

Angellic Accessory

Miami native spearheads fashionable malaria treatment



In 2009, while filming a documentary about Tanzania, Kristen Kenney contracted malaria. While recovering, she learned that less than \$10 could buy the medicine needed to heal from the life-threatening disease. Seemingly inexpensive, the medication is often hard to find in Africa's poorest countries due to lack of funds or resources available. The pain she'd witnessed, while being treated in the hospital, motivated her to sell a few bracelets to friends and family

upon her return to the states.

The brightly colored beaded bracelets were more popular than Kenney (photographed at top right, with Tanzanian children) had expected. The concept soon spawned into what is now known as MALAIKA FOR LIFE, an organization that sells Tanzanian-made bracelets to raise funds to distribute anti-malarial medication. Malaika means "angel" in Swahili, a powerful symbol for an organization that has helped treat more than 25,500 Africans in only two years.

According to the World Malaria Report 2010, issued by the World Health Organization (WHO), there are reportedly 250 million malaria cases each year—resulting in nearly one million deaths. In America, the disease is eradicated. In Africa, a child dies from malaria every 30 seconds.

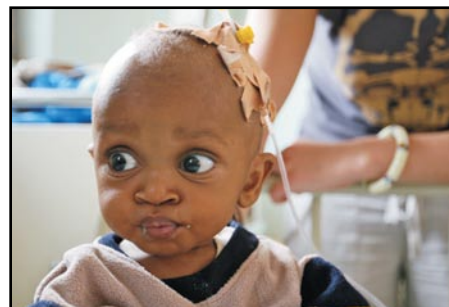
The Maasai tribe-style bracelets are made by disadvantaged women in Nkwenda, Tanzania, (most of whom are HIV+) and sent to the states. Money raised from sales provide a source of income for the Nkwenda-based women. And on the other side of the Serengeti, the remaining funds raised are distributed for malaria medication to Hope Through Opportunity—a California-based nonprofit founded by Alice Hiatt—via Father Aloyce of the Moshi Diocese, in the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania.

Providing a fashionable and easy opportunity for Americans to take part in the fight against the deadly disease, Malaika has more than 20 colors of bracelets to offer. Kids sizing is available, as well as a recently launched men's style, and a timely "Miami Heat combo" which features one black and one red bracelet. Each bracelet purchased provides at least one child with the medication to be treated for malaria.

Buy a bracelet for \$10 on the website (www.malaikaforlife.org), or submit an order form to sell the bracelets at your own summer function. Malaika needs at least three weeks to process "fundraising" orders, which can be done on their site or by emailing hostaparty@malaikaforlife.org. If planning a fundraiser, \$5 per bracelet must be submitted at order time, then the remaining \$5 per bracelet must be submitted within seven days after hosting an event. No strings attached: if you don't sell them all, you can mail the remaining bracelets back when the final payment is submitted.



Photos by Amanda Irely



societyTip:

There are many ways to sell the bracelets... Some popular ideas or locations include:

- Happy hour
- Sporting events
- Religious functions
- Baby showers
- Birthdays
- Holiday parties
- Corporate parties
- Graduation parties
- Yoga centers
- School projects (teachers can educate students about malaria, classes can then host selling competitions)
- Car washes
- Lemonade stand
- In stores or offices

