



VOSH and Optometry Giving Sight Partner to Eliminate Refractive Blindness



What is Optometry Giving Sight?

Optometry Giving Sight is a joint initiative of the World Optometry Foundation (WOF), the International Centre for Eyecare Education (ICEE) and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) and supports the goals of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight, an initiative of IAPB and the World Health Organization (WHO). VISION 2020 aims to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020, in order to give all people in the world the right to sight. Since the Vision 2020 goal requires eyeglasses for 153 million people who are visually impaired and perhaps 500 million presbyopes that are uncorrected, fund raising is necessary.

Optometry Giving Sight has professional marketing people who in a few short years have done a remarkable job of branding the name. Their sole purpose is to raise money for sustainable vision care projects. In a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in Seattle in June, Optometry Giving Sight pledged a percentage of the funds raised in the United States to VOSH/International, with a minimum of \$75,000 the first two years. Therefore VOSH, but more importantly, those without vision care will benefit from these efforts.

How are the funds used?

Money raised by Optometry Giving Sight must be used for sustainable vision care

projects. Until now, funds raised have been utilized by ICEE for establishing optometry schools and vision centers in Africa, Asia and now in Guyana and the Caribbean. No more than fifteen percent can be utilized for organization administrative expenses. It cannot be used to fund travel expenses for a short term mission or projects involving recycled eyewear. Traditionally, with few exceptions, large fund raising projects have not been undertaken by VOSH chapters. Through this collaboration, VOSH/International and individual VOSH chapters can apply for grants to create local capacity and infrastructure. Individual chapters do not have to turn over their funds to Optometry Giving Sight and are free to do their own fund-raising as before.

How does VOSH complement Optometry Giving Sight?

VOSH has been providing eye care and glasses to the underserved in Latin America for over thirty-five years. We have the manpower, the contacts, and the trust of those needing care as well as the respect of colleagues who understand what we do. Optometry Giving Sight has the marketing people to tell the story of VOSH better than we have been able to do on our own. Through education, Optometry Giving Sight has created the awareness among non-VOSHers regarding the tremendous need for eye care. Consequently, through campaigns such as World Sight Day, they have engaged the support of optometrists, the ophthalmic industry, and the public. By working together, we can have the joint means with which we can eliminate preventable blindness by the year 2020.

Humanitarian of the Year Dr. Ed Tuhy, Sr. VOSH-AZ, VOSH-ND

North Dakota native, Dr. Ed Tuhy, Sr. was honored as VOSH/International Humanitarian of the Year.

Dr. Tuhy graduated from Illinois College of Optometry in 1959 and started his practice in Carrington, North Dakota. Ed cites 1959 as the single most eventful year of his life. He acquired his wife Sheila, his Doctor of Optometry degree, his first practice, and his first child. The next twenty years were spent building a practice, raising a family of six children, and being an active member of community and church organizations. He moved through the chairs of the North Dakota Optometric Association and served two terms on the State Board of Examiners.

It was during the convention of the NDOA in 1979 that Ed and Sheila met Dr.

Doug Torbet from South Dakota who was recruiting volunteers to join their VOSH chapter for a trip to Mexico. This experience impressed upon the Tuhys the great need for eye care in developing countries. The very next winter, Dr. Ed chartered a chapter of VOSH in North Dakota.

Dr. Tuhy then took the initiative and chartered the Carrington Lions Club to collect glasses for VOSH. Over the years, the Tuhys also collaborated with chapters from Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, and Pennsylvania. The Tuhy family has been a dedicated support team, especially his wife, Sheila, and Dr. Ed Tuhy, Jr.

After settling into retirement living in Arizona, where there was no VOSH chapter, Ed began seeking a local service club to sponsor

and assist in organizing one. Saddle Brooke Rotary adopted VOSH as a project providing matching grant money, business expertise, and membership support. VOSH-Arizona was thus chartered in 2002.



New Officers



The new VOSH/International board for 2008-09.

Left to right: Charles Covington (FL), Marcela Frazier, OD (AL), James Vaught, OD (SC), Bina Patel, OD (ONE), Jeff Forrey, OD (NW), Ruth McAndrews, OD (IA), Nelson Rivera, OD (TX), Larry Hookway, OD (OH), Harry Zeltzer, OD (ONE), Greg Pearl, OD (CA).

Fellowship of VOSH/International (F.V.I.)

The fellowship program is designed to encourage the acquisition of knowledge, skills and experience necessary to successfully meet the global challenge of preventable blindness; to foster the development of future leaders prepared to meet that challenge; and to prepare individuals who may be asked to consult with governmental agencies, educational, private, or public institutions, and the media on issues related to the mission of VOSH/International.

New fellows in October 2008 were:
Dr. Michael DeRosier (VOSH/Northwest)
Dr. Richard Ryan (VOSH/Northwest)
Dr. Ruth McAndrews (VOSH/Iowa)

Save the Date: November 15, 2009

The next annual meeting will be Sunday, November 15, 2009 in Orlando, FL. This is following the American Academy of Optometry meeting in Orlando on November 11-14, 2009. This year in addition to representatives from the United States, we had chapter representatives from two Canadian chapters, the Netherlands, and Ecuador. We would like as many chapters as possible to be represented in Orlando, including student representatives.

New Regional Chapter: VOSH/Delaware Valley

VOSH/Del-Val was ratified at the October 2008 annual meeting. This new chapter serves the states of Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey. Their website is www.voshdelval.org.

VOSH/International International Optometric Mentorship Program

By Patti Fuhr, O.D.

VOSH is moving from short-term eye care missions to more sustainable eye care programs in developing and underserved nations. Worldwide optometric education and opportunities vary greatly. VOSH International can have an impact on education and opportunities in developing nations by providing resources that are currently unavailable or unaffordable for students, faculty, and training institutions. These resources may include fellowships, scholarships, mentorship, equipment, lectures, journal, and books. Such activities would allow VOSH to help advance the knowledge of local eye care providers, thus providing highly sustainable advances in eye care in developing nations. A committee has been formed to explore concepts, opportunities, and mechanisms for such VI programs that will help compliment the efforts of the World Council of Optometry (WCO) and the International Center for Eye Care Education (ICEE). Below is a brief summary of the committee's proposal to the VI Board. The committee will continue to work on all aspects of the project and present again to the Board for final approval. Any of you who would like to participate, please contact the chair, Dr. Patti Fuhr, pfuhr@mindspring.com.

Initial Components

1. International Mentorship

Schools of Optometry in developing nations will be invited to register as mentorship sites. This registration will include information necessary for good decision making.

Registered schools will be invited to submit applications of students interested in receiving mentorship. The application will include a personally written statement of interest by the student including their perceptions of practice patterns, limitations and opportunities in their country. Individual ODs or organizations will be invited to become international mentors. They may choose to meet and communicate with their student, provide books, equipment, hands-on education, or financial support as desired. VI will serve as the middleman in the match up of mentors and students.

2. VOSH International Scholars

The committee would like to request start-up funding from VI to initiate a scholarship program for international students, but the scholarship program may be best funded by OGS grants in the future. The scholarship program will include a component of service payback, with the graduate providing eye care

to those in need for a specified period of time. Details of the VI Scholars program must be developed.

3. Donate a Lecture

The committee would like to develop a web based lecture series to be made available to registered faculty and students of schools registered as VI Mentorship sites. Faculty, residents, graduates, and students of schools of optometry will be invited to donate lectures to the project. Resident case reports may be a good source of presentations. The lectures may be in any subject and will be added to the on-line library as a resource. The committee must develop appropriate release documents and work with web experts to assure the materials are used as intended. The lectures should be translated into languages appropriate for those using the websites, starting with Spanish.

4. Donate a Book or Journal

VOSHers and schools will be invited to donate books and journals to be used in registered international programs. Details must be worked out as to who will collect the books and journals and who will be responsible for their disbursement. Perhaps a VOSH chapter would consider this as a special project.

5. Lecture series on Procedures in a VOSH Mission

Dr. Bob Barr of VOSH Florida has developed a series of canned lectures and workshops that can be used by any VOSH doctor as a teaching mechanism for students at any school of optometry interested in working with VOSH missions. Dr. Barr has kindly offered to make these available through VOSH International. This type of lecture and workshop series could be highly valuable in initial contacts with schools of optometry.

6. VOSH Corps

The VOSH Corps as proposed will be similar to Peace Corps, with a 1-2 year commitment post-graduate. The VOSH Corps volunteers will work with registered optometry schools, at their request, teaching and mentoring students in international optometry schools. The VOSH Corps will also present opportunities for professors to participate during sabbatical or retirement. Funding mechanisms must be explored for this program. VI will be working with ICEE, OGS, AOA, and WCO on this program.

Letter from Larry Hookway, O.D.

President of VOSH International

After a great 2008 Annual Meeting we are planning for 2009 in Orlando

We just got back from a very successful annual meeting in Anaheim, California. It was inspiring to hear all of the work being done to address the huge problem of uncorrected refractive error.



Highlights

- Dr. Kovin Naidoo gave a very exciting presentation that gave us background information on the Vision 2020 project and then showed some of the projects being done by the International Centre for Eyecare Education (ICEE).
- Dr. Doug Horner showed us how the optometry school at Indiana University has set up a permanent clinic in Mexico that is a rotation option for the fourth year students.
- Dr. Patti Fuhr outlined the initial planning of a mentoring program for optometry students in developing countries.
- Dr. Greg Pearl gave us an update on both the VOSH International project in Nicaragua and what FUEDEM is doing in El Salvador.
- Dr. Nelson Rivera spoke about the Guyana optometry school that is being established by ICEE.
- Dr. Vic Connors gave a presentation on how VOSH and Optometry Giving Sight can help each other.
- VOSH International received a check for \$75,000 from Optometry Giving Sight to be used for sustainable projects in Latin America
- Dr. Edwin E. Tuhy, Sr. was named the 2008 VOSH International Humanitarian of the Year
- The chapter reports were exciting. It is always heartwarming to hear of all the good work being done by the chapters.

The theme for this year's annual meeting was sustainability. We scheduled speakers that could present examples of sustainable models of vision care. Sustainability is difficult to define; ideally it means that you set up a system that when you step away in a few years continues to run on its own. Short term missions can be used to supplement a sustainable system and to help with the backlog of people who have never had care. VOSH International's goal in Nicaragua is to set up a system of

VOSH/FL and VOSH/International Collaborate to Improve Optometric Education in Latin America

By Paul Anderson, O.D.

In 2003, several members of VOSH-Florida had the pleasure of working with Severo Sanchez, director of the Eurohispano Institute of Optometry and Science in Lima, Peru. What we observed was a professional program established to provide training in refractive and basic ocular health examination skills, but almost totally lacking in clinical equipment. Imagine a school with 155 students and only two phoropters. They had a couple of trial lens kits with trial frames and some hand instruments, such as ophthalmoscopes and retinoscopes.

Our VOSH clinical mission that year was a huge success in terms of number of patients seen and eyeglasses provided, in part due to the student manpower provided by the school. We, in turn, provided mentoring to these students in clinical skills including Goldman tonometry and retinoscopy.

Two years ago, a pilot project was initiated. Max Bruss and VOSH/FL saw an opportunity to complement their program by providing hands-on clinical instruction in order to reinforce their training and introduce some new examination techniques. This instruction was organized by Bob Barr, O.D., whose background includes prior full-time faculty status as a clinic director and ongoing adjunct faculty status as a clinical optometry preceptor. Dr. Barr developed several PowerPoint presentations on topics including retinoscopy and control of accommodation in refraction. These

excellent presentations were then translated into Spanish by Nelson Rivera, O.D. The training was provided as morning lectures with afternoon workshops. A 3-day VOSH clinic followed, providing immediate clinic reinforcement to the training. This program was well received by the student participants.

Now with the support of VOSH/International, VOSH/Florida is planning programs to provide such education on an ongoing basis, including equipment for better training. Additional optometry schools in Peru and other Latin American countries will be included. We are also developing a plan to provide basic instrument sets to the dedicated students that graduate from a qualified program. Most of these students are very poor and cannot afford to complete the entire program, so only about 25% of the students eventually graduate. Many students that leave the program early still become employed to provide some basic level of refractions.

Through this effort, in both professional training and greater access to basic clinical instruments, that we can instill the VOSH philosophy and goals throughout the local professional community of eye care providers in developing countries. With enhanced training and equipment availability, we can expand the capacity of these local optometrists in providing for the needs of their own communities in perpetuity.

ongoing care, and help the optometry school in Managua. And set up a way that the chapters can come with their eye teams and help increase the outreach of the permanent clinics. This model has worked well in El Salvador.

Challenges

- Promote Optometry Giving Sight in your office and to your colleagues. VOSH benefits from the money raised and so do the other groups that are working to eliminate refractive error blindness.
- Make education part of your planning for your short term eye campaigns. Maybe you can train a local person to do screenings or you can help a local optometry school in some way.

- Plan now to come to the 2009 VOSH International Annual meeting

The 2009 annual meeting will be held at the conclusion of the American Academy of Optometry Meeting in Orlando Florida on Sunday November 15, 2009. The theme of the meeting will be how VOSH Chapters are doing sustainable work. If your chapter is involved in sustainable work we want you to have someone speak about your project at the meeting.

In conclusion, I want to again encourage all of the chapters to attend the next annual meeting. Those that came this year said it was very rewarding. We need representatives from all of the chapters to attend.

Dr. Marcela Frazier Featured in June Review of Optometry

Excerpts reprinted with permission from Jane Cole, Special Projects Editor

The June 15 Review of Optometry highlighted ten female optometrists who are making an indelible impact on the profession. Dr. Frazier was featured for her humanitarian leadership.

Optometrist Marcela Frazier knows all too well how one pair of glasses can change a life forever. She grew up in Columbia, and her mother didn't have the means to buy her young daughter a pair of glasses, even though her first eye exam, in a free clinic at the age of 13, revealed that she was -12.00D in both eyes. "I was actually hit by a car when I was young because I couldn't see," Dr. Frazier recalls.

Today, Dr. Frazier, an assistant professor of optometry at the University of Alabama, has made it her personal mission to offer free screenings to children and members of the Hispanic community in her area, and to educate parents on the importance of eye exams for their children. "I wanted to do something to help children who couldn't get eye care and help educate parents as well," she says. Since 2001, Dr. Frazier and a group of volunteers have helped 3,000 Hispanic patients in Alabama by offering eye exams, glasses, and referrals.

No matter her endeavor, colleagues praise Dr. Frazier for both her drive and compassion. "Dr. Frazier is one of the hardest working women I have ever met, says UAB Assistant Professor, Wendy Marsh-Tootle, O.D. "She goes the extra mile for anyone who needs her help, whether for a patient, a colleague, a friend or an agency seeking to improve health for children."

Early in her community work, Dr. Frazier encountered a challenge. The University of Alabama was donating the exams free of charge, but Dr. Frazier discovered that parents weren't bringing their children in for vision screenings. She launched a study to find out why, and the results were surprising.

"The parents said they didn't think their children needed eye care because their eyes were new and not broken yet," she says. "Also, they said that in their country, people didn't need glasses; they were not necessary." The parents told Dr. Frazier that it was something



Dr. Frazier presents for VOSH/International at the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness

in the United States that was causing their children's vision problems.

In an effort to better educate parents on the need for their children's vision screenings, Dr. Frazier created a video that is shown at screenings and distributed among schools so that children can take the videos home to share with their parents. "We have seen a huge increase in the number of parents taking children in for exams as result," she says.

Besides giving free screenings to children, Dr. Frazier participates in VOSH clinics in Central America as well as being a VI board director. She hopes to continue to help change lives—just as her life was changed—by just one pair of glasses.

Eyes Of The World 5k



On the afternoon of November 1, 2008, the New England College of Optometry's chapter of VOSH hosted their first annual "Eyes of the World 5K" in Artesani Park, Brighton, MA. Over seventy runners came out to support the event, helping to raise just over \$1200 to go towards financing their upcoming VOSH mission in April 2009. Race organizer Jen Salvo was impressed by the turnout. "It was a beautiful day for the run, which was a big help. We had an enthusiastic band of runners and walkers come out for the 5K. It was great to see NECO students, faculty, and friends supporting VOSH so enthusiastically. Some people even wore their Halloween costumes! It was wonderful to get their support," she commented. Encouraged by the success of this year's event, VOSH-NECO is optimistic for next year's 5K, hoping to increase participation by one hundred percent.

By Wendy Crusberg



VOSH-Florida Yeguarizo, Paraguay 2008

By Mailynn Pham, Third-Year ICO

Paraguay is a landlocked country surrounded by Argentina, Bolivia, and Brazil. It has a population of 6.5 million with more than one-third of its population living in poverty.

The Clyde E. Bay Foundation was inaugurated in 1999 in Paraguay, South America. Clyde E. Bay and his wife, Celmira (Ellie) Bay utilized their life savings to start the medical clinic. In 2003, Clyde passed away leaving Ellie as Director of the clinic. Ellie is a registered nurse and retired from working for the Peace Corp in Paraguay. Since its opening, the foundation has grown and expanded to offer its services in general medicine, dentistry, gynecology, mental health, pediatrics, emergency medical transport services, and pharmacy. The foundation also has two technical nursing schools. Charles Covington led the team with participants from Florida, Minnesota, Texas, Illinois, Argentina, Canada, and New Zealand. Students were from Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago and University of Waterloo in Ontario. Peace Corps volunteers came to help translate and were a tremendous help.

Our team was up early as breakfast was at 7 a.m. and we still had to finish setting up before clinic opened at 8 a.m. As we walked across the yard from the clinic and sleeping quarters to eat, to our surprise, there were many people already waiting to be seen by us. We had barely started clinic that morning when a very young crying and screaming boy was brought in by his mother. Upon observation, one eye was red, the eyelid swollen, and the boy could not open his eyes due to the pronounced edema. This young boy and his treatment for preceptal cellulitis set the tone of how clinic was going to be—long, difficult, educational, but very rewarding. Other notable cases that were seen included retinal detachments, albinism, Toxoplasmosis, diabetic retinopathy, hypertensive retinopathy, glaucoma, cataracts, and strabismus. Day 2 proved to be even more exciting and rewarding. One man came in having been shot in the



eye with the bullet having exited out of his head. Probably our most memorable occurrence of the day was an elderly woman who brought in a jar with a long worm in it. Earlier in the day, she had coughed it up out of her mouth and she was so proud showing it off to everyone and she even posed for pictures with it. One patient came in with intraocular pressures of OD 79 mmHg and OS 18 mmHg. With repeated instillation of IOP-lowering drugs, the pressures were brought down to OD 28.

The clinic on Day 3 brought a young boy who had suffered had a machete accident when he was just a few years old. Interesting pa-

tients included one with posterior synechiae, a metallic foreign body that was removed by Dr. Spencer, and a patient suffering a seizure while trying to do visual acuities. New pathology on Day 4 included Duane's Retractions Syndrome and a corneal abrasion from barbed wire. That night, after dinner, local dancers came to dance for us in their cultural dresses. We were all touched by their offer of appreciation. Finally, on the last day, a young man had a Cloquet's canal running from his optic disc to his lens. Approximately 2500 patients later and 139 cataract referrals of which 42 received eye glasses, it was difficult to comprehend how they all walked around in their daily lives with no refractive correction. Imagine a world without your glasses and imagine seeing a blurry image of your child every time you look at him/her. Something so simple such as clear vision that is taken for granted daily was so greatly appreciated by these patients. I will always carry in my heart the kindness, love, and compassion that my Paraguayan "family" not only showed to the patients, but to each other as well. Witnessing their gratitude and appreciation for the difference that we made in their vision was incredibly rewarding.



World Sight Day

www.v2020.org



120 University of Alabama optometry students met the World Sight Day challenge with a pledge to Optometry Giving Sight.

World Sight Day (WSD) is an annual day of awareness held on the second Thursday of October, to focus global attention on blindness and vision impairment.

On World Sight Day, VISION 2020 members work together to:

- Raise public awareness of blindness and vision impairment as major international public health issues
- Influence Governments/Ministers of Health to participate in and designate funds for national blindness prevention programs
- Educate target audiences about blindness prevention, about VISION 2020 and its activities, and to generate support for VISION 2020 program activities

International Key Messages

- Approximately 314 million people suffer serious vision impairment
- Of these, 45 million people are blind and 124 million have low vision
- Yet 75% of blindness is avoidable - i.e. treatable and/or preventable
- 90% of vision impaired people live in developing countries
- Restorations of sight, and blindness prevention strategies are among the most cost-effective interventions in health care
- 153 million people's vision impairment is due to uncorrected refractive errors. In most cases, normal vision could be restored with eyeglasses
- Aging populations and lifestyle changes mean that chronic blinding conditions such as diabetic retinopathy are now rising
- Women face a greater risk of vision loss than men
- Without effective, major intervention, the number of blind people worldwide is projected to increase to 76 million by 2020.

- Dec 28 - Jan 12, KAKINADA, INDIA (OR) Ann Edmonds, O.D., annedmonds@comcast.net
- Dec 28 - Jan 12, SANTA BARBARA, HONDURAS, (OR) Ann Edmonds, O.D., annedmonds@comcast.net
- Dec 29 - Jan 8, GUAYQUIL, ECUADOR (UCBCO) vosh.president@gmail.com
- Jan, VIET NAM (SANTA CRUZ, QUEBEC) Pierre Labine, pierre.labine@sympatico.ca
- Jan 9 - 19, COYA PERU (MI) Heidi Schefferly, O.D., scheffod@tds.net
- Jan 10 - 17, SAN JUAN DEL SUR, NICARAGUA (CT) Dr. Matt or Audrey Blondin, mblond2@aol.com
- Jan 10 - 18, OCOTAL NICARAGUA (OH) Larry Hookway, O.D. larry@hookwayeyecare.com
- Jan 16 - 25, DOMINICA, W.I. (SVOSH-MI) Dan Wrubel, O.D., wrubeld@ferris.edu
- Jan 24 - Feb 1, SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR (Northeast) Carl Sakovitz, O.D., islanddoc5@aol.com
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- Feb 7 - 14, SAN JUAN DE LA MAGUANA, DR (WI) Jan White, jansoptical@powerweb.net
- Feb 13 - 22, SANCARLOS, MEXICO (MI) Jill Cole, cofamily@chartermi.net
- Feb 18 - 27, TALANGA, HONDURAS (MN) Laurie Baalson, kenlor@emily.net
- Feb 21 - Mar 1, CAMPECHE, MEXICO (VA) Nancy Clark, O.D., dnbclark@verizon.net
- Feb 26 - Mar 5, HONDURAS (CA) Michael Deegan mdeegan@allsaintsbh.org
- Feb, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (WI), Mark Ebben, O.D. drebben@sbcglobal.net
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- Mar 6 - 15, CHINANDEGA, NICARAGUA (FL) Suzy Bamberg, suzybamberg@cox.net
- Mar 14 - 21 ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA (ONE) Derek Feifke, O.D., decabs@aol.com
- Mar 24 - 28, LORETO BAJA SUR, MEXICO (CA) Deborah Wright-DeMaderios, Deborah@wrightmedia.com
- Mar 27 - Apr 6 LA ESPERANZA, HONDURAS (MI) Bob Foote, O.D., bobfooteod@charter.net
- Mar 30 - Apr 4, PHILLIPINES (OR) Ann Edmonds, O.D., annedmonds@comcast.net
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- Fall, ARMENIA (ONE) Linda Bennett, O.D., lbennettod@earthlink.net
- Nov., MEXICO (SANTA CRUZ-QUEBEC) Pierre Labine, pierre.labine@sympatico.ca
- Dec. 28 - Jan 12, 2010 KAKINADA, INDIA (OR) Ann Edmonds, O.D., annedmonds@comcast.net



Dr. Beckman and her brother at the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

New Overhead Carry-on Holds Phoropter and Portable Stand

The C-109 Case with foam cut-outs holds: Phoropter, spring arm for phoropter, double lock table clamp, and hand instruments. Contact JCadena@aol.com or visit www.AffordablePortables.org.

ICare Tonometer

The new ICare tonometer can easily be used by a non-OD and no anesthetic needed, thus empowering a lay person to do a technician job, and freeing a doctor. VOSH-PA and VOSH-AL have both used it on a mission trip. PA compared its readings to Goldman on the same patients in the office with excellent results. AL did both types of tonometry on the same patients when working with RAM and also achieved the same readings. The case is about the size of a hardback book. More information is available on their website <http://www.icare.fi/index.php?page=product-info>. PA purchased theirs from Ed Kramer at Beitler McKee (412-779-4651). Be sure to tell him if it is for a VOSH group.

Music for the Eyes

On Sunday, June 15, Viola Kanevsky, O.D. and Optician Doug Dinger sponsored their second annual "Music for the Eyes" benefit concert at Grace and St. Paul's Church, located on New York City's upper west side.

Dr. Anna Pelekh, world-renowned violinist and teacher, volunteered to play and present some of her students for this special event. It brought together doctors, surgeons, opticians, patients, musicians and community members to enjoy an evening of beautiful music; and raised over \$10,000 for VOSH-NY. The concert can be viewed on Acuity NYC's website, www.acuitynyc.com. The success of the event was truly testament to how much good can be achieved when the ophthalmic community comes together to work for a common cause.



VOSH-Pennsylvania

The National Catholic Reporter chronicles Dr. Doug Vilella's journey from prayer and meditation to the Vincent Pescatore Clinic in Guatemala. For the complete story see <http://ncronline3.org/drupal/?q=node/1878>. The efforts of Doug and VOSH-PA were recognized by VI in 2006 by the Humanitarian of the Year Award.

Dr. Kathryn Beckman found that the Mt. Kilimanjaro Climb for Sight peaked her interest. Optometric Management (www.optometric.com) published a summary of her experiences in the October issue.

VOSH-Connecticut



Dr. Jerry Hardison

VOSH-CT received a citation by Governor Jodi Rell in commemoration of their tenth year of service to Nicaragua. Their latest clinic in San Juan del Sur was reviewed in the October 6 AOA News Spotlight on AOA Members. For a complete report of their project see www.drblondin.com/vosh.html.

ICO Matters

The summer 2008 issue of ICO Matters, magazine of the Illinois College of Optometry, explored the institution's involvement in worldwide eye care.

ICO has a long association with VOSH. Dr. Franklin Harms, founder of VOSH, was a graduate of ICO. Several presidents of V/I have also been ICO graduates, including current President Larry Hookway and three Past-Presidents from the ICO Class of 1979: Dr. Wayne VanderLeest, Dr. Jim Hess and Dr. Ruth McAndrews. In 2007 the V/I Humanitarian of the Year was awarded to Past ICO President Dr. Alfred Rosenbloom. This year's Humanitarian of the Year, Dr. Ed Tuhy, Sr. is also an ICO graduate.

The complete magazine can be viewed at www.ico.edu.

VOSH/Florida

Equipment For Sale

Trial lens sets (104 or 48 pieces), trial frames, retinoscopy bars and more are available. Visit www.vosh-florida.org/store2.htm.

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL is a voluntary non-profit organization whose primary goal is to facilitate the provision of vision care worldwide to people who neither can afford nor obtain such care.

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL accomplishes this goal by serving as a coordinating body for affiliated chapters. It provides administrative support of chapter activities. It also provides promotional opportunities to encourage the formation of new chapters and recruitment of new members.

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL is a non-sectarian and non-political organization. Currently there are 33 independent chapters and 24 university-affiliated chapters.

www.VOSH.org

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