



S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund Grant Evaluation Form

Grant Period:
November 15, 2012 through November 30, 2013

Evaluation Due Date:
December 15, 2013

Organization: **Vitamin Angels**

Contact Name: *Kelsey Maloney*

Title: *Account Manager/Grant Writer*

Phone Number: *(805) 564-8400 ext 8*

Grant Period: **Nov. 15, 2012 – Nov. 30, 2013**

Award Amount: **\$50,000**

Grant Number: **2012884**

- Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on your goals and objectives. Provide the number of clients served and other relevant statistics.
 - What were the challenges and obstacles you encountered (if any) in attaining your goals & objectives? How did you overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles? What were the lessons learned?
 - Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant.
 - Describe the overall effect this grant has had on your organization.
 - Tell us a few success stories that made an impact on your organization and/or community as a result of this grant.
 - Provide a financial report on the use of your grant funds (expenditures).
 - Additional condition: Please report on the following:
-
- ❖ Please send copies of publicity and other promotional materials.
 - ❖ All variances or time extensions must be approved by The Community Foundation's Grant Committee. Please contact us at 951-684-4194, ext. 111 immediately if a variance or extension becomes necessary.

Please return the completed form to:

Penny Beaulieu, Manager, Grant Programs

The Community Foundation

3700 Sixth St., Suite 200, Riverside, CA 92501 or fax to 951-684-1911

Or email to: pbeaulieu@thecommunityfoundation.net

S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund Grant Evaluation Form - Vitamin Angels

- **Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on your goals and objectives. Provide the number of clients served and other related statistics.**

Objective I: The objective of this program was to use the \$50,000 in grant funds to purchase 2,000,000 high dose (200,000 IU) vitamin A capsules at the estimated cost of \$.025/dose to reach an estimated 1,000,000 children with vitamin A.

Outcome: Vitamin Angels purchased 2,000,000 vitamin A capsules at the cost of roughly \$50,000. The vitamins were distributed by in-country grantee partners to program countries identified by UNICEF as having moderate to severe vitamin A deficiency. In 2013, we reached 1,000,000 additional children with lifesaving vitamin A.

Objective II: The second objective was to reduce child mortality among undernourished children in countries with documented high rates of vitamin A deficiency.

Outcome: Research shows that Vitamin A supplementation reduces childhood mortality by 24%. It is *not* part of this program, however, to collect or analyze health survey data.

- **What were the challenges and obstacles you encountered (if any) in attaining your goals and objectives? How did you overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles? What were the lessons learned?**

In attaining our goal of connecting underserved children in remote regions of developing countries with lifesaving vitamin A, we are constantly overcoming great obstacles. Many of the challenges we face in our efforts include logistical and communication hurdles and we have learned many lessons from the obstacles we have overcome.

Logistical challenges include the following:

1. We work with mainly with small organizations located in remote locations in order to reach the children who are missed by government run vitamin A supplementation programs. These organizations are often so small that they do not have the capacity or experience to clear international shipments from customs. In the past, we have shipped to these organizations and due to unforeseen requirements from the consignee by customs, the product has taken a long time to clear. This delay often results in accumulating storage fees and puts additional stress on our grantee partners.
 - a. In order to help avoid these challenges, we began sending "test shipments" to new partner organizations that have limited experience working with customs (especially in Africa). This



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allows organizations to receive a very small quantity of product and gain experience clearing products from customs. If any additional information is required, they have the opportunity to resolve the issue without accumulating substantial storage fees. This is an empowering experience for the partner organization and a great opportunity for Vitamin Angels to ensure that our donated product will reach the intended organization without issue.

2. Another challenge is the timing involved in meeting the demand of the vitamin distributions our grantee partners coordinate. We work with our partners to schedule product procurement and shipment to ensure that we meet the distribution schedules of our grantee partners.
 - a. The lesson learned is to work closely with our grantee partners to schedule distributions months in advance and allow for delays in our shipping schedules.

Communication challenges include the following:

3. Regular reporting and check-ins can be challenging because many of our grantee partners have little or no access to internet. We often connect via skype meetings which can be difficult due to poor internet connections and language barriers. Additionally, our grantee partners are often in schools or health clinics with noisy backgrounds which further complicates communication and understanding. Furthermore, when we conduct Vitamin A Supplementation Workshops to train local community health workers or visit our grantee partners in the field, it can be challenging to effectively communicate with our partners.
 - a. The lesson learned is that we need to have all our technical materials translated to the local languages and share these documents with grantee partners after each meeting. This helps emphasize the points discussed in the meeting and gives them materials to help educate their staff of community health workers often tasked with administering the vitamins. We will soon have all our technical materials in at least seven languages (English, Spanish, French, Kreole, Hindi, Tamil and Bengali).
 - b. Another lesson learned is that Vitamin Angels needs to have better access to interpreters for conversations and should focus on investing in Program Managers language abilities as part of professional development benefits.

Identification, Training, and Oversight of grantee partners challenges including the following:

4. We require grantee partners to reach at least 200 children between the ages of 6 months and five years and have regular contact with the beneficiaries. Our focus is on children who are underserved and living in remote regions of developing countries. Our requirements along with communication



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challenges make identifying grantee partners with the capability of distributing the vitamin A to the same beneficiaries twice a year an obstacle.

- a. The lesson learned is to hire local consultants who are familiar with the region, socio-political environment, culture, language, and local needs to help us identify and vet qualified grantee partners.
 - b. Another lesson learned is that marketing our program opportunities online and increasing brand recognition will help us find more grantee partners. From one post on a popular website called “Funds for NGOs”, we received over 20 applications from potential grantee partners. Vitamin Angels will continue to introduce program opportunities (as well as donation opportunities) through social media and other areas where NGO’s might notice.
5. Our Vitamin A Supplementation Workshop Facilitators (Vitamin Angels staff) face challenges in organizing trainings on vitamin A distribution for community health workers in the communities we serve. Our trainers give the instructions in English with live translation to the local language. The trainers face cultural and linguistic barriers as well as unintended hurdles such as weather and lack of infrastructure (namely electricity) and have limited time to perform the course and evaluate the learners on their understanding and competency in vitamin A distribution and best practices.
- a. Based on our experience this year, our trainers have made some important decisions about how they are going to change their model for VAS Health Service Provider workshops. For example, we are having fewer participants in each workshop to ensure adequate accessibility for each learner and a maximum number of participants per organization. Additionally, we are planning to hold the trainings in major cities and reimburse grantee partner community health workers to travel to them.
 - b. Additional lessons learned include providing many visuals (such as posters and pictures) to help bridge language barriers and to provide the reading materials to learners before the day of the course to give them the chance to prepare.
6. We face challenges in the oversight of grantee partners to ensure product is correctly distributed according to best practices and according to schedule (every 6 months to eligible children). Because we have over 200 grantee partners in remote regions with little or no access to internet, it can be difficult to monitor and evaluate our grantee partners.
- a. The lesson learned is to provide educational materials and training programs to train community health workers on best practices including focusing on children ages 6-59 months, using sterile scissors, implementing Infection Prevention Practices or hand hygiene,



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etc. We also schedule biannual check ins and require our grantee partners to submit reports on their programs. We have a team of 4 Programs Managers and 3 international consultants in India and Africa to identify, vet, and monitor our grantee partners.

- **Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant.**

Positive unintended outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant include the following:

1. Vitamin Angels was recognized for our work in Belize during the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) conference in Bogota. The conference was called *Intensifying Integrated Efforts for Control of Soil-Transmitted Helminthiases in the Region of the Americas: Working Together for a Common Goal*. Representatives from the Ministry Of Health of Belize spoke very highly of Vitamin Angels during their presentation in front of 18 Latin American and Caribbean governments. We have worked with the Ministry of Health of Belize for 5 years to support vitamin A distribution campaign. Since Belize does not qualify for UNICEF support and can't purchase product on its own, Vitamin Angels' support has filled the void. Additionally, in worm endemic countries, we often complement our vitamin A grants with Albendazole, a deworming medication, to rid beneficiary children on intestinal parasites so that their bodies can properly and fully absorb the vitamin A.
2. We were invited by PAHO the conference mentioned above and asked to give a presentation about our work. Only 4 other NGO's were asked to present (Save the Children, Operation Blessing, Children without Worms and UNICEF). We are proud and honored to be considered among an elite group of organizations making an impact on global health and nutrition.

- **Describe the overall effect this grant has had on your organization**

This grant has had a very strong, positive impact on our organization highlighted by the following:

1. 1,000,000 additional children reached with lifesaving vitamin A in 2013.
2. Reduced child mortality by 24% among children with vitamin A deficiency. This is based on research on the impact of vitamin A supplementation. It is not part of this project, however, to collect or analyze health survey data.
3. Strengthened relationships with grantee partners and introductions to new grantee partners.

- **Tell us a few success stories that made an impact on your organization and/or community as a result of this grant.**

Honduras, April 2013

Jefferson was a quiet and shy 5-year-old we met in Honduras. Before he started receiving vitamin A, Jefferson was pale with skin lesions all over his body, especially on his ears. He didn't talk and he didn't play with the other children. He was underweight, lethargic, and short for his age. He was constantly sick



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with a cough and often with the flu. He would cry when he came to school and refuse to eat.

After receiving vitamin A for one year (one dose every six months), his skin cleared up and he is healthy. He rarely gets sick and his appetite improved. He is taller and stronger and plays with the other children. His favorite activity is painting and he wants to be an artist. He is better able to concentrate and comes to school well-rested and ready to learn.



Malawi June, 2013

Ashatu's 4 year old twins, Joseph and George, recently received their second dose of vitamin A. She's noticed that they are much stronger and more active than her 5 older children were at the same age. The boys' father recently passed away, leaving Ashatu a single mother of 7 children. While it can be very challenging, this strong mom said she is hopeful that all of her children will attend school and will become priests or work in the medical industry.





Invoice

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