

# The Worm Project

*Combating World Hunger Through Parasite Removal*

Newsletter

Issue No. 25 Spring 2024

## Join Us for a Worm Walk in the Park

**When:** 9 am, Saturday, May 18

**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.*



## Great Children's Sunday School or VBS Offering Project

*The Worm Project is a great VBS (or Children's Sunday School) offering project that kids can relate to helping other kids get rid of worms inside their 'bellies'. Contact us at [info@wormproject.org](mailto:info@wormproject.org)*

Last summer, Covenant Community Fellowship, Lansdale, PA chose The Worm Project for their VBS (*Vacation Bible School*) offering project.

*"I know the kids that attended our VBS were very eager to participate in the project. Since they are all kids themselves they could relate to wanting to help other kids in need from around the world."*

**Valerie Wilburn,  
VBS Coordinator,  
Covenant Community Fellowship**



Photo above: Pastor Jay Moyer holds the 'worm' while children feed coins into its mouth..

**Your Donations Purchased Medicine for 10.9 Million Children in 2023**

Most of the medicine went to treat children ages 1-4. Less than half of children needing treatment received medicine.

## The Worm Project Partners with Healthy Women, Healthy Liberia

*The Worm Project has been donating deworming medicine (Albendazole) to Healthy Women, Healthy Liberia and other partners in Liberia since 2010. The most recent shipment of 450,000 Albendazole Tablets shipped in September 2023.*



In 2010, Healthy Women, Healthy Liberia had a medical outreach in the city of Kakata that brought many communities together there. The outreach provided free medical services which included dental and medical. As the doctors started their medical screening, they discovered that many of the kids from the communities were infested with worms. Some of those kids started to pass worms from their nose and mouth. That became the beginning of Albendazole tablet distribution in and around Kakata. Thanks to our visiting doctors during the outreach, when they returned to the United States, they started providing free Albendazole from The Worm Project for all our 34 communities in Kakata and 92 towns and villages outside of Kakata.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all the people involved in providing us with free Albendazole. We are particularly grateful for our partner from the United States, The Worm Project in this effort of helping the villages in Liberia.

Before distributing the Albendazole in our various communities, six community health workers were trained on the importance and use of Albendazole, who should take the tablets and who should not, how often the tablets should

be taken, etc. Some side effects were talked about and how to discontinue the tablets when problems arise. They were also trained how to tabulate the information gathered from the field when they returned to the health facility. Tools such as hand sanitizers, gloves and masks were given to them before the distribution began. After the training, they were sent into the communities to begin their activities amongst the community dwellers. All dwellers were educated regarding Albendazole use and encouraged to use the tablets properly—every six months. The community health workers distributed the tablets from house to house to capture about 95% of the population. This exercise is carried out twice a year, five days a week for several weeks. The second round is carried out in the same way.

Since the inception of Albendazole in the various communities we have seen significant improvement in the health and wellness of the children. Children are no longer stunted in their developmental and growth processes. Teachers are reporting that their students are not sleeping during their class periods and as a result many kids are doing well in their studies as compared to when they were not dewormed and went to school. Kids are not vomiting worms or experiencing worms in their faces both in schools and at home. These are just some of the impacts that we have seen and have experienced since our distribution began nearly ten years ago.



Again, we are grateful for the donations of Albendazole from The Worm Project. Your efforts and love for the people in our communities remind us of Christ's great love for all. Even though you have not met the beneficiaries of your generosity in our communities, you continue to meet their health needs. Even when we are tired from visiting house to house to meet health needs, your contribution inspires us as community health workers to continue serving faithfully.



# Deworming in Vietnam

Photos © Vitamin Angels

Soil-transmitted helminths (STH) impact 24% of the world's population and impair the nutritional status of the people they infect in multiple ways. The worms feed on host tissues, including blood, which leads to a loss of iron and protein. They can cause chronic intestinal blood loss that can result in anemia, and some STH infections can lead to severe diarrhea and dysentery. The worms increase the malabsorption of nutrients and can lead to a loss of appetite and a reduction of nutritional intake and physical fitness. Decreased intake of all nutrients is the most important in terms of magnitude and is likely the leading cause of stunted growth and development in young children. In addition to stunted physical and cognitive development in children, chronic STH infections can lead to reduced work productivity in adults, adverse pregnancy outcomes in women of reproductive age, and poor school performance in children.

In Vietnam, STH infection remains a major threat to public health and extends the continuation of poverty in highly endemic regions. Most STH infections are distributed within underserved communities in Vietnam, such as the mountainous regions in Northern and Central Vietnam where local communities lack access to proper hygiene and the conditions for STH transmission are optimal.



Vitamin Angels started providing deworming treatments to children under 5 in Vietnam in 2008 and has served 6,381,250 children since the start. The Worm Project has been supporting the Vitamin Angels' deworming work in Vietnam since the partnership began in 2013 and has helped Vitamin Angels to build an effective deworming program there. Last year alone we served 500,000 children.

Vitamin Angels and maintains a long-standing relationship with Save the Children, Vietnam along with the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), a division under the Ministry of Health (MOH) that was established in 1980 by the Government of Vietnam. The NIN is the leading institution responsible for research, training and implementation activities in the field of nutrition, food sciences, and clinical nutrition for the whole country of Vietnam.



A National Institute of Nutrition representative shared “Vietnam is a country where STH are still a significant threat to humans (due to geography, climate, and issues with sanitation). In recent years the problem of STH infection has decreased compared to previous years. Regular deworming programs for children in Vietnam, along with improved sanitation, have played a key role in that. However, STH infection is still prominent in several communities throughout Vietnam and impacts many young children here. It is a public health issue that needs immediate attention.

Our deworming efforts have had a powerful impact on children in Vietnam but there is still much work to do, particularly in those hard-to-reach communities that would otherwise be overlooked by government programs. We are grateful for all our partners who help to improve the lives and futures of children here.”

***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.***

# Thank You to Our Business Sponsors



## 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 2023
- 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)*



## Board of Directors

- Gary Delp – President
- Jeff Hollenbach – Vice President
- James Yothers
- Floyd Kratz
- Ceci Good
- Robert Rutt
- Jason Sprunger
- Rita Hoover
- Madeline Clemens

## Contact Us

Web: [wormproject.org](http://wormproject.org)  
 Email: [Info@wormproject.org](mailto:Info@wormproject.org)  
 Phone: (267) 932.6050 Ext. 201



## You Can Help!

Charitable donations can be made by check or through our website at [wormproject.org](http://wormproject.org). Debit or credit card and PayPal options are available by clicking on the **Donate** button on our website.

Checks should be made payable to:  
**The Worm Project**  
 and sent to:

**The Worm Project**  
**Mosaic Mennonite Conference**  
 1000 Forty Foot Road, Suite 100  
 Lansdale, PA 19446