

PROJECT PEANUT BUTTER

With your help, we can reach
Every Village, Every Child.

[ABOUT US](#)

[WHERE WE SERVE](#)

[THE SCIENCE](#)

[NEWS & MEDIA](#)

[DONATE](#)

July 2008

ABOUT US

[Overview](#)

[Malnutrition Crisis](#)

[The RUTF Solution](#)

[Local Production](#)

[Goals](#)

[Contact Us](#)

DONATE

In the Beginning...

Dear Ones,

When Jon Bogart of Pizzazz Email offered to help Project Peanut Butter develop an electronic newsletter, I was excited. Then reality set in, and I put off this project as long as I could. Not that I am uncomfortable with the idea of a newsletter, but...how to start. How do I explain the series of events that would lead to our involvement in a miracle? So, this inaugural newsletter is simply a letter about who we are and how we went from the dullest couple in the Midwest to the dullest couple in the Midwest involved in saving the world.

Mark and I met at church. I was a nurse at a child abuse shelter and Mark was a medical student. We shared a deep faith, a drive for social action, a love of Crown Candy Ice Cream (fantastic-if you are ever in St. Louis-a must), and a belief that we were called by God to use our talents and gifts to help others.



This would lead us to Tanzania after Mark finished residency. We would face our most challenging moments there, including the death of our first child. But, we returned with a deep conviction that too many children in Africa were dying of malnutrition.

Eighty-five percent of adults in sub-Saharan Africa are subsistence



farmers and 70% of all children are malnourished. Until recently, 23% of these children died before their 5th birthday. Of the children who developed malnutrition, less than 25% recovered.

We would return two more times with our young children Megan and Micah and find over ten years later that the children were continuing to die at the same rates. Mark continued to try to "boost" the traditional treatment for malnutrition, in hopes of finding the right combination of milk, oil, and vitamins and minerals to stop this epidemic.

Then in 2001, Andre' Breund of Nutriset approached Mark about a new food that the Nutriset labs was developing, a different approach to malnutrition. They asked Mark to field test with them a peanut based therapy for malnutrition. They wanted to use peanut paste as the foundation of their product. Since you are all in some way connected with our work, you know why this approach appealed to Mark. Children could be removed from overcrowded, unsanitary feeding centers and hospitals, where diseases were spread from child to child increasing the death rate. Mothers could return with the child to their homes. This allowed the mother to continue to feed and care for the other family members, protecting the other children in the family from malnutrition and lack of care. The new peanut-based formula did not need to be heated, saving wood. The new peanut-based product does not grow bacteria or spoil.

So, Mark, and I and our always willing children headed to Malawi. We did a five month field trial and the results were phenomenal. **The recovery rate skyrocketed to 90%.** This could not be ignored. We were astounded. And so, Project Peanut Butter began.

We returned to America and began raising money from friends, our church, individuals, and anyone who would listen to our story. Interestingly, our first two regular donors were a woman in St.



Louis who has given us two dollars a month since 2002 and our largest annual donors for a family unit.

This summer, Mark and our son Micah are back in Malawi. In addition, there are eight more students. (Mark spends half of each year there now.) Not only are we in the process of doubling the factory size; we are starting trials to see if we can find out what are the specific contributing factors to protein-energy malnutrition. This would allow us to head off the most severe complications.



We are also trying to find ways to decrease the milk powder in the peanut food. This would allow us to decrease the cost, due to the rising cost of milk. It would also allow us to provide the peanut-based food (RUTF) to children with milk allergies. THANKS FOR



problems with peanut allergies. We at has been the only possible

our newest project is a program
e managed by Chelsea Ringel and
e in mid-July.

pop" charity to a much larger "mom and pop" charity which requires about 25 hours a week in management. We've learned to write grants to pay for factory machinery and other large ticket items. We remain dedicated to our promise that 100% of the money from your donations goes directly to the purchase of raw materials (peanuts, milk, sugar, oil, vitamins and minerals), production of the RUTF, and distribution.

We remain dedicated to this work. We remain thankful to each of you. We remain the dullest couple in the Midwest, but forever thankful for our chance to see lives changed; not only lives in Africa, but each of yours.

Mardi Manary
Project Peanut Butter

Project Peanut Butter

7435 Flora Avenue St. Louis, MO 63143

(314) 646-7191

Copyright © 2008 Project Peanut Butter. All rights reserved.

powered by [Pizzazz Email LLC](#)