In this issue, you’ll hear from our Founder and CEO as we look back at the last 25 years at Vitamin Angels and we’ll review what has happened in 2018.
Dear Field Partners,

At the end of my speech last month celebrating our 25th Anniversary, I noted how much Vitamin Angels has grown in the past 25 years:

- Vitamin Angels has grown from reaching just thousands of babies and children in 1994, to reaching over 70 million babies and children in 2018.
- We’ve grown from reaching several hundred pregnant women, to last year reaching over 2 million pregnant women!
- We’ve grown from reaching a handful of countries to reaching 74 countries around the world.
- We’ve expanded from reaching just a handful of states to reaching all 50 states in the United States.
- We’ve grown from having a dozen field partners, to having over 1,600 field partners.

And we’ve grown from a small organization with just four volunteers to having 40 full time very dedicated people in the US, 15 country advisors who guide our work internationally, and nearly two thousand field partners (this is you!) who help us reach these babies, children and women.

I noted that the one thing that unites all of us are the open hearts we bring to this work every single day! We cannot do this work without all of you and for this we are forever grateful. My only regret (and I don’t have many) is that I cannot personally thank each one of you!

I don’t like to spend too much time looking back because we have so much work ahead of us (the reason I end all of my letters with ‘Upwards!’).

We’ve had a very exciting first quarter at Vitamin Angels this year! We launched our first nationwide prenatal multivitamin campaign in Haiti – one of the first in the world! We are also doing demonstration projects in Haiti and Indonesia which will help establish the procedures and protocols needed to ensure effective distribution and scale up of prenatal multivitamin programs for when other large organizations and countries are ready to launch campaigns.
Again, thank you all for joining us to implement some of the most important and successful public health campaigns in the past fifty years. We’re proud to have you as part of the Vitamin Angels family!

Upwards!

Howard B. Schiffer
Founder and CEO, Vitamin Angels

LEFT: Nearly 25 years ago, Howard is featured in the local newspaper shortly after founding Vitamin Angels; RIGHT: In 2017, Howard gives a speech at the Expo West event.
2018: Year in Review

As Howard described, we’ve had a very busy year at Vitamin Angels! With your help, in 2018 we were able to accomplish the following:

- Provided vitamin A, albendazole, and prenatal multivitamins to over 70 million women and children
- Grew our network to over 1,600 field partners
- Worked in more than 70 countries and in all 50 states in the U.S.

Global Summit 2019

Early this Spring, Vitamin Angels hosted our third biennial Global Summit, bringing together our US-based staff and our international team of advisors for a week-long meeting. We had team members join us from Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Uganda to learn from one another, brainstorm ways to better enhance the impact of our programs, and dialogue about our next Strategic Plan (2020-2023). We look forward to sharing more information with our field partners as we roll out new resources and continue to develop our Strategic Plan!

OPPORTUNITY FOR FIELD PARTNERS:

Does your organization produce local handicrafts such as bracelets, keychains, purses, cards, or other accessories? Vitamin Angels may be interested in purchasing these items from you.

If you would like to pursue this opportunity, please contact Jenna Wolff at jwolff@vitaminangels.org
Latin America & The Caribbean:

**Feed the Children - Haiti**

Feed the Children – Haiti has been partnering with Vitamin Angels for several years now to bring vitamin A, deworming, and prenatal multivitamins to the rural communities where they work. They have found that their greatest challenge with their distribution is the lack of community knowledge regarding the importance of the interventions they offer. Feed the Children - Haiti is overcoming these obstacles through a well-equipped team that is ready to educate community members.

They have found that positive testimonies from parents in the communities are an integral part to their success for their nutrition interventions.

Africa:

**Zimbabwe Medical Project**

Zimbabwe Medical Project works in rural communities in Zimbabwe that are far removed from the cities. They have seen great success in their distributions of vitamin A, albendazole, and prenatal multivitamins, which they attribute to the passion and dedication of the people with whom they work.

Five years ago, during a Zimbabwe Medical Project field visit, the young boy in the picture to the right was diagnosed with xerophthalmia. However, since starting the distribution of vitamin A and deworming from Vitamin Angels, the Zimbabwe Medical Project staff has not seen another case of xerophthalmia, which they celebrate! The staff at Zimbabwe Medical Project continues to work hard to reach women and children in need.
Asia:

*Universal Necessity Relief Organization (UNRO)*

Universal Necessity Relief Organization (UNRO) works to provide healthcare, agriculture, education, and social services to communities all over Afghanistan to promote and realize a strong society across multiple sectors. In its healthcare work, UNRO focuses on providing integrated primary health care to communities that lack access to healthcare centers. In fact, some of the communities where UNRO distributes Vitamin Angels donations are so remote, the organization had to deliver the product by horse and donkey. UNRO received its first Vitamin Angels grant in October 2018 and has already distributed almost all of the donation. The program has been so successful and welcomed by the local community that the organization has submitted a new request for Vitamin Angels donations and is planning to expand its distribution efforts.

US/Canada:

*Orange County Rescue Mission*

Orange County Rescue Mission (OCRM) has been partnering with Vitamin Angels since 2014 to bring prenatal multivitamins to pregnant women in need in Orange County, California. OCRM serves as a beacon of hope in their community by providing a residential program which fosters healing, growth, and professional development to homeless men, women, and children. The pregnant women entering OCRM often have poor nutrition prior to entering the program due to a lack of access to nutritious food or a lack of food altogether. At OCRM, they are provided with stability, access to prenatal multivitamins, and to healthy foods and nutrition education, which equips them to make healthy choices. One of the most inspiring elements of the distribution at OCRM is the number of healthy babies born through their program. Many of their moms come in pregnant and with the motivation to make a change in their lives in order to provide the best life for their unborn child. The community at OCRM is happy to see newborn babies that could have been born malnourished in some way, but instead are born healthy. They are excited to share that the prenatal multivitamins contribute to healthy babies!
Vitamin Angels is excited to announce the completion of our Reference Manual for Administration of Deworming to Preschool-Age Children. This manual is an in-depth resource for program managers and service providers who are implementing deworming distribution programs, and can be used along with vitamin A distribution campaigns as well. It contains a wealth of background information about soil-transmitted helminths (STH) that cause intestinal infections, and the interventions, including using deworming, to prevent and treat those infections. The Deworming Reference Manual is an excellent complement to the Vitamin Angels’ Vitamin A Supplementation and Deworming (VAS+D) courses, as well as other educational materials we have available in our Learning Toolbox.

This reference manual is available online for Vitamin Angels’ field partners, along with the VAS Reference Manual. Keep an eye out for upcoming translations in Spanish, French, and Bahasa Indonesia!

Vitamin Angels recommends this manual to anyone who is supervising deworming distribution for preschool-age children. In addition to background information, prevention measures, and instructions for administering deworming, the manual provides tools to assist with other aspects of a distribution, including logistics for planning, storing, and recordkeeping.

Please reach out to your Vitamin Angels contact if you would like to learn more or if you have any questions about this resource.
Vitamin Angels Receives 4-star rating from Charity Navigator

Vitamin Angels is thrilled to be a recipient of its 8th consecutive 4-star rating from Charity Navigator (CN), the United States’ premier charity evaluator. CN assesses the financial health, accountability, and transparency of over 9,000 charities across the United States to provide donors with unbiased and transparent information to make informed charitable giving decisions. Vitamin Angels is among the top 4% of CN-evaluated charities that have consecutively received 4-star ratings, the highest value score available.

We couldn’t achieve this without our Field Partners! Our network of Field Partners is a critical component to making a direct and significant impact on at-risk women and children in the U.S. and around the world.

On behalf of the Vitamin Angels team, thank you for partnering with us in helping to lay the foundation for a lifetime of good health and well-being for the women and children we serve.
USAID New Partnerships Initiative

USAID has re-launched the New Partnerships Initiative (NPI) where they will seek to diversify their partnership base, focusing on three areas:

- New and underutilized entrants
- Existing partners that direct a majority of funds from a USAID award to new or local partners and play a mentorship role
- New or existing partners that demonstrate significant investments of private development assistance

A similar initiative at USAID existed years ago and through that program many new international development and relief organizations were able to get a foot in the door with USAID and accessed significant funding through the agency.

At USAID.gov/NPI you can sign up for their New Partnerships Initiative email list for email updates as the program progresses.

UN Partner Portal

UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP have joined forces to develop the UN Partner Portal, a platform for civil society organizations to engage with the UN on partnership opportunities for the benefit of those they serve. The UN Partner Portal is an online platform designed to streamline, simplify and strengthen partnerships between UN agencies and civil society organizations.

All NGOs and other civil society organizations interested in partnering with the UN can log onto www.UNPartnerPortal.org today to:
- Register and create online profiles that can be viewed by the UN
- View partnership opportunities posted by multiple UN agencies
- Submit concept notes to UN agencies for funding consideration
- Learn more about UN partnership processes

Suggestions for topics for our next newsletter?

We would love to hear from you on what topics you would find most useful to hear about in our next newsletter. Please send suggestions and feedback to programs@vitaminangels.org. We look forward to hearing from you!