

The Worm Project

Combating World Hunger Through Parasite Removal

Newsletter

Issue No 14 Summer 2018

First Annual 5K, Walk, & Children's Fun Run A Big Success

By Gary Delp, Board President
Photos by Sophia Delp



On Saturday, May 5, The Worm Project held our first annual 5K, Walk, & Children's Run. Thank you to everyone who helped make this community event a big success! Over 80 people from ages 4 to 90 participated in the events with many more who just came to watch. The event was all about having fun and exercise with friends and family. Runners loved the scenic 5K race course around Dock Mennonite Academy and finishing on the stadium track. Children runners and walkers of all ages enjoyed going around the stadium track.

One runner remarked it was the best selection of 5K race snacks he's seen thanks to a donation of bananas, doughnut holes, and yogurt from Landis Supermarkets, and bottled water supplied by Eagles Peak.



Participants in the Fun Run for Age 12 & Under ran one lap around the track.



RACE WINNERS:

Children's Division Winners:

- 1st place – Caleb Keating
- 2nd place – Noah Keating
- 3rd place – Andrew Alderfer



Women's division winners:

- 1st place – Emily Lambright Pakhtigian
- 2nd place – Sara Kennel
- 3rd place – Pamela Thomas



Men's division winners:

- 1st place – Tim Kennel
- 2nd place – Danny Canaviri
- 3rd place – Bryan Clark



Go to our website: wormproject.org or join our Facebook Group (**The Worm Project**) to see lots of pictures of runners, winners, and volunteers.



All runners received a colorful race T-shirt. Please support our local business sponsors printed on the back.

AMOS: Training Health Workers in Nicaragua

Foreword:
by Gary Delp



Laura and David Parajon

Below is a story about a woman who works as a community health worker for AMOS, an organization with past connections to The Worm Project through its founders, Drs. Laura & David Parajon. Laura and David are two incredibly talented people whose community-based healthcare system has treated over 70,000 people last year. They began their work in Nicaragua in 2001 as medical missionaries for American Baptist Churches. A few years later, Laura and David contacted Claude Good seeking deworming medicine for their new non-profit and attended The Worm Project Conference & Banquet in Franconia, PA. I still remember Laura's passionate talk at the banquet about the importance of improving the health of the poor. Two years ago, I was able to re-connect with them on a trip to Nicaragua and introduce them to another one of our partners, Vitamin Angels, to help them obtain Vitamin A in addition to deworming tablets. To learn more about their wonderful ministry go to www.amoshealth.org/2017ar.

Mother, Leader, Pioneer: Ada Luz

By Jenna Wolff, Vitamin Angels
Photos © Vitamin Angels / Sophia Bilikopf



The community of Apantillo spreads across several hillsides and valleys deep in the heart of Nicaragua. Approximately 1,260 people, divided among 200 households, live here.

The only health center, run by Vitamin Angels' local partner AMOS Health and Hope, is a tiny, three-room clinic next door to the community's church. The nearest home is a 30-minute walk, and the furthest one is over two hours by foot.



Confident and well-spoken, Ada Luz Romero has been the head Health Promoter in Apantillo for four years. She is from the community, and before signing up to be part of the health committee, had no formal training to provide health care. When the previous head retired, no one volunteered to take his place. With three young daughters of her own, Ada Luz felt called to serve, saying, "Someone has to do it—why not me?"

As the head Health Promoter, her job is not only to provide basic health services at the clinic but also to visit each of the 200 households periodically to ensure no one misses out on the products and services available. She carries medicines, supplements, and educational materials in her bag as she traverses steep dirt roads and braves the frequent rains that keep the region lush.



One of the services Ada Luz is proudest to provide is deworming. She explains, "we deworm the preschool-age children, who are the smallest children of two to five years. The mothers feel very grateful because, through the deworming of their children, they aren't sick anymore." She relates to the mothers in her community sharing that she gives deworming to her daughters whenever there is a campaign. "I also feel grateful as a mom, because it's for the well-being of our health... and the families that I can serve here in the community."



Every six months, Ada Luz and her team organize deworming campaigns in each of the sectors that make up her community. For those who cannot attend a group distribution, Ada Luz makes a special trip to their house. “We start at the five schools first... and after, we deworm each sector by each family, so that no child goes without being dewormed.” Parasites are endemic, so this regular deworming plays an essential role in maintaining good health in the community. “There are a lot of cases of diarrhea in some families where there aren’t latrines, [and because] they drink water from wells... They don’t chlorinate it or boil it, so that’s where the parasites reproduce.” In addition to providing the deworming tablets, Ada Luz uses each encounter as an opportunity to educate families about water treatment, hand washing, and basic hygiene. “The albendazole has helped them a lot, but also it’s necessary to give a lot of advice so that they don’t get sick.” Her holistic approach is creating lasting change in her community and inspiring her fellow citizens to take charge of their health.

Ada Luz was thrilled to have the opportunity to speak about how the deworming has helped her community. “We feel



very grateful for the donors of this medicine, and we hope that God always blesses them so that they always continue supporting us with these medicines that are of great help here in our community.”

A Happy Ending in Haiti

by Dr. Clarence Freed

In one of the clinics that we were running, I encountered a 14-year-old girl who was five months pregnant and whom, for purposes of this story, we will call Roseline. Her story is as follows. At the age of 13, Roseline seemed to have visible movement constantly in her abdomen so her mother took her to the voodoo priest. According to the voodoo priest, the movement in Roseline’s abdomen was because the demons were within her. Since they couldn’t get rid of the problem, her mother was told to cast her out of the house. Roseline ultimately ended up in the street where some man invited her to live with him and got her pregnant. Finally, Roseline saw a Christian doctor in the



clinic who realized that she was not possessed by demons but full of parasitic worms. She had so many worms that as they moved, it was visible on her abdomen. Roseline was immediately given albendazole, a deworming medicine donated by The Worm Project, and passed all the worms. When I met her in the clinic, we gave her micro nutrients and other medicine to support her pregnancy. Ultimately, Roseline was reunited with her mother who was going to support her and her daughter’s child, too. She was very happy to be back in her home with her mother and have her mother’s love and support.

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Dr. Clarence Freed –
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Make Banquet Reservations Now!

Our 11th annual banquet will be held on **Saturday, September 15, 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: 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.



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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:

The Worm Project
Franconia Mennonite Conference
1000 Forty Foot Road
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