

The Worm Project

Combating World Hunger Through Parasite Removal

Newsletter

Issue No 10 Summer 2016

Finding Hope in Nicaragua

By Gary Delp, Board President



Recently, I was invited by one of our partners, Howard Schiffer, founder of Vitamin Angels, to see the work that ORPHANetwork is doing in Nicaragua.

ORPHANetwork runs a number of orphanages and also partners with local Christian churches to hold medical clinics in communities of extreme poverty. The Worm Project and Vitamin Angels provide deworming medicine and vitamins to them. Although I have visited other countries and seen extreme poverty before, I am still surprised by the emotional impact it has on me even now while sitting at my computer trying to convey why the mission of The Worm Project is so important to me. Feelings of heartache overwhelm me as I think of the extreme poverty these kids live in. But there are also feelings of hope seeing them get the de-worming medicine and medical care that will provide them a better chance to grow up healthy despite their extreme poverty.

In the picture, I'm holding a boy named Miguel who followed me around all day during our one-day clinic in his community located right next to the dump. He captured my heart with his kind and gentle spirit. Please share my dream for



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Miguel and all children to grow up healthy and free of worms and to know Jesus Christ. Working together with you and our partners, we can help make this dream possible.

The following pages contain stories from two of our partners, Vitamin Angels and Partner Liberia, about the hope your donations make possible. There are no better examples of countries who need our help than in Liberia and the Congo. The Worm Project works with many partners in many countries to get the de-worming medicine to the children most in need around the world.

If you are interested in impacting as many lives as possible with your charitable giving, your money cannot be better spent than by donating to The Worm Project. Be a volunteer for The Worm Project by telling your friends and family about us and asking them to donate, too.

Deworming Children in Liberia

By Scott Dwyer, co-founder of Partner Liberia



Mike Davis and I have been conducting a deworming program in Liberia, West Africa since the beginning of 2011 and returning every six months since then. We have steadily grown the number of orphanages, schools, and clinics to which we distribute, and in 2014 we established Partner Liberia. In 2014, Liberia was quickly



Nike Davis (left) and Scott Dwyer (right) deworming at Sis-Iye Orphanage in Brewerville, Montserrado County, Liberia.

becoming host to the biggest outbreak of Ebola in history. It was a difficult decision to continue the program with regard to our safety, but one of the easiest decisions we have ever made with regard to the well being of the children we work with. We knew it was very important that we visit these already resource limited organizations to deliver deworming medications and other essentials. Nutritional status is an important component of how the body is able to fight disease.

We were successful with that round of distribution and in establishing a system for the distribution in our absence. Returning to Liberia as soon as flights were again available, we were pleased to see that our orphanages and schools

had indeed received the medications as planned.

The Ebola crisis placed into sharp relief how critical Partner Liberia's work is to so many, but also how many are still in need. We knew that we needed to do more; we needed to expand our program. By partnering with The Worm Project and Vitamin Angels, we not only have access to their collective wealth of knowledge on developing and growing deworming programs, but also their generous support of over 100,000 doses of albendazole.

With the help and support of The Worm Project and Vitamin Angels, we plan to increase the scope of our deworming program by several times over the next few years. Working together we can all look forward to a brighter and healthier future for all of Liberia's youth.



Orphans after deworming at MODUC Orphanage in Buchanan, Liberia

Partnering with Vitamin Angels in the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is Africa's second largest country and home to one of the world's highest rates of childhood undernutrition and parasitic worm infection. Globally, more than 266 million preschool-aged children are at risk of becoming infected with worms, with some of the most affected countries found in sub-Saharan Africa. To address this concerning issue, The Worm Project has donated millions of tablets of the deworming medicine called albendazole to Vitamin Angels to distribute to communities whose children are most in need.

Ngeleka, a three-and-a-half year old boy from the DRC, is one of the millions of children who has benefited from the powerful effects of albendazole. Ngeleka lives with his parents in the Lukelenge Zone de Sante neighborhood, located on the outskirts of the city, Mbuji Mayi. Before receiving albendazole, Ngeleka frequently complained to his mom about stomach pains, which inhibited his ability to eat or play outside. This constant, intense loss of appetite, coupled with his already poor diet, put him at heightened risk for illness and possibly even death. However, thanks to The Worm Project's partnership with Vitamin Angels, Ngeleka now has the opportunity to live a happier and healthier life.

Ngeleka received his first dose of deworming treatment in December 2015. His mother,

Apoline, happily shared that Ngeleka expelled worms multiple times just days after receiving the treatment, and is no longer sick with stomach pains. Apoline proudly described her son's newfound physical and mental abilities, detailing how he is now able to eat well. He also picked up soccer recently, and constantly



runs around with his friends. Ngeleka's father, a pastor at their community's local congregation, was also thrilled to see his young son's health improve so rapidly. Seeing the expelled worms firsthand was the only proof he needed to begin advocating for the benefits of albendazole; now, he encourages his congregation to take their children to receive deworming treatments.

Vitamin Angels is currently reaching 22 million children worldwide with albendazole, thanks in large part to the support of The Worm Project. There is still a long way to go on the journey to eradicate parasitic worm infection globally, but Ngeleka is a prime example of the life changing effects of deworming treatment.

Mark your Calendar!

Our 9th annual banquet will be held on Friday October 7th, 6:00pm at the Franconia Heritage Family Banquet and Conference Center in Telford, 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. Reservations can be made by email info@wormproject.org or phone - 267-932-6050 ext. 123
Just leave your name and number of guests

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
1000 Forty Foot Road
Lansdale, PA 19446



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