

# The Worm Project

## Combating World Hunger Through Parasite Removal

Newsletter

Issue No 12 Spring/Summer 2017

### Nine Year Old and Doylestown Lutheran Help Fight Worms



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Doylestown, PA, learned about children infected with parasitic worms when they invited Dr. Clarence Freed and Gary Delp, President of The Worm Project, to talk to their Children's Sunday School last Fall. Katie Casales, age nine, is just one example of a student who felt compassion for these children and acted unselfishly to help them. Excerpts from an article written by Heather High Kennedy, Director of Christian Education, in the church's newsletter are below. According to Heather, "The Worm Project was a successful stewardship endeavor for our children."*

During Sunday School this Fall, students learned about people living in Haiti and other parts of the world who suffer from intestinal worms. Our students listened intently as they heard how poor sanitation, climate, and living conditions and other factors enable the rapid spread of these worms which rob children of nutrition. Looks of sadness and empathy flashed around the room, followed by expressions of relief

once students learned there is a medication to protect people from worms that cost only two pennies. The spirit of stewardship was sparked and for the next two months they filled their classroom buckets with donations.

One of our third graders, Katie Casales, was moved very much by what she learned and made a decision to use her 9th birthday party as an opportunity to serve God by giving to those in need. Understanding that her guests would want to bring presents to her for the occasion, she looked around the room, realized that she had much more than she needed, and asked that any gifts be given in the form of donations to The Worm Project. "I read about kids who helped other people and I wanted to help people, too," commented Katie. Her request for donations was printed on her birthday invitations and she and her mom made a pretty box in which guests could place their gifts. At the end of the party, Katie's guests had donated enough to help treat 15,000 children. "I was really surprised by how much was donated!" Katie said with a smile. "I didn't mind that the other birthday kids got their own gifts. Mine was a giving present, I got money and then gave it." That made her happy as it brightened the lives of thousands of others, as well.

### Claude Good: Update

*In the last two years since his recovery from hospice care, Claude has been creating (in his head, since he can't write) occasional blogs that he dictates to his daughter Tricia. He is still mostly in bed, but has been able to sit for a few hours a day, although due to recent on-going back pain, he's had to cut back, unfortunately. For several years he was unable to read, but he recently discovered that he is again able to, so he is now reading his Bible regularly, and this has been a blessing to him.*

Think of these tablets as seeds that will grow and produce much fruit in the lives of the children who have been treated.



As they grow, they will become a part of the kingdom of God in blessing others because they have been blessed with this extra nutrition. Pray that they will understand the blessing that God gave them when he planted these seeds, and that it will give them grateful hearts toward God.

– Claude Good



## My Experience on a Distribution of Deworming Pills



**By Ceci Good, Board Member and Daughter of Claude Good**

Recently I had the opportunity to travel to the Island of Sumba, Indonesia, with Vitamin Angels, partners of The Worm Project. I believe this is the first time one of our family, (including my Dad!) has had an opportunity to see a distribution in action.

Although I grew up in Southern Mexico, and saw lots of poverty and malnutrition, even so, I was not sure what to expect, as every country and people group are different. I was impressed by the immediate friendliness and welcoming spirits of the Sumbanese people. We were treated like special guests and even given gifts that they spent months creating. I was humbled by their generosity.

Indonesia is made up of over 17,500 islands that stretch about 2500 miles from one side to the other (about the distance between San Francisco and New York City).

During the course of the week, I came to really appreciate the Indonesian staff of Vitamin Angels who proved to me how valuable local staff is in the daily operations of the distributions. They are very committed and passionate about what they do, and work long hours. They go out to each village ahead of time and train people from the community to help with the distribution. Most of the days we went to villages where there had been a previous distribution



six months before, and the results were so visible to the community that everywhere we went there were about twice as many people who showed up with their children.

We did some interviews with people whose children had been treated previously. One young woman in her low to mid twenties had had seven children, only two were still living. Nevertheless, she smiled a lot and told us that before her baby



got the meds, she was sick a lot, but over the last six months, had not been sick at all. Her children concentrate better, play more and the two-year old talks and understands well.

She spends her days weaving, cooking, carrying water from a stream one kilometer down the hill from her house, and gardening for their limited diet of greens. We walked with her to the stream and three of us each carried one 3 liter bottle of water back for her. At some places the ground was muddy and slippery. When I was a child we used to have to carry water uphill to our house in the dry season, but I was still surprised at how heavy these 3 liter bottles felt by the time we reached her house! I'm not sure, but I think she carries three, one in each hand and one on her head, and she is just a little thing!



One thing that really impressed me on my visit was all the organizations that were working together to bring improvements to the Sumba island that none alone could do.

**Don't miss our annual banquet in September! See back page for information.**





## One by One Haiti Collaborating with The Worm Project

One by One Haiti is a child sponsorship program of Converge International Ministries. One by One mobilizes community development partnerships to improve the quality of life for children, families and communities living in extreme need. This work partners with churches and schools in Haiti to develop Christian leaders who will transform their nation for Christ. This ministry enables hundreds to obtain a quality education that focuses on academics, spiritual training, and discipleship.

Selena Gabriel is the Director of One by One Haiti. The Worm Project partners with One by One to fight hunger in Haiti by ensuring that each child and family member connected to their program receives parasite medications as part of the continuum of care. The Worm Project and One by One Haiti also collaborate to distribute parasite treatment medications to children in Latin America through Compassion Creates Change. In February, One by One received its first supply of Albendazole from The Worm Project as part of its parasite prevention plan for the students of One by One in Haiti. Parasites are among the leading causes of illnesses that affect children in the developing world.

Mrs. Gabriel and One by One Program Coordinator Ceres Desormes visited the program's three Haiti child sponsorship sites in Port au Prince, Leogane, and Maissade, February 22- March 2. A missions team from the Converge Northeast District, coordinated by Dr. Ron Larson, arrived on February 24 to partner with One by One on its site

visit to Maissade in Haiti's Central Plateau. Medical professionals from Converge Northeast worked alongside Haitian national doctors and nurses to provide wellness exams, parasite medication, fluoride treatment, and vitamins for thousands of children in Maissade at Melchizedek Baptist School (MBS); several orphanages in Maissade were also served.

Without this program, the children in these communities may otherwise not have access to health services or parasite treatment, which is a vital component of their wellness and nutrition screenings.

Dr. Larson met with hundreds of church and community leaders daily in a series of discipleship and leadership trainings based upon The Lord's Prayer.

On behalf of One by One Haiti, Converge International Ministries, and Director Selena Gabriel, thank you to the team at The Worm Project and to each donor who is part of this significant work. Collaboration



with The Worm Project provides resources which fight hunger and sustain the lives of the children we serve. May God continue to bless your commitment to be on the front lines of this important work; we are grateful to partner with you to serve the children of Haiti.



## Thank You to Our Business Sponsors



Dr. Clarence Freed  
Plastic Surgery

## Make Banquet Reservations Now!

Our 10th annual banquet will be held on **Saturday, September 16, 6:00pm** at the Franconia Heritage Family Banquet and Conference Center in Telford, PA.

There is no cost for the meal although donations will be accepted.

**Reservations can be made by:**

**email:** info@wormproject.org or

**phone:** 267-932-6050 ext. 123

Just give your name and number of guests

Come hear the inspiring first-hand stories from our partners working all around the world and find out how your donations can transform the lives of malnourished children.



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## Contact Us

Web: wormproject.org  
Email: Info@wormproject.org  
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## You Can Help!

Tax-deductible donations can be made by check or through our website. PayPal option is available at wormproject.org (Click on the “Donate: button)

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

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Franconia Mennonite Conference  
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Lansdale, PA 19446

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