

The Worm Project

Combating World Hunger Through Parasite Removal

Newsletter

Issue No 2 Summer 2012

Reserve your seat today!

Our 5th annual banquet will be held on **Friday September 21st, 6:00pm** at the

Franconia Heritage Family Restaurant
(508 Harleysville Pike, Telford PA 18969)

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



Together We Can!

Special guests and partners of The Worm Project that will be attending the banquet:

Howard Schiffer

Founder & President
Vitamin Angels

Andrew Crawford

Director/Global Commodity Resourcing
Food for the Hungry

Sid Gholson

Founder
WOW Now (Wipe Out Worms Now)

Marcella Ruch, PhD

Founder & Executive director
Healthy Women & Healthy Liberia

Dr. Priscilla Benner

Founder and Director
MAMA Project



vitamin angels

ΑΙΤΑΙΩΝ ΑΝΓΕΛΙΣ

In 2012, Vitamin Angels will connect about **25 million children** in over **40 countries**, including the US with the vital nutrients they need as a foundation for good health.

To learn more, visit www.vitaminangels.org

Letters From Our Partners: Vitamin Angels

For a number of years now, The Worm Project and The Franconia Mennonite Conference has been partnering with non-profit, Vitamin Angels to reach millions of children around the world with life-saving nutrients and deworming tablets.

Through the partnership, deworming tablets (Albendazole) are coupled with the distribution of vitamin A to children under the age of five. Why? Amongst a host of problems parasitic infections can bring for children, one of the lesser known effects is a limited ability to absorb critical nutrients, like vitamin A.

Intestinal parasites, worms, have even been shown to target vitamin A for their own consumption, robbing children of a critical nutrient that is often already lacking in their diets. Essential nutrients, like vitamin A, are essential for proper immune function, structural integrity of cells and cognitive development.

Vitamin A supplementation alone can reduce child mortality rates by 24% and eliminate the risk of VAD blindness. By coupling vitamin A supplementation with deworming tablets, children are better able to absorb vitamin A and realize the benefits of improved health. Eliminating parasitic infections has also been proven to prevent anemia, malnutrition and slowed mental and physical development in children.

Vitamin Angels partners with local grantees in countries around the world to reach children who are outside of the public health systems. Heather Cox, representing one of their in-country partners, Faith in Practice, in Guatemala said, "Dispensing of Albendazole to our patients may be the single most beneficial public health service we can offer.

It has been proven that the drug can last up to six to nine months and improves the children's growth pattern and learning

ability in school. The price of medications continues to rise just as the supply of donations continues to deplete.

The donation of Albendazole from Vitamin Angels has ensured that our patients, five and under, are able to receive this very important and much needed medication."

Vitamin Angels' President, Howard Schiffer noted, "Parasites (worms), poverty, and chronic malnutrition go hand in hand. Deworming children is a key to our vitamins being effective. We've heard amazing stories from mothers all over the world about how their children are no longer always sick, finally have an appetite, and can now go to school after receiving the Albendazole and vitamins we are providing. We would like to extend a big thank you to The Worm Project and Franconia Mennonite Conference."

Written by Kim Saam, Vitamin Angels Communications Manager



Claude's Story - Part 2:

The Worm Project Goes Global

This story is continued from the Spring 2012 newsletter.....Claude's Story - Part 1: One Man, One Pill

By Emily Ralph

Unfortunately de-worming was not a glamorous topic that immediately mobilized North Americans to action. Claude organized the Worm Project and gathered around him a small group sympathetic to the cause. Together they dreamed of how to create a program which would introduce this innovative and economical solution for world hunger. Initial efforts were slow, but around 2000, someone suggested offering 5,000 tablets to volunteer medical teams who were already planning travel to isolated areas of the world. This mode of distribution took off.

The Worm Project purchased the tablets and medical teams distributed them, adding value to the work already being done by

the medical teams. This continues to be one part of the business model of the Worm Project. But the Project's sphere of influence continued to enlarge, as Claude challenged his team volunteers to do larger projects in the countries where they worked.

The first to rise to this challenge was a Taiwanese doctor working in Nicaragua. Her direct work with the Nicaraguan government gave her access that the Worm Project would not have had otherwise. After much negotiating, she convinced the government to piggyback the worm tablet distribution with its vaccination program for children. As this experimental partnership was launched, medical and government personnel soon discovered that people who had been resistant to the vaccination program were actually more likely to bring their children when they

heard that they would also receive worm medication, a mutually beneficial outcome. The Nicaraguan government was so impressed by the effectiveness of the program that it formed a new governmental division whose mandate was to eliminate worms, and the partnership continued.

To be continued in the next edition.....Claude's Story - Part 3: The Worm Project Takes on Partners



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

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