

# The Worm Project

*Combating World Hunger Through Parasite Removal*

Newsletter

Issue No. 27 Spring 2025

## Big News! The Worm Project Receives IRS Approval as a Separate Charitable Organization

In Fall 2024, The Worm Project applied to the IRS and received our own 501(c)(3) status as a charitable organization. Our new IRS Federal Tax Exemption is EIN #27-1835289.

For many years, The Worm Project operated as a ministry of Mosaic/Franconia Mennonite Conference under their charitable status with the IRS. We took this step with the hope of expanding our efforts to reach a wider audience and bring healing and health to even more children. Other than becoming a new charitable organization with a new mailing address, we continue with the same website, the same

volunteer Board of Directors, and the same mission of following Jesus' commandment to help "the least of these."

Please note our new mailbox address for receiving donations:  
**The Worm Project, Box 23, Harleysville, PA 19438**

Checks should be made payable to "The Worm Project"  
Credit card donations can be made at [www.wormproject.org](http://www.wormproject.org)

May God bless your generosity in helping these children suffering from parasitic worms.

Gary Delp, President (& volunteer)

## Save the Date!

No reservations required. Come anytime and be ready for fun!



**Family Fun and Learning Fair**  
**May 3, 2025 9-12 a.m.**  
**Dock Mennonite Academy E-8 Campus**  
**420 Godshall Road, Souderton**

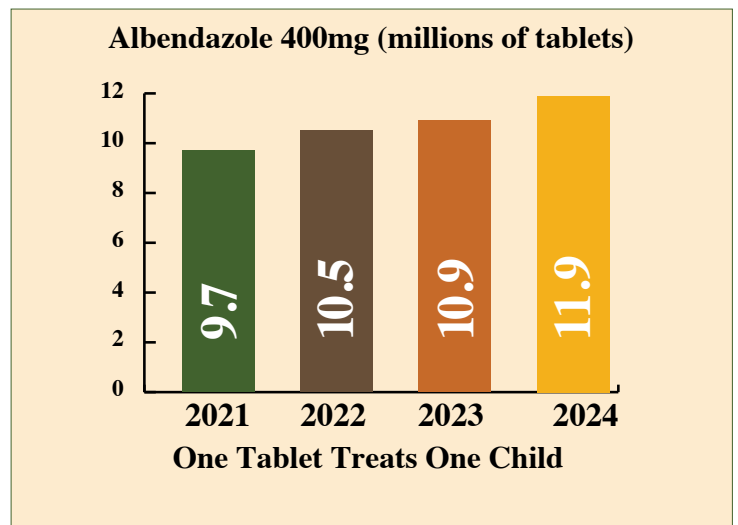
A perfect Saturday morning free outing for young children to grandparents

**Have a Blast:** worm diggin' and gummy worm eatin', interactive play and learning stations, games, snacks, a puppet show, a friendly petting dog and more...

ALL while learning how we can make a difference in this world!  
Outdoors in the sunshine and indoors too... the fair goes on in any weather!

Come and leave anytime!  
**Hope to see you there!**  
[www.wormproject.org](http://www.wormproject.org)

In 2024, The Worm Project Donated Medicine to Treat almost 12 Million Children for Parasitic Worms! Thank You!



## Almost 12 Million Children Treated In 2024

We continue to focus on the most vulnerable children under age 5 at risk for parasitic worms. The latest WHO data shows donations of medicine by The Worm Project represent roughly 10% of all children under age 5 who are currently being treated for parasitic worms in the entire world! Yet, sadly, less than half of these young children at risk are being treated!

# A National Collaborative Effort Reduces Intestinal Worm Infections in Kenya

Photos ©Vitamin Angels – Mia Collis KE23

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

Intestinal worms are a major health issue in Kenya, particularly for children, with over six million at risk in 27 counties.<sup>1</sup> In response, the Kenyan government established a National School-Based Deworming Program in 2012 to eradicate parasitic worms by providing universal dosing to all school-age and preschool-age children in accordance with World Health Organization guidelines. The program aims to treat over 80 percent of affected children within the endemic areas.<sup>1</sup>

People living in poverty are at a higher risk of infection, which can affect their nutritional status in several ways<sup>2</sup>:

- Internal bleeding can lead to iron loss and anemia
- Intestinal inflammation and obstruction
- Diarrhea
- Impairment of nutrient intake, digestion, and absorption



*A Vitamin Angels distribution in Kenya*

Seeking to support national efforts and help the government achieve its goals, Vitamin Angels has been providing deworming in Kenya since 2008. Partnering with the Ministry of Health through the Division of Nutrition and Dietetics, Vitamin Angels' contributed

to the creation of a set of national guidelines and training materials for integrated vitamin A supplementation and deworming for children.

Vitamin Angels seeks out local community health organizations that understand their communities' needs and work directly to deliver nutrition solutions. One of the local organizations Vitamin Angels partners within Kenya is The Matibabu Foundation. Daniel Ogola established the foundation in 2006 in honor of his brother, who passed away from malaria at just two months old. Even as a child Daniel knew that healthcare wasn't just essential but should be made affordable. The organization distributes vitamin A and provides deworming services in partnership with all the schools in the area. However, they also conduct home visits in more rural areas or for families whose children do not attend school. That's how Lilian's five children received intervention at their remote home.



*Lilian, her husband, and their five children*

Lilian's youngest child had a very distended belly, a visible sign of a potential worm infection. He and his older, eligible siblings received deworming from Vitamin Angels. Knowing that her children are free of intestinal worms allows Lilian to prioritize caring for her oldest child, who is HIV-positive

Since we started working in Kenya, Vitamin Angels has distributed 3,830,500 doses of Albendazole with the support of our in-country partners and generous donors like The Worm Project. This achievement is helping prevent health issues for children in Kenya so they can have a healthier start for their future.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cell.com/heliyon/fulltext/S2405-8440\(23\)07903-3?returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS2405844023079033%3Fshowall%3Dtrue](https://www.cell.com/heliyon/fulltext/S2405-8440(23)07903-3?returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS2405844023079033%3Fshowall%3Dtrue)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.who.int/tools/elena/interventions/deworming>

## Helping Improve Children's Health in the Dominican Republic with Deworming Treatments and Vitamin A Supplementation

Photo Credit: ©Vitamin Angels - Marie Arago - DR2023

Vitamin Angels provides nutrition interventions to CitiHope, one of its program partners, which collaborates with Pastoral Materno Infantil, a local ministry, to reach underserved communities in the Dominican Republic.

Meet one of the children who received deworming and vitamin A!



*Isabel pauses to look back toward her mom while walking down the sidewalk in her community.*

Two-year-old Isabel is a confident and curious toddler, radiating a breezy self-assurance beyond her years. Her playful exploration of the neighborhood earned her the nickname "the mayor," as she often strolls through the community, making unscheduled visits to her neighbors' homes.

Her mother, Arianna, shares a similarly sunny disposition and is devoted to her daughter's well-being. When she heard that

a community health organization was coming to the area to offer complimentary services, Arianna ensured they would be there and looking their best in matching polka-dot jumpsuits.



*Isabel and Ariana pose for a photo during the distribution.*

As families trickled into the courtyard behind the church where the services were being provided, children played on the grass, kicking soccer balls and laughing. Parents enjoyed a chance to catch up. Arianna led Isabel into line to receive her deworming treatment and dose of vitamin A, provided by local partner CitiHope through Vitamin Angels. These interventions will support Isabel's growth and development, help her combat common childhood illnesses, protect her vision, and encourage a lifetime of good health—who knows; she might even become the real mayor one day!



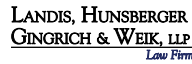
*A community worker updates Isabel's health records, detailing the services she received.*

The duo stayed until all eligible children received interventions and the pregnant women had collected prenatal vitamins and minerals. Such high community participation reinforced their commitment to health and the importance of showing up together. As the crowd began to disperse, Arianna and Isabel headed home.

Since 2012, Vitamin Angels has reached over 9 million children with deworming treatments and/or vitamin A in collaboration with our dedicated program partners and thanks to the support of generous donors like The Worm Project. Together, these collaborative efforts are contributing to meaningful change across the island country. Since 2012, the under-5 mortality rate in the Dominican Republic has declined from 31.8 per 1,000 live births to 29.4, while stunting has decreased from 7.9% in 2012 to 5.6%.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> UNICEF. Dominican Republic. (n.d.) – <https://data.unicef.org/country/dom/#nutrition>

# 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 almost 12 million children in 2024.
- 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
- Jason Sprunger – Secretary
- James Yothers
- Floyd Kratz
- Ceci Good
- Robert Rutt
- Rita Hoover
- Madeline Clemens
- Lucy Brubaker

## 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 on our website at [wormproject.org](http://wormproject.org). Just click on the **donate** button.

Please consider making a tax exempt donation from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA)

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

**The Worm Project**  
 Box 23,  
 Harleysville, PA 19438



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