

The Worm Project

Combating World Hunger Through Parasite Removal

Newsletter

Issue No 19 Summer 2021

A Message from the President

Gary Delp

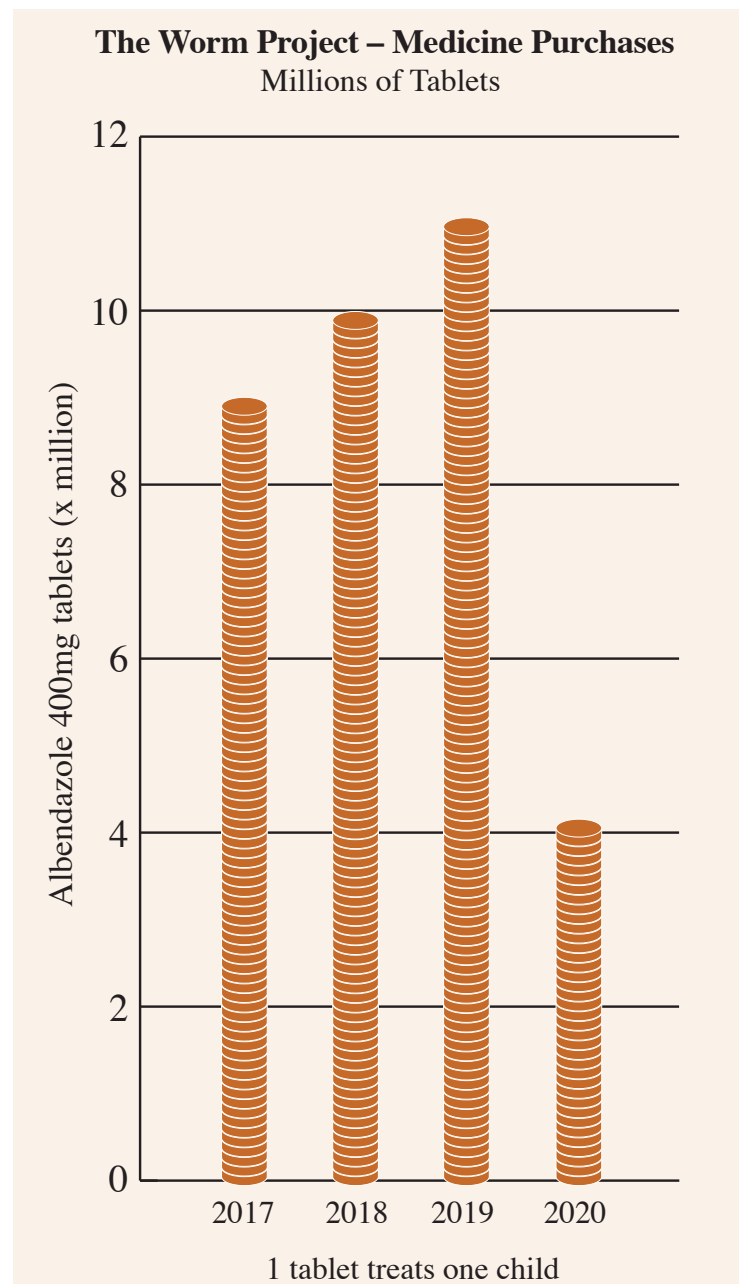
After seeing donations and purchases of deworming tablets increase steadily from 9 million Albendazole Tablets in 2017 to over 11 million Tablets in 2019, Covid-19 greatly impacted our fundraising efforts in 2020. Last year donations were down significantly and we were only able to purchase 4.2 million Albendazole Tablets. It only takes one tablet costing a few pennies to treat a child for intestinal worms.



With food insufficiency increasing and healthcare systems stretched to the limit due to Covid-19, there is an even greater need for deworming. Unfortunately, our usual methods of reaching people to remind them of the need for deworming were also greatly disrupted by Covid-19. With Sunday worship at most churches moving to online, mailboxes at church could no longer be used to deliver our newsletters. Mailings, email, and Facebook were employed but we did not reach as many people as before Covid-19. Last year, our 5K Fun Run in the Spring and our Fall Banquet were also cancelled. I feel responsible for not finding alternative ways quickly enough to get our message out to potential donors.

Nevertheless, we will renew our efforts to get out the word that these children need your help. We hope that 2021 will bring better health and hope to all the children that went untreated last year. Without your help millions of children will continue to be ravaged by these despicable worms.

Please Help! Thank you!



Surviving, Not Living

Story courtesy of Vitamin Angels

Photos © Vitamin Angels MX / Marie Arago

Claude Good, the founder of the Worm Project, spent 25 years in Mexico serving the Triquis of Oaxaca, he would have been grateful to hear that Vitamin Angels is now serving another group of indigenous people in the same state.



Facing severe discrimination in larger cities, many indigenous Mixtecos have made Oaxaca, Mexico's steep mountains, home. While a familiar community surrounds them, they are cut off from resources, financial opportunities, and food. The physical and social barriers mean children may not have access to the health, nutrition, and hygiene resources they need for good health.

Maria E. and Moses, two health service workers from Fundacion Luz Para La Oaxaca, regularly travel to these remote communities coordinating health fairs and hosting vitamin distributions.



Maria T., Juan & Children

Just before COVID closures, Maria T. attended one of these distributions with her family. Her children received albendazole for the very first time.

Maria T., her husband, Juan, and their five children live on their village's outskirts. Both parents work tirelessly to provide their children with "better opportunities than we had as children." Health is always a priority, but accessing basic health care and resources is a challenge. Maria expressed, "Living here...it is often about surviving, not living."



Maria E., Health Service Worker

Because purchasing perishable foods that are transported to their community is costly, the family meals are often limited to eating eggs, beans, soup, and few vegetables.

In addition to geographic barriers, the Mixtecan population faces language discrimination making it even harder to access services. Their native language is not widely known or intentionally translated, which poses a challenge for Mixtecos, like Maria B., who don't speak Spanish. Because of the language barrier, Maria B. said she and her family could not take advantage of the government resources and support even when they are available in the community. "It makes me feel sad, but I am always going to try my best for my children. I want them to each have a formal education and always have food to eat."

Maria T., Moses, and their service-minded team work closely with each Mixtecan community, including Maria T.'s, to overcome barriers to access and ensure that every family can access Vitamin Angels' nutrition interventions, including albendazole. Thanks to their efforts, Maria's two-year-old son, Brandon, received albendazole for the first time. It was a hopeful step into a healthier future for her child. And one example of the meaningful impact local partners are making for underserved communities in Mexico and beyond.

With The Worm Project's support, we can continue to reach children like Maria's son, Brandon, with albendazole that combats childhood infection and improves health. Together, we can give millions of children the opportunity to thrive, one community at a time.



1,000 Hills, 1 Destination

Story courtesy of Vitamin Angels

Photos: Taking Pictures, Changing Lives / Jean Bizimana on behalf of Home for Hope Foundation

Known as the land of 1,000 hills, Rwanda features stunning vistas and lush valleys. It's this verdant topography and a love of nature that compelled Noel S. Odenwald to settle in the outskirts of Kigali with dreams of starting a garden and raising animals. Upon realizing that many of the children in his new community were not attending school, he first sought to help fund their education.

Slowly the idea of an NGO that took a comprehensive approach to meet the children's needs for nutrition and education today and economic opportunities for the community's future took shape, and Home for Hope Foundation (HFHF) was born in 2015.

Today, HFHF offers a robust set of programs to communities across Rwanda. To help improve access to health services, HFHF provides health insurance and provides programs to combat malnutrition and promote sanitation and hygiene. Within this program, HFHF identified the need to control intestinal worms and prevent subsequent malnutrition in districts where the endemic intestinal worm infection rate is high.

HFHF reached out to Vitamin Angels with a grant request for albendazole (donated by The Worm Project) to treat



children for intestinal worms. Following a thorough vetting process, the mutual benefit toward a common goal was clear, and the first shipment of albendazole was on its way. In the first year alone, HFHF facilitated the distribution of albendazole to 810,000 children across 16 districts with a high burden of intestinal worms.

“Sometimes the simplest things mean the most, Home for Hope Foundation (HFHF) is touched beyond words for the partnership made with Vitamin Angels and the Worm Project for the donation of the Albendazole 400mg Tablets.”



The program is not without its challenges – including the beautiful and hilly terrain. While some distribution occurs at local pre-schools and nurseries, other efforts require door-to-door outreach. The dedicated team at HFHF travels seemingly endless miles, often on foot, to ensure that the children most at risk for intestinal worms are reached. It may be an uphill journey, but the results – like a view from the top of a mountain peak – are worth every step.

“With all success attained, despite the setbacks, a commitment to walking an extra mile showed that there is always hope of [a] bright future.”

Thank You to Our Business Sponsors



Dr. Clarence Freed
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The Worm Project: What we do:

The Worm Project buys medicine to treat children infected with parasitic worms in the poorest countries of the world.

- Over 800 million children (roughly 1/4 of the world's children) are at risk of being infected with parasitic worms
 - Parasitic worms cause physical and cognitive impairment in children due to malnutrition
- The Worm Project purchased and distributed enough deworming medicine to treat 4.2 million children in 2020
- Each deworming tablet costs less than 3 cents and treats one child for parasitic worms
 - One tablet kills virtually all the worms living in children
 - Medicine is extremely effective and safe
- All-volunteer Christian organization is extremely cost effective
 - Expenses are extremely low
 - Donations are tax deductible

*"... Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."
(Matthew 25:40 NIV)*



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