

WAY TO GO! Protecting Kids from Malaria

Newsday

March 18, 2007

Mary Ellen Pereira

After reading an article about children living in Africa plagued by malaria, Ryan Chugh, a fifth-grader in Thomas Alletta's class at South Bay Elementary School in West Babylon, was inspired to action. "I read a story about how malaria kills many people, and nets can be a lifesaver," Ryan said. He made an appointment with the principal, JoAnn Scott, and broached his idea for the fundraiser, "Veto the Squito."

"I was very impressed with his initiative," Scott said. "We do a lot of fundraisers here at the school, collecting money and food for local pantries, but this was something unique. It extended local community service into the global community by helping children in another country." Scott arranged for Ryan to meet with the school's Student Council. "We made posters to advertise and put buckets in each hallway to collect loose change," Ryan said. More than \$350 was raised for the Love, Hallie Foundation, enough to buy 35 bed nets to protect children from mosquitoes.