

The Worm Project

Combating World Hunger Through Parasite Removal

Newsletter

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Plans to Deworm the Children of Haiti

By Gary Delp, Board President



This summer, Aaron Jackson, honored as a CNN Hero in 2007 for his relief efforts deworming millions of children in Haiti, approached me with a plan to distribute 2.5 million deworming tablets to children

in Haiti. He also wanted to visit his old friend, Claude Good who, as founder of The Worm Project, provided the first million deworming tablets he used to treat the children of Haiti and resulted in his CNN Hero award. After visiting Claude in his room at Souderton Mennonite Home, we made plans that evening over dinner to make the deworming happen. If you remember hearing Aaron speak at one of our earlier banquets, he is a person with ideas as big as his heart and the courage to follow through with them.



Aaron Jackson, honored as a CNN Hero

We still had one problem, getting anything through customs in Haiti is nearly impossible unless you have special licenses from the government. Luckily, The Worm Project has a close partner in Haiti (Hope for Haiti) who has the licenses needed to get the deworming medicine through customs. Please pray that our plans work out and the millions of undernourished children in Haiti will get the medicine that will eliminate parasitic worms stealing nourishment they so badly need.

Over 150 People Attend Our Annual Banquet on October 2

Thanks to everyone who attended our Annual Banquet and contributed money to purchase medicine to treat children for intestinal parasitic worms. Over 150 people enjoyed a free international meal of rice and beans and heard inspiring stories of hope from our partners who help us treat the children in the poorest countries around the world.

Speakers and other partners attending included Howard Schiffer, founder and President of Vitamin Angels, Dr. Priscilla Benner, founder and Director of MAMA Project, newcomer Scott Dwyer, founding partner of Partner Liberia, Mary Benner, Hope for Health, Dr. Clarence Freed, and board members of The Worm Project also attended a conference earlier in the day to plan our strategy and share ideas for the coming year.





Since 2012, Vitamin Angels has been committed to matching all donations made by The Worm Project, doubling the number of doses provided to their beneficiaries.

Update from the field: Uganda

Children, like 4-year-old Priscilla in Uganda benefit from deworming efforts that are possible thanks to your continued support.

Priscilla's grandmother, Edinansi, takes her to community health outreach events to receive albendazole and vitamins. Edinansi is also a local advocate for children's health!

"Prevention is better than having a cure," she told us. Edinansi walks door-to-door to tell other mothers about worms and the benefits of deworming, as well as the need for vitamins and good nutrition. She encourages the mothers to bring their children to get albendazole and vitamins on a consistent basis. She even uses Priscilla as a prime example of how effective the interventions really are.

Priscilla has been taking albendazole every six months for the past two years. Because of the treatment, Priscilla's stomach is rarely swollen (a symptom of intestinal worms) and her appetite has increased. The albendazole also helps her absorb more nutrients from the vitamins that Vitamin Angels provides, as well as nutrients from her daily diet. Because Priscilla is healthy, she is always playing. She runs from one side of the neighborhood to the other multiple times a day and never seems to want to stop!

"The children thrive when they are healthy," Edinansi said with confidence and pride. Edinansi believes that her granddaughter, and the rest of the children in her community will grow up healthy because of the availability of treatments like albendazole.

Hope for Haiti Thankful for Deworming Medicine

Excerpts from Annual Report to The Worm Project:



Thanks to the generosity of The Worm Project, over the past year, Hope for Haiti has distributed 380,000 tabs of Albendazole to partners in the Greater South of Haiti. For the children in our programs, Hope for Haiti's deworming campaign often provides the first opportunity for them to not only learn about

worms, but to also have access to medicine that works in making them feel better! Lab tests reveal that many of the children seen for other ailments are also infected with worms. Proper and timely diagnosis allowed us to treat them with Albendazole. The high incidence of intestinal worms contributes to malnutrition.

This highlights the importance of our continued collaboration with The Worm Project so that together we can help families stay healthy through proper education on worm prevention, contamination and treatment. We hope that you enjoy the highlights below which illustrate how The Worm Project's support is being used to make a difference in the quality of life of the Haitian people!

Hope for Haiti also maintains a network of over 20 Healthcare Program Partners who receive distributions of in-kind medications and medical supplies based on their needs. Last year, 13 of these partners received Albendazole tablets from The Worm Project to distribute within their communities.



Club 56 from Souderton Mennonite Church Has Done It Again!!

Club 56 is named for the 5th and 6th graders at Souderton Mennonite Church who recently raised \$2,500 by holding a car wash and bake sale and gave \$1,250 to The Worm Project and the other half to another charitable organization. Chari Moyer, one of the teachers for Club 56 writes, "It's always amazing when we see how far each dollar goes ... for The Worm Project. It's wonderful that our few hours of working hard to benefit others can make such a big difference in so many lives. Watching the kids take this idea from beginning (picking out the organizations to raise money for) to planning the day (making posters, gathering supplies, learning how to properly wash cars), to setting up and washing and cleaning up... It's inspiring how involved they become. It truly is "their" project and watching them work hard to benefit others always touches the people donating money. Their energy is contagious, and we are thankful for the support that the SMC family shows for our car wash/bake sales.

"We think that it is never too early to show kids that they can make a difference and reach others. It doesn't take a great effort....just small things done to help others can often make a big difference. We want the kids to know that helping others is our way of being God's hands and feet in the world.

Kids, we love what you are doing and learning! I'm sure God does, too. Keep on doing it!!



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
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