

THE PEANUT

official newsletter of...



Issue 6, December 2014

Meliyo Project



The use of therapeutic food is catching on in Kenya, and PPB is proud to support.

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Updates by Country



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Holiday events and fundraising



Join us for a fun Benefit Night in St. Louis this holiday season, and find out how your online holiday shopping can support Project Peanut Butter this year.

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Follow ProjectPeanutButter on Instagram to see more photos from the factories & field.

Follow us on Twitter @PPB_RUTF.

“Like” us on Facebook for even more updates!



Above: The namesake of a new feeding project in Kenya, Meliyo, poses with his son.

Meliyo Project launches in Masaai community, Kenya

In October 2013, Project Peanut Butter started a partnership with the Orione Community Training Center (OCTC) in a rural village called Kaburugi in Kenya. The OCTC serves around 35 children with disabilities. The children go to the center daily, where the employees at the center provide educational programs and physical rehabilitation. The center also works with the children’s families, relatives, and the community to facilitate the integration and inclusion of the children in their social community.

PPB formulated a nutritional supplement for the children at the center and worked with the staff to start a small production project using local ingredients. The success of this project has been amazing - almost all of the children experienced an increase in BMI, and the staff report a noticeable improvement in their health! (Ctd. on pg. 2)



Above: Community health workers are currently being trained for the Meliyio project and will soon begin screening children.

(Ctd. from pg 1)

Encouraged by the success of the OCTC project, the Orione group, with the support of PPB, is expanding its reach and starting a new feeding program in the Rift Valley. The project is in collaboration with the already-established Rombo Health Center and has employed a Masaai nutritionist to assist with implementation. The goal is to treat 150 malnourished children from the Masaai community in Rombo with a therapeutic nutritional supplement. The staff from the OCTC will assist with start-up and training of those who are unfamiliar with the production process.

The new project has been named “Meliyio” in honor of a former friend and leader in the Rombo community. It’s a name that is recognized and

respected by many. Meliyio was an extraordinary man who had a great love for children in his community. Unfortunately, he was a victim of an aggressive cancer and passed away in the summer of 2014. In English, Meliyio means “never lonely”.

In November, the group received official approval from the district public health officer to start the project in Rombo, and the district health center is showing great support and excitement for the project. Community health workers are currently being trained and will soon begin to screen children. Project Peanut Butter is thrilled to hear that the most effective care for malnourished children is catching on in Kenya and cannot wait to receive updates on this new project from the Orione Community Training Center. ♦

Below: External consultants and Malawi factory staff collaborate to install a brand new piece of equipment (story on pg. 4).



U P D A T E S B Y C O U N T R Y

Ghana: a blossoming project

Project Peanut Butter's newest factory continues to make great strides on the path toward becoming a fully functioning RUTF producer. One of PPB Ghana's most noteworthy recent achievements was undergoing an inspection by the Ghana Food & Drug Administration on November 19—a crucial precursor to registering under Ghana law as a valid food manufacturer. The inspectors found zero major non-compliance items, and our employees need only address a few suggestions before the process can be completed. PPB Ghana was also required to submit a sample of its food product to the Ghana Standards Board for analysis.

The Hershey Company continues to provide a great deal of support to the Ghana project, both monetarily and otherwise. Hershey generously offered to match up to \$50K in online donations through December 11! Referring to this offer, Dr. Mark Manary commented, "While it gave us the freedom to think about 'what's possible' instead of worrying about dollars, the truly invaluable piece has been their employees' immense passion and willingness to share their food manufacturing expertise with us." The hard work of PPB Ghana's local staff and outside consultants combined will ensure that the facility is set to produce RUTF within the first half of 2015. ♦

Below: PPB Ghana and Hershey consultants produce trial mixes of RUTF. *Photo Credit: Sean Wright, The Hershey Co.*



Above: Countries affected by the 2014 West African Ebola epidemic. *Source: www.cdc.gov*

Sierra Leone: fighting malnutrition despite Ebola

The Project Peanut Butter feeding clinics in Sierra Leone are still suspended due to the Ebola virus outbreak; the country's total case count continues to climb (7600 cases with 1660 confirmed deaths as of December 8). PPB is committed to addressing malnutrition in this nation despite the limitations. The local factory staff have already begun preparing for production of a UNICEF order: in the coming weeks, they will be making 300K packets of therapeutic food for the children of Sierra Leone, who are now even more vulnerable to the effects of acute malnutrition than ever before.

PPB founder Dr. Mark Manary continues to meet with leaders of international health agencies in order to determine the best avenues for treating malnourished kids in Sierra Leone in the coming months. In November, two anonymous donors offered to match up to \$12K in donations to Project Peanut Butter to enable us to address the challenges in Sierra Leone. With the help of many friends and supporters, we more than doubled our goal and raised over \$36K! Project Peanut Butter is committed to updating our donor community as we devise innovative ways to combat malnutrition in the midst of the Ebola crisis. ♦

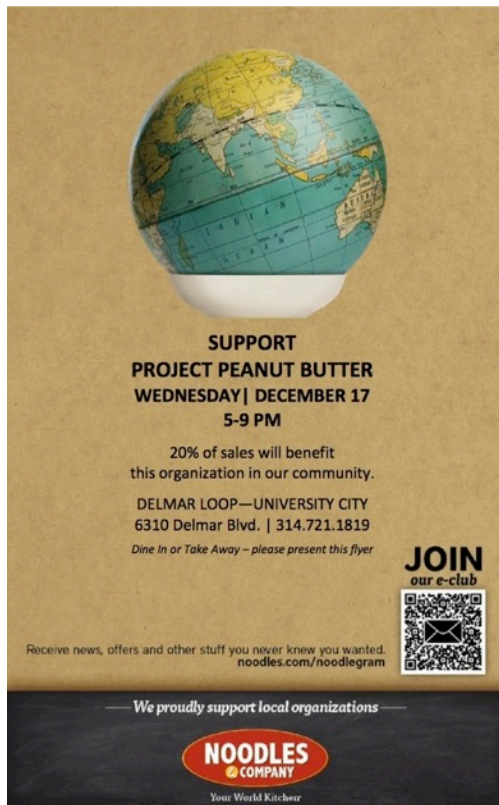
Malawi: benefits from valuable production line upgrade

The production line in Malawi received a long-awaited upgrade the week of November 3-7: a brand new disc mill grinder was installed. Traveling to Malawi to assist with the project were Mechanical and Electrical Engineer Stuart Turnbull (from England) and Food Technologist Jacqueline Krampf (from Germany). Project Peanut Butter Malawi technicians, Michael Paseli and Innocent Nkhoma, both taught and learned from these external consultants, and everyone collaborated to make the new piece of machinery functional.

The disc mill is the second grinder in the Malawi line, and the point of its installation was threefold: to decrease the sugar particle size of the finished product with the end goal of reducing oil separation, to allow for the use of whole peanuts in

the RUTF recipe instead of peanut paste, and to reduce the time it takes to make one mix of food. PPB's new Ghana factory has also installed a disc mill grinder, and installation is planned for PPB's Sierra Leone plant sometime in 2015.

The Malawi project continues to forge full-speed ahead, enjoying many successes along the way. A large order for UNICEF was completed in October, and the Quality Control Department anticipates a factory inspection by Doctors Without Borders sometime in February 2015. The feeding clinics continue to treat children for acute malnutrition while conducting a number of research studies on topics such as maternal malnutrition, gut health, and moderate acute malnutrition in order to learn more about the disease. ♦



Give deeper meaning to your shopping this holiday season

Here is one more reason to put off your holiday shopping this year: Project Peanut Butter is having a Benefit Night at two local St. Louis venues on December 17: Plowsharing Crafts and Noodles & Company in the Delmar Loop. The event will run from 5-9 pm, and 15-20% of all sales generated will be donated to PPB. All Noodles & Company diners will need to show the flyer (opposite) to the cashier in order to earn credit for us. Please consider bringing your friends and family to this fun local event!

For our supporters who don't live in St. Louis but still desire to give back this year, you can make a contribution to PPB every time you shop online at Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com). This site has all the same products as Amazon and will donate 0.5% of your total to a charity of your choosing. Thank you for considering Project Peanut Butter.

We wish you a very happy, safe, and relaxing holiday season!



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