



Providing
Basic Nutrition
To People In Need

VITAMIN ANGEL ALLIANCE



Vitamin Angels Newsletter 2.06

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Notes From The Field – India

Friends,

The contrast in India is startling; tribal peoples pounding boulders into gravel by the side of modern express highways (for \$1 per day), slum dwellers next to high rise buildings. Tonight on the way home we counted over fifty women and children sleeping on the street. Yesterday we did a Vitamin A / Deworming tablet distribution in Baramatai (East of Mumbai) for the local slum. These children are given free education, books, clothing, and now a chance at a healthy life. We've interviewed so many blind children who lost their sight at 6-9 years old. We ask them 'Did you first notice not being able to see at night (an early sign of Vitamin A deficiency)?' 'Yes' they reply and then report a continued deterioration in their vision until full or partial blindness occurred – the end result of long-term Vitamin A deficiency. All of this due to a lack of information and extreme poverty – not having access to Vitamin A supplements. This year we are reaching 1 million children, lactating moms and babies this year in India. With your support our goal is to increase this number to 1.5 million children in 2006!

Thanks to everyone who supported this month's work; Bill Lin, Katsura Tsuno, Anu Gupta and everyone at Johnson & Johnson; Our terrific BOD – Elliott Balbert, Tom Aarts, Barclay Hope, Russell Precious, Jeff Markel, Bill Sechrest; Jim Floyd and HIA; Beth Pitton, Susan Fowler, Dan Smith, and all at Direct Relief International; our graphics angel Daryl McCool at d.a.m. Cool Graphics; Chris Adcock; Fidel Lambie; Robin Howe; Nathaniel Hansen; Geoff Jewel; Dr. Steven Ault and our supporters at P.A.H.O; Dr. Maria Bottazzi of G. W. University; Pharmaca, Catherine Bennett, Teresa at Media Sales, Pat Havener & our friends at Cristo Salva, Jim Floyd at HIA, Fred Smith at OH, Amy Dageenakis and friends at Women in Naturals & New Hope, Sonali and our wonderful staff in India; and all of our fine partners in India without whose help this work would not be possible.

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Trudy Russo

We all extend our deep appreciation and best wishes to our dear friend and colleague, Trudy Russo, who is now moving on to pursue her expanding career in the Natural Supplement Industry. Trudy has been integral to **Vitamin Angels** growth and success since we first began; as an initial Board of Directors member, serving as Executive Director, launching the first Vitamin A drive, establishing our status as a non-profit, and most recently as the Program Director for our Vitamin A program in India. Our heartfelt thanks to Trudy for her total dedication to **Vitamin Angels** and for her commitment to making this world a healthier place!

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Wants & Needs

We are in need of financial contributions to help support our work. From our recent travels in India, it is clear that our need for vitamin supplements is greater than ever before. We need planned production of children's chewable vitamins (multiples), adult multiples, prenats, and fish oil capsules. Please contact us at: 805 564 8400 or info@vitaminangel.org to arrange for a financial contribution or a product donation.

Thanks to our supporters and donors this month: Rainbow Light Nutritional Systems; Tishcon; Pharmachem Laboratories; Nordic Naturals; NOW Foods; Hero Nutritional Products; Inverness Medical; FDC; GNLD International; NAI; General Nutrition Centers; Jarrow Formulas, Inc.; Panacea Products; NAI; Northwest Natural Products; Doug Brown and Florida Supplements; Ave Maria Specialties; Earthrise; Kevin & Kimberly Wheeler, and Franconia Mennonite Conference.

As always, please forward this newsletter to all of your friends and colleagues. We spend no money on advertising so we rely on you, our friends, to help get the word out and get people to our site (www.vitaminangel.org) so they can see the scope of what we are accomplishing and make needed contributions. Your support and encouragement make all of this possible!

Best,

Howard B. Schiffer

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Vitamin Angel Alliance - Product Distribution Report 1/1/2006 - 1/31/2006

Afghanistan

Jan 25, 2006 **Jamaludin Wardak Clinic**

The Jamaludin Wardak Clinic is located in the remote Wonkai Villages area. The clinic serves 100-150 per day and has two beds. The clinic has a population reach of 45,000. Poverty, drought, and war have impacted health severely in Afghanistan. The primary health concerns at this clinic are pregnancy complications, malnutrition, dehydration, TB, and respiratory problems. Medicine is always in short supply, in fact vitamins are often prescribed for illnesses due to lack of medicine. The generous contribution from Rainbow Light of prenatal supplements complimented the assistant efforts to expand the Wardak Clinic to an overnight emergency room, bathroom, storage area, and doctor's sleeping room.

El Salvador

Jan 3, 2006 **FUSAL**

The Salvadorian Foundation (FUSAL) and **Vitamin Angels** have collaborated on many occasions in our mutual efforts to serve the medically indigent population in El Salvador. **Vitamin Angels** in partnership with Direct Relief donated over 15,000 pounds of assorted clinic and hospital supplies as well as an ultrasound machine, fetal monitor and other maternal-child health materials which will be used to improve the quality of the care provided by the dedicated, but under-equipped, physicians of El Salvador.

Venezuela

Jan 18, 2006 **Turimiquire Foundation**

Two small hospitals and two outpatient clinics in the impoverished state of Sucre, Venezuela are supported by the Turimiquire Foundation. Economic growth and political stability in Venezuela have been uneven and sporadic, and according to the Pan American Health Organization, over 21 percent of the country's population still lives in extreme poverty. **Vitamin Angels** donated prenatal vitamins and other clinic materials to the Turimiquire Foundation.

Cameroon

Jan 11, 2006 **Holy Trinity Foundation Hospital**

Over 15 million people live in Cameroon and the average life expectancy is only 48 years. According to the World Bank, over 200,000 children in Cameroon have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS and the maternal mortality rate is 750 per 100,000 live births. The Holy Trinity Foundation Hospital is a 30-bed hospital that was established in the city of Buea by a small group of Cameroonian physicians who wanted to provide quality health services to people with little or no income. The major health issues in the region include malaria, pneumonia, diarrheal diseases, and obstetric complications. This donation consists of specifically requested multivitamins, iron, oral re-hydration salts, and Johnson and Johnson personal care supplies to help improve patient care.

□ Honduras

Jan 26, 2006 **Honduran Health Exchange**

High rates of child and maternal mortality as well as the highest rate of HIV/AIDS in Central America are taxing the weak medical infrastructure of Honduras. The Honduran Health Exchange, headquartered in the capital city of Tegucigalpa, provides primary healthcare services to thousands of medically-indigent individuals through their inner-city clinic. This grass-roots organization also recruits and trains rural community leaders as health promoters. The holistic approach of the Honduran Health Exchange incorporates the use of herbs and other local medicinal plants as well as treatment through standard Western medical practices. This shipment from **Vitamin Angels** of herbal supplements and children's vitamins will support their ongoing commitment to improving their health services.

□ Pakistan

Jan 31, 2006 **Marie Stopes Society**

Established in 1992, the Marie Stopes Society of Pakistan, a non-governmental organization committed to providing health services and education in the areas of reproductive and maternal and child healthcare has now expanded to include a network of over 30 health centers in all four provinces of the country. In response to the earthquake that struck Pakistan on October 8, 2005, Marie Stopes Society expanded services provided at their health centers to include treatment of injuries sustained in the disaster. Marie Stopes Society clinics in Swat and Peshawar, both affected by the quake, have continued to treat earthquake related injuries and illnesses. This donation from **Vitamin Angels** is the second to Marie Stopes Society, Pakistan in support of earthquake relief activities. Its contents include oral re-hydration salts, and adult as well as childrens multivitamins.

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