

The Worm Project

Combating World Hunger Through Parasite Removal

Newsletter

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Worm Walk to Benefit The Worm Project

When: 9 am, Saturday, May 20

Where: Franconia Community Park, 671 Allentown Road, Telford, PA 18969 (Meet at the pavilion)

Walk with family and friends along paved paths in a beautiful park in support of children suffering from parasitic worms.

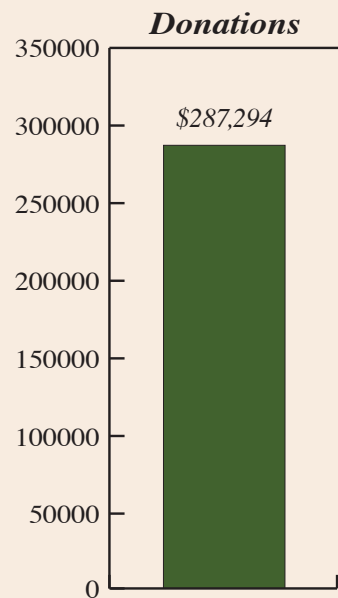
No registration required. All ages welcome (playground, games, t-shirts available)

Donations are appreciated.



Your Donations Purchased Deworming Medicine to Treat 10.5 Million Children in 2022

Operating expenses were just 4% of donations



As I see your donations come in, my spirits are lifted thinking of all the children you will be helping. So many of you give generously year after year. You can be assured that your donations are being used in the most efficient and effective way possible.

– Gary Delp
President

Fighting Parasitic Worms in the Philippines

Our partners in the Philippines utilize an integrated approach to public health – focused on providing nutrition solutions and education – to reduce parasitic worm infections.

Despite continuous efforts, soil-transmitted helminth (STH) infections remain a pervasive global issue, particularly affecting communities with poor access to adequate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)¹. The Philippines— an archipelagic state comprised of over 7,000 islands—has some of the highest levels of parasitic worm infections in Southeast Asia. Due to the country’s unique geography,

(continued on page 2...)

Editor’s Note: The Worm Project donates millions of albendazole tablets (deworming medicine) to Vitamin Angels each year. With our partnership spanning 20 years, The Worm Project appreciates Vitamin Angels focus on the most vulnerable, children under age 5 in poor communities that are underserved by existing systems.

many communities live in remote, hard-to-reach areas. In addition, as a lower-middle-income country with roughly 21%² of its citizens living below the national poverty line, many residents of the Philippines also face inadequate access to WASH services.



The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that roughly 45 million children³ in the Philippines are at risk of parasitic worm infection, necessitating treatment. And, because children with intestinal parasites are at a particularly high risk of complications and long-term morbidity, this public health challenge requires an effective, integrated approach to prevention and control.

Reducing the burden of parasitic worm infection requires immediate care and long-term strategies. Albendazole is an effective and widely used treatment for children with intestinal parasites. Pairing this intervention with behavior change education focused on prevention can further reduce risk factors. Studies have shown that providing education about proper sanitation, general health, and environmental contamination—coupled with access to interventions—can be effective in reducing infection rates.⁴



Vitamin Angels aims to reduce the prevalence of parasitic worm infections globally by partnering with local organizations to deliver interventions and education, ultimately helping

individuals lead healthier and more productive lives. In the Philippines, we’ve worked to steadily increase access to albendazole and vitamin A supplementation for children under five and to expand educational resources since 2013.

According to Vitamin Angels’ country advisor in the Philippines, Dr. Luz Escubil, “partnering with non-government organizations and local government units is the way to go in order to reach the communities that we serve.” In 2021, we worked with 35 partners around the country and distributed 353,000 doses of albendazole, which is equivalent to reaching 176,500 children under the age of five.

“We try to focus our efforts on building relationships and strengthening them through the years,” said Dr. Escubil. As a result, “we see a majority of our program partners, year after year, renewing their grant,” and that means that these organizations will continue to be “our hands and feet in the communities; to be able to deliver the evidence-based nutrition interventions.”

Reaching the same populations consistently with albendazole and educational resources can make a lasting, tangible impact on the entire community’s health.

As we scale our programs in the Philippines, we are continuously improving the quality of our technical support and expanding training options for program partners to ensure optimal administration of interventions. “We provide technical assistance through online, virtual, and face-to-face platforms,” said Dr. Luz Escubil.



By continuing to help communities in the Philippines build their capacity for health and hygiene, we can reduce the prevalence of parasitic worm infections. Through increased education and expanded access to interventions like albendazole, together with our local partners, we can impact the lives of children across the country.

¹ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24667810/>

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8196932/>

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8196932/>

³ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanwpc/article/PIIS2666-6065\(21\)00221-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanwpc/article/PIIS2666-6065(21)00221-2/fulltext)

Spotlight on Honduras: Making a Meaningful Impact through Education & Intervention

Vitamin Angels and a nonprofit in Honduras team up to combat the negative health and nutritional impacts of parasitic worm infection in young children.

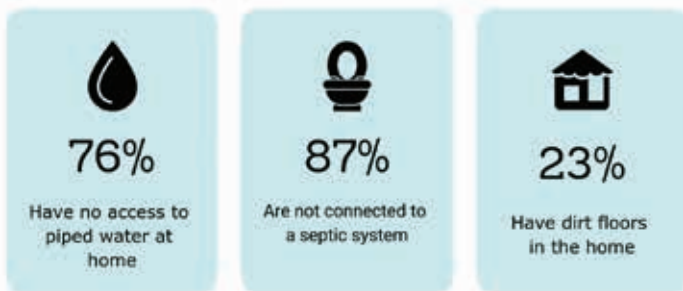
By partnering with Central American Medical Outreach, Inc. (CAMO) and Fundación CAMO Honduras to provide albendazole, an anti-parasitic, Vitamin Angels is helping create a brighter future for young children with intestinal parasites in Honduras.



Soil Transmitted Helminths (STH) infections caused by parasitic worms—that prevent the proper absorption of nutrients—are prevalent due to poor infrastructure and insufficient water, sanitation, and hygiene measures.

Almost 625,000 preschool-aged children in Honduras are at risk of infection, according to the World Health Organization.¹

Among the poorest households in Honduras:^{2,3}



While Honduras' government has been working to improve living conditions, almost 625,000 preschool-aged children are still at risk of infections, according to the WHO.¹

To reach nutritionally vulnerable children in Honduras, Vitamin Angels partners with CAMO, a humanitarian organization that brings life-saving medical services, education, and community development to Central America.

Bianca Ramirez, Nutritionist of Fundación CAMO in Santa Rosa de Copán, explains the organization's approach:

“In terms of need, CAMO's approach is to improve the quality of patient health in all areas, including the nutritional part, because an underweight or overweight patient with deficiencies is a patient who is always prone to being ill due to inadequate nutrition.”

A team of nurses, social workers, and community partners make education, especially within rural communities, a priority.

“Sometimes these families may have resources available, but if they do not know the usefulness, preparation, and importance of proper nutrition, our work is wasted,” explains CAMO Nutritionist Bianca Ramírez, Santa Rosa de Copán. *“That is why our main objective is helping them acquire knowledge related to their health and nutrition.”*

Fortunately, efforts to educate families with young children about available solutions are helping make an impact in Honduras, where STH is endemic.

Today, CAMO distributes Vitamin Angels' albendazole grants along with vitamin A to children under five, as well as prenatal vitamins and minerals to pregnant women. In 2021, VA delivered enough albendazole to partners in Honduras, including CAMO, to reach 340,000 children — helping to protect them from illness and improving absorption of key nutrients, like vitamin A.

CAMO's strategy is paying off, with the organization reporting “the incidence of intestinal parasitism has decreased.”

“It is useless to supplement if the child has a parasitic load. Working with Vitamin Angels has helped us improve the population's health and nutritional status while making nutritional treatment more effective,” says Ramírez. *“Big thanks for allowing us to support the most vulnerable populations every day.”*

¹ https://apps.who.int/neglected_diseases/intddata/sth/sth.html?geog=0&indicator=i0&date=2020&bbox=-101.5262406374502,8.533190918472656,-71.4465593625498,18.533190918472656&select=HND&printmode=true

² <https://www.olasdata.org/en/honduras/>

³ https://www.habitat.org/sites/default/files/documents/ENG_Honduras_AF21.pdf

Thank You to Our Business Sponsors



Dr. Clarence Freed
Plastic Surgery

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 deworming medicine to treat over 10 million children in 2022.
- 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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The Worm Project
 and sent to:

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