

The Worm Project

Combating World Hunger Through Parasite Removal

Newsletter

Issue No 8 Winter 2015

The Worm Project Annual Summary

You Helped Deliver 17 Million Tablets in 2014!

Dear Donors,

With your help, The Worm Project was able to purchase and distribute **17 million albendazole tablets in 2014** to our partners who then help deliver them to treat people afflicted with parasitic worms in over 25 of the poorest countries in Central & South America, Asia, and Africa.

A special thanks goes to the Clemens Family Corporation whose generous donations were responsible for the purchase of 7 million of the 17 million tablet total. As CEO Doug Clemens recently told me, he and other members of the Clemens Family Corporation believe strongly in Christian stewardship as evidenced by their generous contributions to local non-profit organizations.

Below are the number of tablets distributed by The Worm Project in 2014 along with the names of our partners who helped deliver them.

10 million tablets - Vitamin Angels (all our donations are matched by Vitamin Angels)

5 million tablets - Food for the Hungry

2 million tablets - MAMA Project

As you can see from these numbers, your donations have made a tremendous impact in improving the health of millions of the poorest children and adults around the world. I am so thankful and grateful that you cared enough to help the poor and needy suffering from parasitic worms.

May God continue to guide us as we look forward to bringing hope and health to millions of the poorest people in the world in 2015.

Sincerely,

Gary Delp, Board President of The Worm Project



© Matt Dayka / Vitamin Angels.

Christopher Dock Students Helping with The Worm Project

Our thanks to Mindy Marinko and Sarah Rittenhouse (pictured below), two students at Christopher Dock Mennonite High School, who gave a presentation about The Worm Project to students and teachers during Chapel period and led the fundraising effort. Thanks also to Tim Swartz, an art teacher at Dock, who has volunteered to have his Graphics Design class work on our website at www.wormproject.org as a way to help students gain real-world marketing experience and also use their God-given talents to help spread awareness that hundreds of millions of children are suffering from parasitic worms.



We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to the students and staff of Christopher Dock Mennonite High School who generously gave \$630.22 to help people around the world through The Worm Project. Because of the money raised by the Christopher Dock community, 45,015 adults and children will get treatment for parasitic worms.

Kirby King inspired his Bible Class students to find ways to serve others and make the world a better place. Because of this, Mindy stepped forward to raise money and awareness for The

Worm Project. Mindy and Sarah made bracelets and gave them to students who donated money. Mindy collected donations and successfully recruited several students to help get the word out about The Worm Project. In addition to Mindy and Sarah, we welcome Caroline Beljan, Mattalyn Shisler, Eliza Wilkins, Veronica Martinez, Anna Wang, Morgan Leavy and Morgan Croisette who have offered to help.

Wonderful stories reached us throughout the week. We understand that a student gave all of her gas money. She had faith that she would make it to work to collect a check so that she could then fill her gas tank. A student took the initiative and collected money at a Coffee House event. Another stepped forward and promised to match the largest amount given – a pledge that he kept! Some CD students have actually given out Albendazole and medical care serving in Haiti and Honduras with Hope for Health and the MAMA Project. What an extraordinary response to the calling of the Spirit of God who promises hope and a future for His Children!

October Banquet a Big Success!

On October 3, 2014, The Worm Project hosted an all day conference of other nonprofit organizations working together to eradicate parasitic worms and a free evening banquet attended by 175 people who donated over \$19,000 dollars. This money will purchase 1.3 million deworming tablets. A sincere Thank You to all our loyal supporters!!

A hope for Guatemala: Group's efforts help battle parasite-related illnesses

By Yvette Quintero, Special to the News-Journal

SARSTUN, GUATEMALA — Ten years ago, Francisco Cal Xol, a Mayan resident of the Guatemalan village of Sarstun, was working with a nurse named Lucia when a man arrived at her home with his young son.

The man had come seeking medical attention for the boy in his arms. His small face looked deadly pale, his belly was swollen and he could not stop vomiting.

Francisco stood by watching as the man held the boy, worms swirling out rapidly from inside the boy's tiny mouth. When the boy coughed, worms would spew out his nose too, falling to the ground. The boy tossed and turned from the pain, to no avail. Lucia took to her kitchen to find a garlic plant. She crushed it into a paste and blended it with boiling water. She told the child to drink the concoction, and eventually his color started to return. "At that time there was no medicine to get rid of worms," Francisco said.

The drink Lucia gave the boy was a makeshift medicine that helped deworm him. After drinking it, the boy made a slow recovery until eventually he was back to normal.

Today, medicine, made readily available to the community, has largely put a stop to the proliferation of parasite-related illnesses.

Refuge International, a medical group based in Lonview, has developed a school program, "Adios Lombrices!," which is an effort spearheaded by the nonprofit organization to deworm the families of villagers living along the Sarstun River near the border of Belize and Guatemala.

The program, founded in March 2007, distributed more than 4 million doses of the medication this past year in schools all over Guatemala. Deworming pills are handed out to children ages 3 to 15.

The program is school-based because studies have shown that treating intestinal worms is the best way to raise school attendance in developing countries.

"The first time we came into this area, the children were all severely malnourished," said Deborah Bell, president and founder of Refuge International.

Since then, there have been no parasite-related deaths in the communities assisted by Refuge International, and school attendance rates have increased.

Refuge International treats families in 18 communities throughout Guatemala. In 2011, there were more than 400 cases of diarrhea, most likely caused by parasites, in those communities. In 2013, that number dropped to 98. When patients visit any of the clinics set up by Refuge International, they are given an orange Albendazole pill for each member of their family. The pills should be taken every six months to rid the body of any parasites.

If someone shows worm-related symptoms, her or she is given a pill to expel the parasites. "It's a huge problem, not just in Guatemala, in all developing countries," Bell said.



A teacher passes out the orange albendazole pill to her entire class. William Camargo/Special to the News-Journal

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

Please
note our new
address!



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