





## **Letter from the President**

2022 was an incredible year. By strengthening our collaborative and evidenced-based approach, we have made the package of nutrition solutions we offer more robust, with greater potential to improve maternal and young child health around the world.

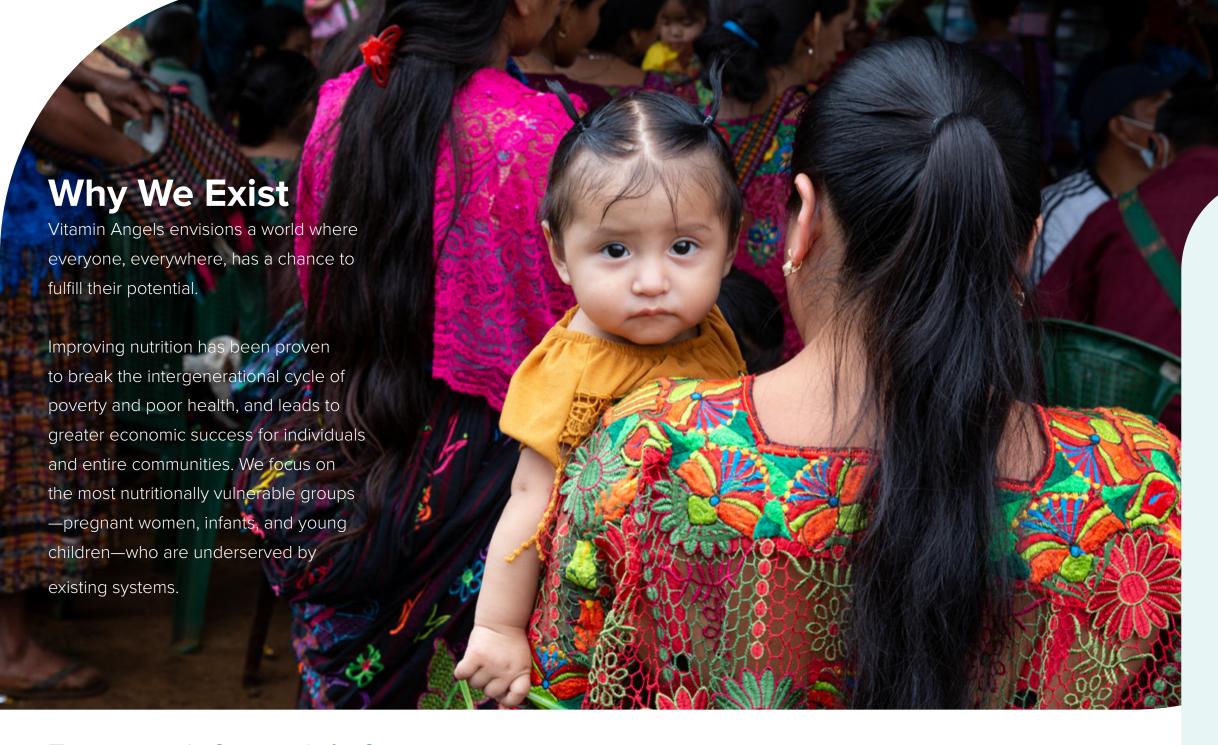
Last year, Vitamin Angels made remarkable progress in enhancing critical partnerships with governments, NGOs, and academic institutions. To promote maternal and child health, our advocacy work focused on the introduction and extension of multiple micronutrient supplementation (MMS) policies. We broadened our impact by expanding the number and scope of our MMS programs to 16 countries: Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Haiti, Mexico, DRC, Uganda, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and the U.S. Additionally, Vitamin Angels helped to build an effective MMS supply strategy at the national, regional, and global level, and addressed challenges of manufacturing and the increasing global demand for MMS. In this area, we made noteworthy advances in Asia and began to expand our work in Africa.

My deep gratitude goes out to each and every one of our partners and supporters.

Together, we can uplift and amplify a global community of voices advocating for maternal and child health, and bring a more equitable world within reach.







# Targeting A Critical Life Stage

Evidence-based nutrition interventions are a powerful way to support healthy pregnancies, improve birth outcomes, reduce infant and maternal mortality, and protect children under five against debilitating childhood infections. They also enable children to thrive through each stage of development as they grow and learn, leading to greater economic success for individuals and entire communities. We focus on the most nutritionally vulnerable groups—pregnant women, infants, and children. Ensuring this population receives proper nutrition is critical because:

- The nutritional needs of pregnant women increase as their bodies undergo physiological changes to support their own health as well as infant growth and development.
- The vital time from pregnancy through age five is particularly critical to increasing child survival, optimizing growth and development, and ensuring positive health outcomes for the mother.

- Undernourished pregnant women are more likely to experience anemia, which can result in serious pregnancy complications, including maternal and child death.
- Healthy pregnant women are more likely to have healthy newborns.
- Healthy children are more likely to grow up stronger, thrive in school, and achieve greater economic success later in life.

# Addressing Contextual Barriers to Access

Pregnant women, infants, and young children in underserved communities often experience multiple barriers to good nutrition. To address these barriers, we work collaboratively with our program partners to gain a deep and nuanced understanding of the cultural context in which maternal and young child healthcare decisions are made. We then work within that local context to help remove any existing barriers and create a welcoming environment—developed with the surrounding community—to address issues of:

## Availability

Product supply or healthcare providers limitations within a specific area or timeframe

#### Accessibility

Care may be too far away, inadequately distributed, or require long waiting times

#### Affordability

Visit cost, food insecurity, transportation costs, and loss of wages

### Acceptability

Social stigma and/or low trust of healthcare providers

#### Awareness

Families may not know resources or services exist or why they are needed



# **How We Work**

Vitamin Angels collaborates closely with over 1,200 partners in about 65 countries. We work directly with local organizations, including governments, to assess the evidence and help determine how to reduce barriers to access to essential nutrition interventions—and increase their quality and potential for impact. We provide resources and technical assistance, use an implementation science framework to plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate existing programs, a nd support advocacy efforts to create a supportive environment for optimal nutrition outcomes. As a result, existing institutions can extend health and nutrition services further than ever before.

While our process is tailored to the specific needs and circumstances of the communities we serve, each step we take follows an implementation science approach to help ensure women and children benefit from evidence-based nutrition interventions:

- 1. **We seek to collaborate** with local partners to build an enabling environment to improve maternal and child health outcomes.
- 2. **We form partnerships** with governments and community partners and work together to evaluate the needs of the populations they serve.
- 3. **We jointly identify barriers** and develop data-driven solutions to ensure effective implementation and increase access to nutrition interventions.
- 4. **We share data and lessons learned**, adapt our practices as new information is identified, and scale interventions to reach more women and children.

#### **Our Work**

# Our Evidence-Based Package of Solutions

Proven nutrition interventions have the power to help break the intergenerational cycle of poverty, poor health, and adverse wellbeing. By helping to extend these interventions to the people who are most at risk, Vitamin Angels and our partners help entire communities grow stronger for generations to come.

Together with our partners, we assess the evidence and help determine how to close gaps in availability and access to essential nutrition services—and to increase their quality and potential for impact. As a result of our efforts, existing institutions can extend health and nutrition services further than ever before. And when women and children have access to quality services and the support they need to incorporate good nutrition into their lives, families do better: gaps in educational attainment shrink, incomes grow, and new opportunities emerge.

# Distribution of Evidence-Based Nutrition Interventions Delivered

In 2022, Vitamin Angels reached over **71 million pregnant women, infants, and children** with evidence-based nutrition interventions in about 65 countries through a network of more than 1,200 program partners.

23,485,025

VITAMIN A ALONE

16,522,200

DEWORMING ALONE

24,493,900

VITAMIN A + DEWORMING

6,698,165

MMS\* TOTAL

**576,888** MMS\* U.S. & CANADA

\*MMS is short for Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation, also known as prenatal vitamins & minerals

In close collaboration with our partners, we work to increase access to an evidence based package of solutions that focuses on the time between pregnancy through the first five years of life.

Evidence based nutrition interventions and resources are determined by nutritional need and gaps in coverage during these life stages:

## **During Pregnancy**

# Vitamin Angels provides access to UNIMMAP\* multiple micronutrient supplements (MMS) and promotes diet quality.

Women have increased micronutrient requirements during pregnancy due to rapid growth and development, which often cannot be met through diet alone. This is especially problematic in food-insecure settings where high-quality diets are difficult to access. Vitamin Angels provides access to multiple micronutrient supplements (MMS\*), commonly referred to as prenatal vitamins and minerals, during pregnancy because they can safely and effectively improve maternal health and pregnancy outcomes. We use Social and Behavioral Change (SBC) interventions to improve MMS uptake and adherence, and maternal diet quality.

\*United Nations International Multiple Micronutrient Antenatal Preparation (UNIMMAP), MMS is a specific formulation of the supplement that has been widely tested for efficacy and effectiveness in multiple regions.

## **Following Birth**

Vitamin Angels implements behavior change strategies to support early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, and feeding nutrient-rich complementary foods, along with continued breastfeeding from 6-23 months of age.

Breastfeeding is one of the best ways to promote the health, wellbeing, and survival of children. Breast milk is the ideal food for infants, providing the nutrients they need as well as antibodies that protect against common childhood illnesses. Beginning at six months, an infant needs more energy and nutrients than breast milk alone can provide. To promote healthy development and growth, we support the introduction of micronutrient-rich and age-appropriate complementary food along with continued breastfeeding up to age two.

## **Early Childhood**

# Vitamin Angels provides access to vitamin A supplementation (VAS) + deworming.

Bi-annual vitamin A supplementation supports healthy immune systems, promotes physical growth, prevents blindness, and helps mitigate the incidence of measles. Adding Albendazole, an anti-parasitic, helps ensure optimal child health and nutrition. In some contexts, we also provide supplementary feeding programs for pregnant women and young children to address food insecurity, increase dietary diversity, and promote healthy growth and development.

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#### **Our Work**

# **Advocacy**

In close collaboration with our partners, we work to support advocacy efforts to create a supportive environment for optimal nutrition outcomes.

Vitamin Angels works with global, national, and local partners to:

**Raise awareness** of evidence-based nutrition interventions. Provide forums and opportunities for stakeholders to discuss and **build consensus** for use of those interventions.

**Engage with and support** decision makers and other stakeholders as they develop policies and program plans to operationalize new evidence-based interventions.

**Ensure interventions** are sufficiently funded, effectively implemented, and are meeting the needs of underserved women and children.

#### **Our Work**

# Technical **Assistance**

Vitamin Angels delivers technical assistance to expand and strengthen the evidence-based nutrition services provided by our local and national program partners.

### **Learning Solutions**

Everyone deserves access to knowledge and support to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. To support our program partners in delivering evidence-based nutrition interventions to women and children in their communities, we offer an array of educational materials, training courses, videos, and resources.

## **Monitoring & Evaluation**

Vitamin Angels engages in ongoing monitoring and evaluation activities to validate the extent to which we are achieving our mission, and to support program management and administrative decision-making.

Our M&E efforts consist of providing program partners with recordkeeping and reporting tools, organizing on-site monitoring visits, and conducting regular coverage surveys.

## **Supply Chain Solutions**

Vitamin Angels' supply chain solutions make it possible for evidence-based nutrition interventions to reach over 71 million women and children annually, no matter where they live. From product manufacturing and procurement to warehousing and distribution, our supply chain team tracks air, sea, and ground logistics and oversees quality control measures through a digital inventory management system across 12 warehouses globally. We also conduct research and advocate to build consensus for secure and sustainable supply chain solutions that address regional, national, and global supply chain issues.





Impact Updates

# Democratic Republic of Congo

National government and local organizations partner with Vitamin Angels to increase VAS+D and MMS coverage

Though rich in natural resources, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is one of the poorest countries in the world, with more than 70% living on less than \$1.90 a day. 11 in 10 children there die before reaching age five, and six million children suffer from undernutrition or stunting. 11 Additionally, there is a high prevalence of undernutrition and anemia among pregnant women, and a high maternal mortality rate of 473 per 100,000 live births. 11

At the community level, Vitamin Angels provides resources and skills training courses to service providers. Program partners highly value these critical learning opportunities, sometimes sending representatives many miles on foot or motorbike to attend.

Vitamin Angels has been successful in creating an enabling environment for improved nutrition policies and service delivery. This has been made possible through partnerships with the government at all levels, in addition to providing non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with the necessary resources to provide advisory services and technical assistance. The effects are evident, as demand for Vitamin Angels' MMS is escalating rapidly, and even exceeding the available supply last year.

Vitamin Angels continues to support the DRC's government in implementation research efforts to build and scale effective nutrition programs in the country. In addition, we are providing assistance at the individual- and community-level with evidence-based nutrition initiatives and supportive technical tools for pregnant women, infants, and young children.

Vitamin Angels' 2022 Impact in the DRC

100 PROGRAM PARTNERS

19 of 26
PROVINCES COVERED

**630,000**PREGNANT WOMEN MMS\*

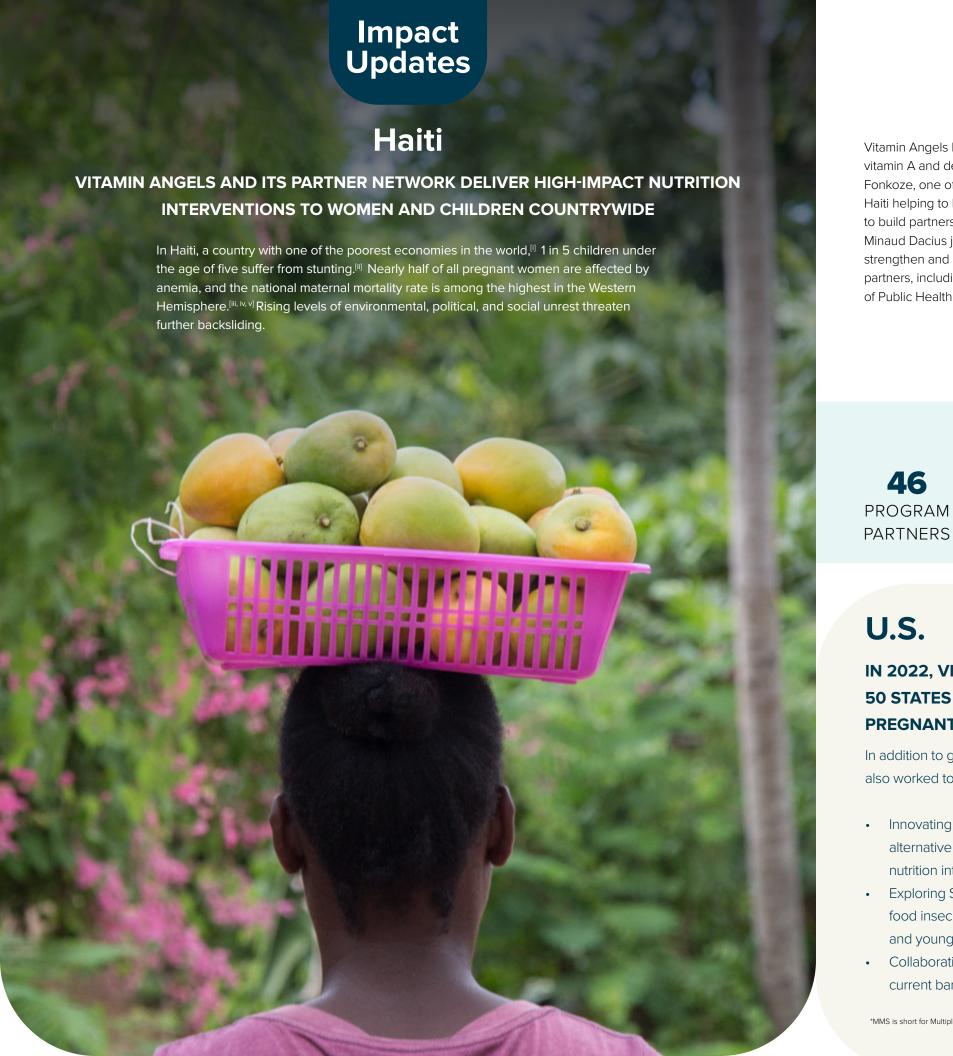
**12,900,000**CHILDREN UNDER 5
VITAMIN A

**8,700,000**CHILDREN
VITAMIN A + DEWORMING

i] The World Bank, The Democratic Republic of Congo country data, https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/drc/overview#1
[ii] UNICEF, The Democratic Republic of Congo, https://www.unicef.org/

[iii] UNICEF Data, DRC country profile, https://data.unicef.org/country/cod/

\*MMS is short for Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation, also known as prenatal vitamins & minerals



Vitamin Angels began working in Haiti in 2008 by providing vitamin A and deworming tablets to the children served by Fonkoze, one of the largest and most effective foundations in Haiti helping to lift families out of poverty, while also working to build partnerships with other organizations. In 2015, Dr. Minaud Dacius joined VA as Country Director and set out to strengthen and continue to grow the network of program partners, including building a key partnership with the Ministry of Public Health and Population of Haiti (MSPP).

Today, the VA Haiti program continues to rely on the strength of its partnerships to deliver three specific evidence-based nutrition interventions: MMS for pregnant women, and vitamin A supplementation and Albendazole, an anti-parasitic, for children under age 5.

[1] The World Bank. Haiti Overview. https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/haiti/overview. [1] The Global Nutrition Report. Country Nutrition Profile: Haiti.

[1] The World Bank. https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.PRG.ANEM?locations=HT

[1] The Lancet Global Health. Addressing the Child and Maternal Mortality Crisis in Haiti through a Central Referral Hospital Providing Countrywide Care. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih. gov/pmc/articles/PMC4867827/#b1-permj20\_2p0059

[1] The World Bank. https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.MMRT

# Vitamin Angels' 2022 Impact in Haiti:

46 PROGRAM

**All 10 DEPARTMENTS** COVERED

135,326 PREGNANT WOMEN MMS\*

1,587,00 CHILDREN UNDER 5 VITAMIN A + DEWORMING

# U.S.

## IN 2022, VITAMIN ANGELS PROVIDED COVERAGE IN ALL **50 STATES AND PUERTO RICO CONNECTING 576,888** PREGNANT WOMEN AND THEIR BABIES WITH MMS.\*

In addition to growing the number of participants served, Vitamin Angels also worked to increase our impact in the U.S. by:

- Innovating and diversifying our distribution models by piloting alternative methods for reaching pregnant women with nutrition interventions.
- Exploring Supplemental Feeding pilot programs to address food insecurity and improve the diets of pregnant women and young children.
- Collaborating with key partners and researchers to better understand current barriers and enablers to breastfeeding in a border community.

\*MMS is short for Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation, also known as prenatal vitamins & minerals



### **Corporate Partners**

Vitamin Angels corporate partners made significant financial commitments in 2022, in support of our mission. We extend our gratitude to each company listed below for its generous support. These financial contributions play a key role in our ability to protect the health of millions of women and children worldwide.



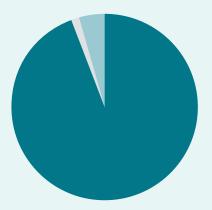
## **Philanthropic Partners**

We are grateful to our many philanthropic partners who have made grants and charitable gifts to support Vitamin Angels' efforts to help expand and scale our reach, as well as support operational capacity building and program improvements.

## **Financials**

Transparency and accountability are fundamental to Vitamin Angels' core values. They are vital to ensuring we deliver on our promises to our supporters, partners, stakeholders, and most of all, to the pregnant women, infants, and children we serve in low-resource settings worldwide.

#### How we use our funds:

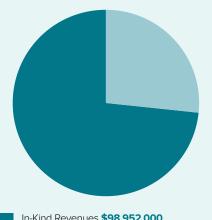


Nutrition and Health Programs \$122,210,000

Management & General \$2,335,000

Special Events & Fundraising \$5,801,000 Total \$130,346,000

### **Sources of operating revenue:**



In-Kind Revenues **\$98,952,000** 

Cash Revenues \$30,960,000

Total Revenues & Other Support \$129,912,000

Audited financial statements and Form 990 available at: vitaminangels.org/financials

# Recognition

At every level of our nonprofit organization, our commitment to the highest level of financial accountability shines through.

Both Charity Navigator and Candid give Vitamin Angels their highest marks for financial transparency. In fact, we're one of the top 3% of charities to receive a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, not just once, but 10 years in a row.



7 consecutive Platinum Seal ratings

10 consecutive 4-star ratings\*

\*Vitamin Angels has applied for Charity Navigator ratings for 2020, 2021, and 2022 and—due to delays from COVID-19—are still awaiting ranking. Vitamin Angels expects additional 4-star ratings for these three years, bringing Vitamin Angels to 13 consecutive 4-star ratings.

# **Board of Directors**

Clayton Ajello

Robert Black

Michelle Brooks

Parul Christian\*

Sutian Dong

Jim Hamilton

William Hood

Elizabeth Kimani-Murage

Tom Meriam

Carlyle Newell

Howard Schiffer

Jill Staib

Brian Wood

### **Board of Advisors**

Deanna Bratter

Felicia Ciaccio

Leigha Dunbar

Michelle Goolsby

Joanne Gray

Peter Hefele

Michelle Hobson

Scott Holmes

Angela Kelly

John Petrovich

Samantha Prasad

Sara Snow

Brian Terry

James Tonkin

Peter van Stolk

## **Honorary Board**

Tom Aarts

Elliott Balbert

Jeffrey Markel

\*Joined in 2022

# **Call for Support**

We cannot realize a world where everyone, everywhere, has a chance to fulfill their potential alone. We rely on collaboration and support. Here are a few ways you can get involved.

#### **Program Partners:**

At Vitamin Angels, we work directly with over 1,200 partners, including governments, NGOs, academic institutions, and private sector organizations, to reach more than 71 million pregnant women and children in about 65 countries annually.

If you represent a national government, NGO, or development partner that is interested in collaborating with Vitamin Angels, please email us at <a href="mailto:programs@vitaminangels.org">programs@vitaminangels.org</a>.

Prospective program partners, please note that grant applications and eligibility requirements are listed on our website at <a href="https://www.vitaminangels.org/apply">www.vitaminangels.org/apply</a>.

#### Companies:

Vitamin Angels has a legacy of deep and meaningful relationships with corporate partners who exemplify upstanding citizenry and global leadership in the areas of health and wellness. Our corporate partners have critically empowered our work around the world, and in turn benefited from Vitamin Angels' robust provision of sustainability, cause marketing, and employee engagement solutions adding value to their business. To get started, please email us at partnerships@vitaminangels.org.

#### **Grant-makers & Philanthropists:**

We are actively seeking partnerships with grant-making organizations and individual philanthropists in order to support targeted program efforts to fill gaps in participant coverage across our administrative priority countries as well as support capacity building through implementation research and operational projects. For more information, please email us at dzorub@vitaminangels.org.

#### **Individual Donations & Fundraising:**

To make a donation to Vitamin Angels, please visit:

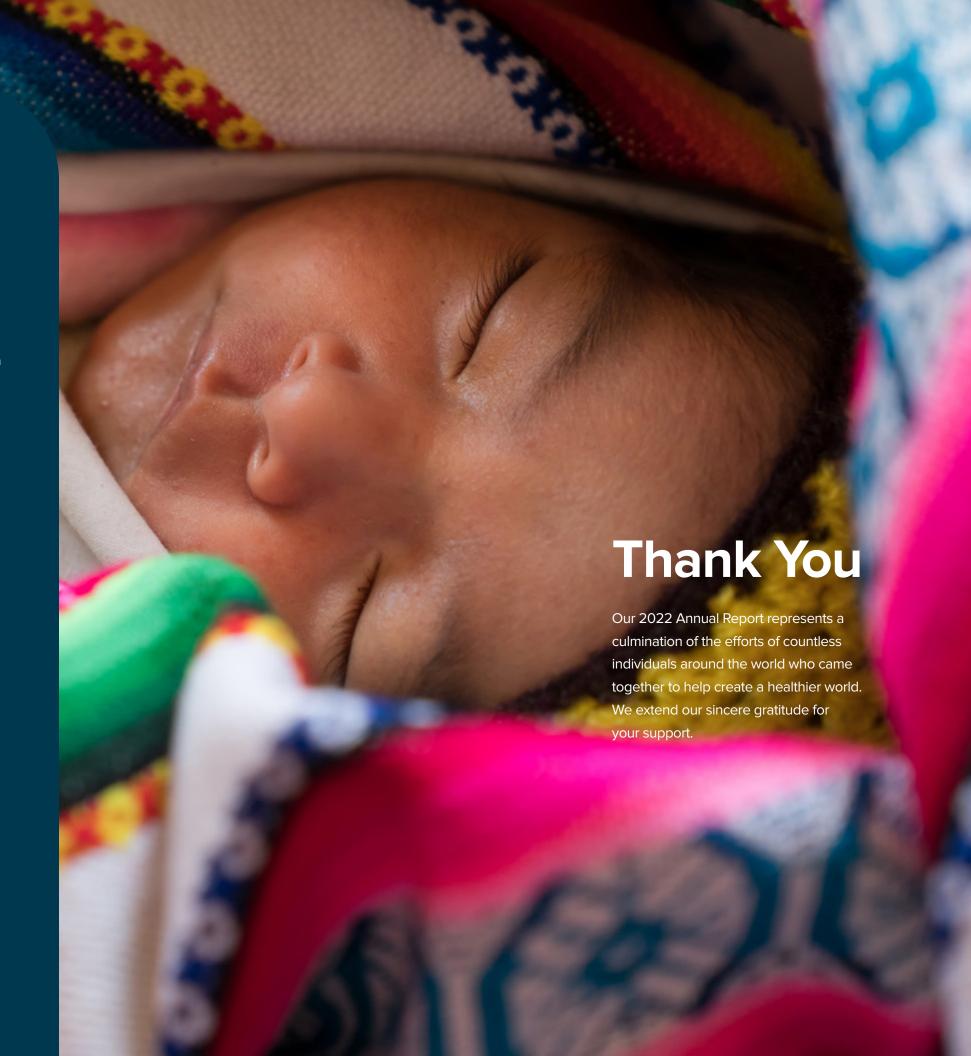
**Website:** <u>vitaminangels.org/donate</u>

We also accept contributions by:

**Phone:** 888.615.4123

Mail: Vitamin Angels, Post Office Box 4490, Santa Barbara, CA 93140

**Please also consider:** visiting our website to sign up for our email list, following us on social media, and sharing our mission with friends and loved ones.





Vitamin Angels Office 6500 Hollister Ave. Suite 130 Goleta, CA 93117 Mailing Address Post Office Box 4490 Santa Barbara, CA 93140 Phone: 888.615.4123 info@vitaminangels.org vitaminangels.org

Vitamin Angels is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, incorporated in the State of California and headquartered in in Goleta, CA.

Tax ID 77-0485881