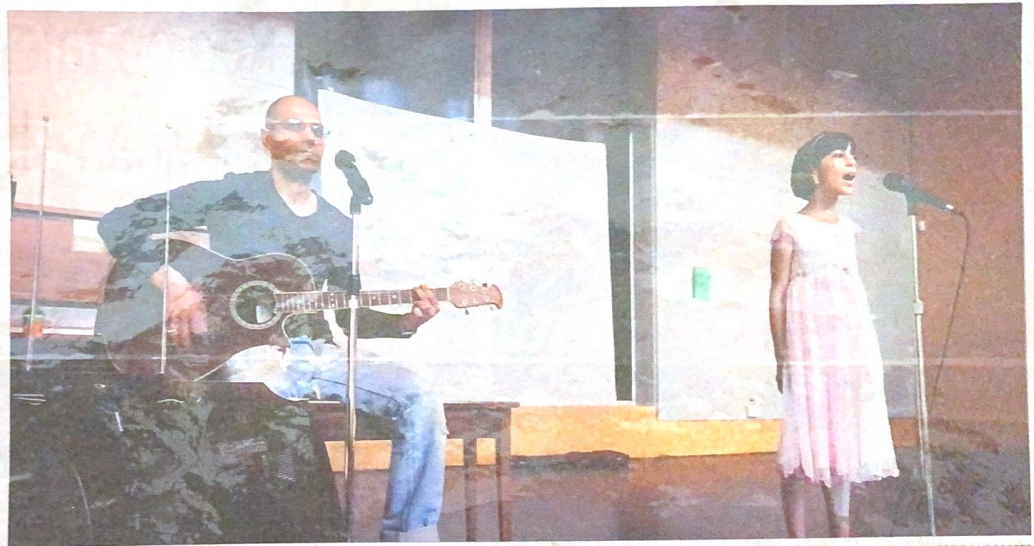


## RAISING VOICES FOR MALARIA

Tara Jam sings with her father, Bahram, at McConaghy Seniors Centre in Richmond Hill during a benefit concert Sunday to help support malaria funding in Africa.



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

# Children helping children around the world

**Tara Jam, 9, wants to help stem spread of malaria in Africa**

BY DAVID FLEISCHER  
Staff Writer

Stocking up on bug repellent and calamine lotion might be enough to help your children through mosquito season, but for children in Africa, the disease

laden insects are a much more serious problem.

This weekend, a Richmond Girl hopes to draw attention to the malaria problem, and to do what she can to make things better.

Sunday, 10-year-old Tara Jam performs a special concert at the McConaghy Centre to benefit the Canadian Red Cross.

She has set a goal to raise \$1,000 to buy 142 mosquito nets as part of the Red

Cross's Campaign Against Malaria.

"I want to raise as much as I can because I really want to help them all," she says.

Tara will sing favourite songs, with her father, Bahram, playing guitar. They are also going to perform several original songs, including the debut of Save Me From the Night, a song they wrote for the cause.

Despite her young age, this is not the first fundraising effort for Tara.

Over the past two years

the Woodland P.S. student raised \$600 for Red Cross programs aimed at helping African children orphaned by AIDS. Recordings of two other original songs raised \$2,000 for other children's charities.

It all began with her mother calling her into the room while a TV show about African children in need of help.

Knowing she could sing, Tara realized her voice could be used to make a difference.

Her whole family has

come on a board, with sisters Nadia and Roxanne putting together a slide show and emceeing, respectively.

Her mother, Mitra, convinced a local Starbucks to contribute coffee to the event and, not surprisingly, is happy her daughters have picked up on the philanthropic spirit she and her husband try to exemplify.

"I hope what she gets out of it is to feel what it's like to be generous and to help the public," Ms Jam said.

Children can die as soon as 24 hours after being bitten

by a malarial mosquito and malaria is the leading cause of death for children under five years of age in Africa, according to the Red Cross.

Because the insects strike mostly when children are asleep, insecticide-treated nets have been found to be the most cost-effective way to battle the disease.

The concert takes place at 4 p.m. on June 1 at the McConaghy Seniors Centre auditorium (10100 Yonge St.). Admission is \$5 and all proceeds go to the Campaign Against Malaria.



Tara Jam, 9, who will be accompanied by her father, Bahram, is performing a concert Sunday at the McConaghy Seniors Centre at 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 and the proceeds will go toward a Red Cross effort to buy malaria nets for kids in Africa.