emails. For example: *Race Title, here I come! Please help me to reach my goal by donating through the webpage www.episcopalrelief.org!*
* **Social media:** Facebook and Twitter can create powerful social change – post a request to your friends/family asking for pledges. Repeat the post about once a week as a reminder – not everyone will take action the first time he or she sees it (and some will not take action at all.)
* **Community engagement:** Ask local community groups, such as your parish, school, or civic group, if you could make a brief presentation at an upcoming meeting about *NetsforLife*® and your race.
* **News articles:** Ask to include a short blurb in your local paper, your neighborhood’s homeowners’ association newsletter or in the newsletter of any group you belong to (church, school, etc.).
* **Organizational engagement:** Involve your fraternity or sorority, choir, sports team, band, or other group in which you are involved. Chat with them about how they might help support your fundraising efforts.
* **Alternative gifts:** Instead of birthday or holiday gifts, ask your friends and family to make a donation. The tax deduction they will receive may enable them to contribute a larger gift.
* **It doesn’t hurt to ask:** The moment you limit who you ask, you limit the amount you raise!
* **Get the word out:** Send letter and emails to family and friends asking for support. Use the included sample letter as a guide.
* **Get creative and come up with your own:** Be sure to share your ideas, events, and pictures with the entire team!

**For more information about the work of *NetsforLife*®, please visit our website:**

[www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org)

**Sample Fundraising Letter:**

Dear Friend,

On DATE, I am running/walking in the RACE TITLE. This fundraiser helps support the work of *NetsforLife*® and Episcopal Relief & Development. **Would you please help me support this valuable work for malaria prevention in sub-Saharan Africa by sponsoring me for this event?**

Every 45 seconds in sub-Saharan Africa, a child dies from malaria, a deadly infectious disease transmitted by a mosquito bite. Just one life-saving, long lasting insecticide-treated net can save three lives from suffering and death.

The **NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund** is a grassroots effort to educate, engage, and unite Episcopalians to support the Millennium Development Goals through the fight against malaria. Our goal is to build awareness about this disease, how it can be prevented, and raise $5 million by December 2012.

Since 2006, NetsforLife® has distributed over 8.5 million nets as part of its campaign to fight malaria resulting in less sickness, fewer deaths and stronger communities.  Combined with the community education and net monitoring work of nearly 74,000 trained Malaria Control Agents, these nets have saved the lives of over 100,000 children under five and reduced the number of malaria cases by up to 45% in communities where *NetsforLife®* is active.

Launched in 2006, the program is now active in 17 countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa.   Five of these countries – Angola, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Zambia – have adopted aspects of *NetsforLife*®’s methodology as part of their national malaria policy, and many more have solicited the program’s input in country-wide strategic planning. *NetsforLife*® is a program partnership of Episcopal Relief & Development.

To make an online contribution, go to <http://www.episcopalrelief.org> and select donate. Choose *NetsforLife®* Inspiration Fund and enter gift amount. Under the *Gift Information*, select the option “Yes, in honor of” and enter **RACE TITLE** and **runner’s names.** You can also mail checks or money orders to Episcopal Relief & Development. Checks should be made payable to *NetsforLife*®. Please insert the **RACE TITLE** and **runner’s name** in the memo field. All donations are tax deductible, and should be mailed to Episcopal Relief & Development, c/o *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund- **RACE TITLE**, 815 Second Ave, New York, NY 10017

Thanks for considering a donation to this important work! All donations are tax-deductible, and will be receipted for tax purposes.

Thanks so much for your help!

Sincerely,

**RACE TITLE**

**Pledge Form/Credit Card Payment**

Thank you for your support in helping me to raise funds for this worthy cause. Your pledge is tax deductible. Please send your donations to me or to Episcopal Relief & Development no later than **Date**.

**Race Participants Name**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Donor’s Name**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Donation Amount $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check  Cash  Credit Card 

**Credit Card Number** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Mail to:** Episcopal Relief & Development, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017

**RACE TITLE**

**Pledge Form/Credit Card Payment**

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**Race Participants Name**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Donor’s Name**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Street Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check  Cash  Credit Card 

**Credit Card Number** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Episcopal Relief & Development, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017

**PLEDGE INFORMATION AND TRACKING FORM**

Thank you for pledging yourself and others to fundraising for such a worth cause!

Checks should be made to *NetsforLife*®. Please insert the **RACE TITLE** and **runner’s name** in the memo line. To make an online contribution, go to <http://www.episcopalrelief.org>.

Turn in this pledge form and all monies collected to:

**Episcopal Relief & Development**

***NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund**

**815 Second Avenue**

**New York, NY 10017**

**Registrant’s Name**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Donor Information**

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**ALL MONIES RAISED MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN ONE WEEK FOLLOWING RACE.**