

The Worm Project

Combating World Hunger Through Parasite Removal

Newsletter

Issue No 1 Spring 2012

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of The Worm Project News. The Worm Project was founded roughly 15 years ago by retired missionary Claude Good to raise money to provide deworming medicine to children in the poorest countries around the world. Through Claude's vision and tireless efforts, The Worm Project has had a tremendous impact including helping to establish deworming campaigns covering entire countries.

Many people are unaware of the serious health problems caused by parasitic worms living in children in tropical and subtropical countries. Parasitic worms in untreated children steal the nutrients from the food they eat causing malnutrition and greater susceptibility to disease. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that approximately 40% of the disease burden in these children is caused by parasitic worms.



The Worm Project is dedicated to eradicating parasitic worms in children and, with your generous donations, we are able to purchase deworming medicine in large quantities at less than 2 cents per tablet and distribute it to the children through our partner organizations. In addition, The Worm Project is run entirely by volunteers and all your donations will go directly to buying deworming pills. In my opinion, the cost effectiveness of this program is unsurpassed in the number of children whose health can be improved at such little cost.

The number of children helped by The Worm Project continues to grow. Although we have been able to help millions of children in over 70 countries around the world, hundreds of millions remain untreated. We live in the richest country in the world and spend a lot more to deworm our pets than it costs to deworm a child. I believe we have a responsibility to help these poor children. To help, please send your tax deductible donations to the address below.

In God's service,

Gary Delp

Board of Directors

Claude Good — Founder

Gary Delp — President

Merrill Moyer — Vice President

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Claude's Story - Part 1: One Man, One Pill

From 1960 to 1985, Claude and Alice Good worked as missionaries among the isolated Triqui people in the mountains of southern Mexico. Upon his return to Pennsylvania, Claude was startled to see the abundant array of foods on display at local grocery stores, after years of witnessing the malnutrition suffered by the Triqui people. Claude was determined to do something to alleviate that problem. He wasn't sure what the answer would be, but imagining himself as a Triqui trying to survive in the U.S. on a meager income, he resolved to begin by eating as simply as possible.

Within six months, he had accumulated \$250 in savings from his eating choices. On a return visit to Mexico City, he went to the pharmacy to purchase medicines. He had heard that a new worm medication had been developed—a chewable, single-dose, mint-flavored tablet. He asked the pharmacist to sell him \$250 worth of worm medications, which turned out to be an astounding 1,500 tablets (17 cents per tablet). He distributed these among the most needy of the Triquis. When he returned from his trip, a Pennsylvania doctor who regularly volunteered in Central America informed him that MedPharm (a Washington, D.C., distributor) could provide tablets for a mere 5 cents apiece if purchased in bulk. The idea of helping the malnourished of the world through parasite removal was born.



The project was daunting. The World Health Organization estimates that at least 1.5 billion people worldwide suffer from a variety of intestinal worms, 300 million of whom are severely infested. Worms can consume up to 25% of the nutrition found in already meager diets, which often leads to death, particularly among children. In some areas, up to 99% of children suffer from infestation. A five-cent worm tablet could rid a child (or adult) of parasitic worms for up to six months, effectively providing the equivalent of many more pounds of food, even without additional food distribution.

To be continued in the next edition.....Claude's Story - Part 2: The Worm Project Goes Global



Since The Worm Project buys millions of tablets, our cost for one chewable Albendazole tablet is 1.4 cents)



Stories from the Field: Firsthand Accounts from Partners of The Worm Project



Second chances: Little Janvier battles worm infection

by Alex Mwaura

In the tiny central African republic of Burundi, pitiable hygiene and sanitation practices create the perfect storm for the spread of worms. During the annual National Deworming Campaign, however, the government ensures that every child receives medicine that will rid them of intestinal parasites. Food for the Hungry (FH) has historically been involved hands-on in this exercise, and during the December 2011 campaign, FH – in partnership with The Worm Project - supplied over 8.6 million tablets to be distributed throughout Burundi.

Every child that needed to be dewormed received the treatment.

Worms usually inflict both children and adults but the young are worst affected. Sinzumusi Renilde, a 30-year-old mother of four knows this too well.

“Before this program, I was always at the clinic because my children were sick all the time. I could not understand what was going on. The children had frequent diarrhea without recovering,” she says.

Sinzumsi is among the group of women gathered at the health clinic learning the importance of good hygiene. “I never miss the sessions. I have benefited much from them. These days my children don’t fall sick very often. Their

hygiene has improved and they are healthy.”

She knows the value. Not too long ago, her little boy, Janvier, was very ill from worm-infestation-related complications, a usual occurrence among children his age in Burundi.

“He used to be very sick because of worms despite the many hospital visits. I was about to give up but then I started learning about hygiene and hand washing and Janvier started to improve.”

Janvier’s health was so bad he had to be admitted to hospital on several occasions. He is a classic example of the devastating effects of worms if left unattended. “I was about to give up because he was almost a dead child but you can see now he is fine.”

Save the date!

Our annual banquet will be held on **Friday September 21st, 6:00pm** at the Franconia Heritage Family Restaurant in Harleysville Pa. Come hear the inspiring first-hand stories from our partners working all around the world and find out how your donations can transform the lives of malnourished children.

There is no cost for the meal although donations will be accepted. Please e-mail your name and the number of people in their party to us at info@wormproject.org OR call 267-932-6050 ext. 136



You can help!

Tax-deductible donations can be made by check or through our website.

PayPal option is available at www.wormproject.org (click on the "Donate" button)

Checks should be made payable to "The Worm Project" and sent to:

The Worm Project
 Franconia Mennonite Conference Center
 569 Yoder Rd.
 Harleysville, PA 19438



One year after deworming and added nutrition

