

# VOSH/INTERNATIONAL

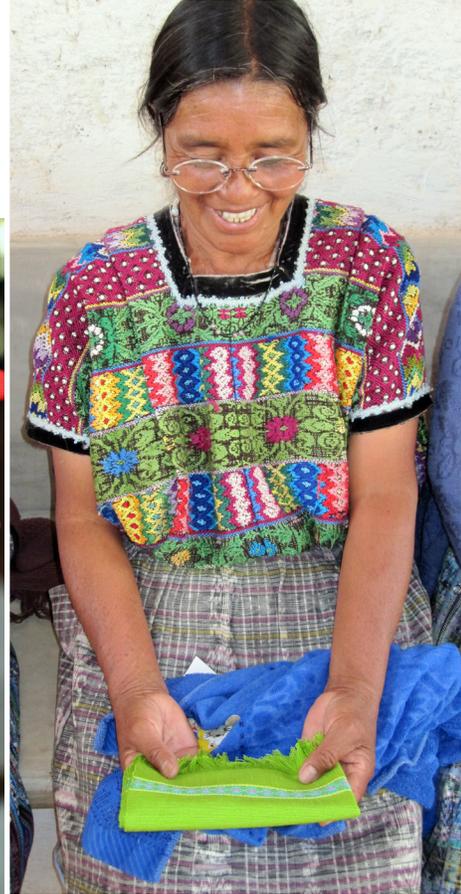
Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity



# 2010

## ANNUAL REPORT

[www.vosh.org](http://www.vosh.org)



# Who We Are

## VOSH/International 2010

*President Greg Pearl, OD, FVI*

Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH) is a non-political and non-sectarian organization with a proud 39 year history of providing eye examinations and eyeglasses to underserved communities throughout the world. Our founder, Franklin Harms OD, began VOSH after organizing annual clinic trips to rural villages in northern Mexico with his colleagues from Kansas. Today, VOSH volunteers continue to pay all their own travel expenses to provide the gift of sight to over 100,000 patients annually. The clinics are primarily throughout Latin America but are also in other developing nations and in the United States.

VOSH/International supports the 50 independent state, regional, student and national VOSH chapters through our website at [www.VOSH.org](http://www.VOSH.org) and our annual meeting. We are present in the exhibit hall of every major optometric convention, which provides opportunities for communication and recruitment of new members.

As a signatory to the Vision 2020 initiative of the World Health Organization, VOSH is committed to increasing local optometric service capacity. Our Technology Transfer Program triages badly-needed serviceable ophthalmic equipment to optometric schools in developing nations.

Our ambitious agenda of development projects and our support of our chapters' extraordinary clinic work would not be possible without the generous contributions from the optical industry and our funding partnership with OptometryGivingSight. We also must thank the tireless dedication of our all-volunteer VOSH/International Board of Directors and staff.

## VOSH/International Governance Team



## VOSH/International Moving into the Future

*By C. Ellis Potter, OD, FAAO, FVI,  
VOSH/International President Elect*

Since Dr. Franklin Harms started VOSH in 1971, millions of patients have been attended by thousands of dedicated volunteers. His dream of using recycled glasses, that had no use or value, was a brilliant humanitarian concept that made perfect sense. Volunteers, optometrists, and ophthalmologists examined these patients and provided the closest available prescription.

This all worked well for many years, but times have changed. There is the large percentage of donated multifocals that are progressive designs, poor quality donated spectacles, and the true handling cost of processing these materials. Public health expectations now are for new eyewear, custom prescriptions, and sustainable care. Finally, we now have the availability of low cost alternatives.

VOSH, as one of the signatories of VISION 2020 THE RIGHT TO SIGHT, has pledged to eliminate preventable blindness by the year 2020. Of the many blindness conditions, refractive error blindness may be the most prevalent and the most correctable condition. The treatment exists: It's simply a matter of getting the right prescription, at the right price to the right location and the right patient.

The NEW VOSH is pledged to promote sustainable clinics, support optometric education, train personnel, provide material, and research the most effective means to bring eye care to as many people as possible.

All of this will assist VOSH in advocating for and providing sustainable vision care and hope for people world-wide who can neither afford nor obtain such care. Keeping the end in sight; we want VOSH to help others care for themselves.

*L to R: Natalie Venezia (Secretary); Mike DeRosier, OD, FVI (Director); Ellis Potter, OD, FAAO, FVI (President-Elect); Greg Pearl, OD, FVI (President); Larry Hookway, OD, FVI (Immediate Past-President); Ruth McAndrews, OD, FVI (Past-President, Newsletter co-Editor); Vic Connors, OD (Optometry Giving Sight representative); Charles Covington, FVI (Treasurer); John Spencer, OD (Director); Harry Zeltzer, OD, DOS, FAAO, FVI (Past-President, Executive Director); John Gehrig, Esq. (Legal Counsel); Dale Cole, OD, FVI (Past-President, Historian).*

*Not pictured: David McPhillips, OD, FAAO (director); Bina Patel, OD, FAAO (director); James Vaught, OD (director); Deborah Wright-DeMadeiras (Board Administrator); Todd Fleischer (Newsletter Co-Editor).*

# VOSH Chapters 2010

**CANADA:** British Columbia (Third World Eye Care Society), Ontario, Santa Cruz (Quebec); **HONDURAS; NETHERLANDS; NICARAGUA** (VOSH/Int'l Pro-Vision); **UNITED STATES:** Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware Valley (PA, DE, NJ), Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Northeast (MD, RI), North Carolina, Northwest (WA, ID, AK), Ohio, ONE (of New England), Oregon, South Dakota, Southeast (AL, FL, GA, SC, MS), Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

## ***Chapters Affiliated with Colleges of Optometry:***

Argentina: VOSH-University of La Plata, Bolivia: Optometry School at Centro de Educacion, Canada: VOSH-University of Waterloo, Ghana: VOSH-KNUST, VOSH-UCC, Colombia: VOSH-LaSalle, VOSH-Santo Thomas, Nigeria: VOSH-UNIBEN, VOSH-ABIA, Peru: VOSH-SOS, United States: Illinois College of Optometry, Indiana U.School of Optometry, Inter-American U. of Puerto Rico School of Optometry, Midwestern University, Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State U., New England College of Optometry, Northeastern State U. College of Optometry, NOVA Southeastern U. College of Optometry, Ohio State U. College of Optometry, Pacific U. College of Optometry, Salus University College of Optometry, Southern CA College of Optometry, Southern College of Optometry, State U. of New York State College of Optometry, U. of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry, U. of CA, Berkely School of Optometry, U. of Missouri-St. Louis School of Optometry, U. of Houston College of Optometry, Western University College of Optometry



## **VOSH Clinics 2010**

VOSH continues to grow. In 2010 we welcomed the chapters in North Carolina, Western University of Optometry, and the optometry school at Centro de Educacion Profesional Filadelfia in LaPaz, Boliva. VOSH volunteers conducted eighty-eight eye care clinics. Details can be found at [www.VOSH.org](http://www.VOSH.org). VOSH volunteers have been active in providing eye care in the United States as well as outside the U.S.A. A few of these include clinics for the homeless in Washington State, the Cahaba Valley clinic serving the Hispanic community in Alabama, and collaboration with Remote Area Medical clinics in Virginia and California. For a complete list of clinic dates and locations see [www.vosh.org](http://www.vosh.org).

## **Student VOSH 2010**

Each of the Colleges of Optometry in the United States has a student (“S-VOSH”) chapter. S-VOSH activities include mission participation, local humanitarian ventures, lab work, and fundraising. Many of our most active chapter participants had their first exposure to humanitarian eye care as a student.

One example of a student domestic project is by the S-VOSH chapter at the New England College of Optometry where S-VOSH students have been providing eye care at the Sharewood Clinic in Boston. It is a free healthcare clinic offering unscheduled care to the medically underserved populations in the Boston area. Sharewood is staffed by volunteer physicians, medical students, other health professions students, and translators. For over four years, the S-VOSH group has been providing vision screenings at the clinic once a month.

The S-VOSH ONE students feel that not only has Sharewood become a learning venue for optometry students, but also serves to further develop a deeper relationship with the Sharewood student medical doctors. In addition to providing comprehensive eye care to the local underserved population, Sharewood represents a great opportunity to learn and teach these young medical doctors what optometry can do for them and their future patients.

Recognizing this important role S-VOSH plays on the humanitarian stage, VOSH-Int'l is committed to increasing its support to the respective school chapters. By encouraging and helping create an interactive environment among S-VOSH chapters, VOSH-Int'l believes that increased productive participation both locally and internationally will result. Our mutual goal of providing eye care to those in need deserves no less.

# VOSH Provides Vision Care in the Two of the Poorest Countries of the Western Hemisphere

## Haiti

Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. In the last five years, volunteer VOSH teams have examined over 30,000 people, providing thousands of people with prescription eyeglasses, sunglasses and eye medication. VOSH has partnered with local eye surgeons to provide cataract and glaucoma surgery, which are very prevalent conditions in the Haitian population.

VOSH has also formed partnerships with several other organizations that are providing eye care and health services to Haitians. We are coordinating with them to build a full service social and sustainable eye clinic in Cap Haitien, the second largest city in Haiti. This clinic would also provide the only full service optical lab in northern Haiti as well as surgical eye care to a population of over 1 million people. The project is currently under construction and is planned to be completed in 2011.

Sustainability in these efforts is very important and would not be possible without the cooperation of all of the organizations and volunteers involved.

The VOSH/Delaware Valley chapter has also recently launched a microbusiness program where they are training local entrepreneurs to provide vision screenings, reading glasses,



and sunglasses. They are also teaching local health promoters to involve the eye in their primary health care efforts.

VOSH can be proud that all of the donations to VOSH projects in Haiti have been used to care for patients, as well as improve and expand the quality of eye care in Haiti. Rather than just providing eye care to a few people we can become effective providers and educators of eye care for the country.

## Nicaragua

### ProVision Clinic

VOSH/International has established the Pro-Vision Clinic and an outreach component in Managua, Nicaragua. In its second year it's almost sustainable. The project directed by Dr. Greg Pearl is sponsored by Walman Optical. The outreach team goes to areas of need and averages seeing 250 people per day at these clinics.

### Study of Presbyopia in Nicaragua

VOSH/International in collaboration with the International Centre for Eye care Education (ICEE) is conducting a population study of presbyopia in Nicaragua. Past-VI President, Dr. Larry Hookway is directing the project using a protocol developed by the World Health Organization. The outcome will determine both the prevalence of presbyopia in Nicaragua and the impact of uncorrected presbyopia on the productivity of the Nicaraguan people. This project was funded by a grant from OptometryGivingSight.



## Creating Sustainable Eye Care in Latin America

### UNAN Optometry School in Managua, Nicaragua

VOSH/International has held an annual Vision Forum in Nicaragua for three years. Representatives from the Ministry of Health, non-governmental organizations, and service groups interested in eye care are all invited. During one of these forums the idea of a new optometry school was born. UNAN is the major state university in Nicaragua that provides a medical school as well as other health sciences. Under the direction of VOSH representative, Dr. Roger Juarez, a curriculum has been established; and in February, 2011 the first class of 50 students in the new four year optometry program will begin their studies. VOSH/International will continue to help in acquiring text books, equipment, and other visual science teaching materials.



### XOCHILCALCO School of Optometry in Tijuana, Mexico

VOSH/ International and VOSH/CA, with the support of a grant from OptometryGivingSight have facilitated the building of a clinic for the Xochilcalco School of Optometry in Tijuana, Mexico. The clinic opened in November 2010 and is serving the poorest population of Tijuana. VOSH has provided equipment for the clinic and new frames for the dispensary. Construction costs were sponsored by the OptometryGivingSight grant. VOSH will be reimbursed with \$2.00 per patient examined until the investment is re-paid in full.

## Peru

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL and regional chapter VOSH/SOUTHEAST have established and developed continued relationships and partnerships with two ministries of the Peruvian Government, the four principal schools of optometry in Lima, and other NGO's active in humanitarian vision care.

Two government literacy programs were strongly supported by VOSH in 2010. VOSH/SE provided over 65,000 frames and 25,000 lenses to the Ver A Aprender (See To Learn) Program, an effort to test the vision of children 3-8 years



of age. VOSH also supported the Ver A Leer (See to Read) Program by providing thousands of spectacles to the Ministry of Education. The program screens illiterate people and then provides them with glasses so they can then learn to read.

One of the ongoing service group collaborations is with the Lady Lions of INO for whom we provide 10,000 frames each year for indigent patients. In 2010, the Lady Lions screened all athletes for the Special Olympics in Lima. In 2010 VOSH also supported the Ladies in their establishment of the La Molina Eye Clinic. VOSH again donated thousands of frames and lenses. Students from our partnering optometry schools did the exams for the Special Olympics. In the new clinic the optometry students do examinations as well as fabricate spectacles from VOSH frames and lenses.

Once again, Peru is an example of collaboration and cooperation with other organizations to achieve ongoing provision of eye care and additional educational opportunities in the training of new optometrists.

# Technology Transfer Program

Imagine the wide, happy smile on your face as you receive the acceptance letter from the new school of optometry in your country. Another milestone on your journey: you finally get to actually use one of the two ophthalmoscopes that the school has. You have been shown how to use them for the past two years and have anxiously awaited your turn to use the precious instruments. How thrilling it is to actually see the blood vessels in the back of a classmate's eye! It would have been so cool to be able to use the instruments earlier in school, but there were two other classes of students in front of yours also waiting for their time with the few instruments available; and there were those two long months when the instruments were broken and had to be sent away to be repaired.

This is one of the experiences that the TTP program is trying to change. Our goal is to provide equipment to each developing optometry school so that all students can have experience using the day-to-day instruments as early in their training as possible. Our mission is to collect instruments and equipment from offices in the United States and act as a conduit for schools of optometry and clinics in the third world.



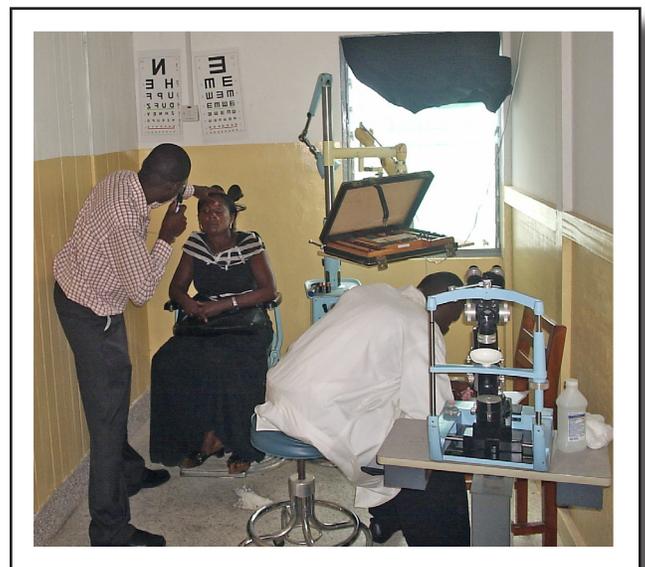
## In this fifth year of the TTP program we have:

- developed a protocol to request equipment and instruments
- established a storage facility to house equipment and instrument donations
- found and appointed a dedicated and capable person to manage the operations of the equipment facility
- established a resource to evaluate and refurbish donated instruments and equipment
- developed an online inventory system so that we can access what is in stock immediately from any location with internet access
- shipped equipment to countries in the northern and southern hemispheres
- obtained grants to fund our operation
- become a repository for donated new frames to be shipped to our chapters and to clinics in other countries.



This past year VOSH has made and shipped large donations of equipment and supplies have been made to optometry schools and clinics in these developing nations:

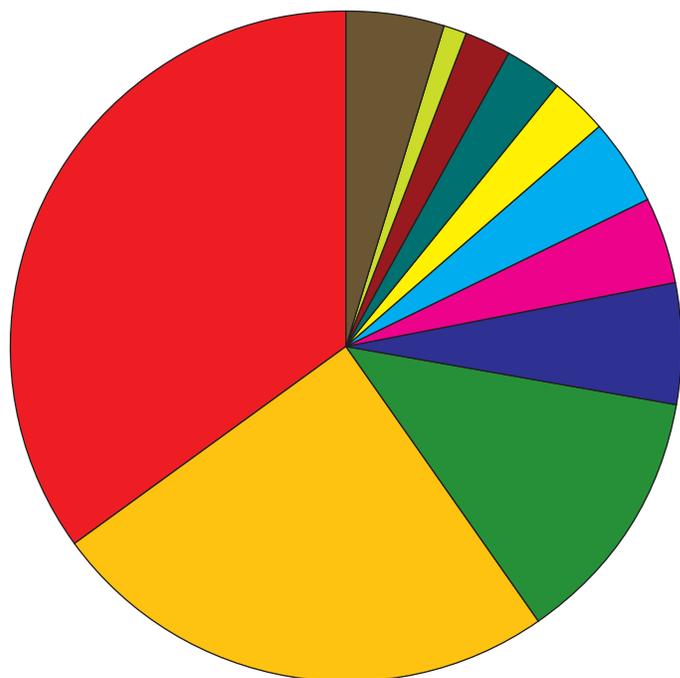
- Nicaragua- More than 30,000 eyeglass frames, lenses and several lensometers
- Peru - To several schools of optometry and permanent sustainable clinics and Peruvian Government and non-governmental organization programs: Textbooks, hand instruments such as Handles, Ophthalmoscopes, Retinoscopes, 165 surgical instruments, thousands of frames and lenses, autorefractors, several 104 piece Trial Lens Sets, Trial Frames and Pediatric Trial Frames
- Trinidad and Tobago The brand new Bachelor in Optometry program at the University of the West Indies received the following major teaching and practice tools and many more incidental hand held items: JCC Sets, Ret Bars, Flippers, Textbooks, Budget Frames, Contact Kits, Keratometer, Lensometers, 104 Piece Lens Sets, Trial Lens Frames, Manual Edgers



## Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity, Inc. for the Year Ended 2009 and 2010

	2009	2010
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$114,946.74</b>	<b>\$95,435.50</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Annual Meeting	\$3,752.32	\$3,641.16
Chapter Dues	\$3,200.00	\$3,124.42
Donations	\$35,646.10	\$11,809.83
FVI Program	\$450.00	
Interest	\$161.28	\$31.91
Walman Grant	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00
Grants	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
OGS Funding	\$40,000.00	\$92,500.00
Misc		\$61.41
	<b>\$163,209.70</b>	<b>\$191,168.73</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Donations		\$500.00
Annual Meeting	\$13,423.94	\$21,555.81
Board Meetings	\$2,634.26	\$1,525.51
Awards	\$444.05	\$129.21
Bank Charges	\$89.25	\$206.95
Legal	\$275.00	\$272.14
Contract Labor	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00
FVI Program	\$360.14	
Dues and Subscriptions	\$2,416.68	\$3,911.69
Newsletter	\$2,280.07	\$4,687.92
Conferences	\$1,289.09	\$918.82
Trade Shows		\$2,682.68
Postage	\$628.72	\$910.17
Supplies	\$4,976.26	\$4,749.06
Telephone	\$248.59	\$630.30
Website	\$2,298.40	\$2,080.22
Project Distributions	\$144,156.49	\$120,199.68
Misc		\$357.43
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$182,720.94</b>	<b>\$172,517.59</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>\$95,435.50</b>	<b>\$114,086.64</b>

## Spending by Category January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2010



34.91%	Walman Grant Nicaragua Project
24.58%	Presbyopia Population Study
12.49%	Annual Meeting Expense: 2010 Annual Meeting Las Vegas
5.86%	OGS Xochicaico Grant
4.31%	Kahn Grant Distributions
4.17%	Contract Services
2.75%	Supplies
2.73%	Newsletter Expenses
2.27%	Dues and Subscriptions
1.27%	Website
4.75%	Other

## Gifts In Kind to VOSH/International 2010

### Governance Team:

Executive Director	1.00 full-time equivalent
President	.50 FTE
Legal, Meetings, Communications, Admin.	.75 FTE
Technology Transfer Program	.75 FTE

### Frames:

Davis Vision  
ICare  
Oakley  
Dr. Jay Greenstein

### Projectors:

Acuity-Pro

### Pharmaceuticals:

Alcon

# The VOSH Experience

The leading cause of preventable blindness is uncorrected refractive error and this is how VOSH teams make a difference. Imagine being unable to cook or sew for your family just because you didn't have glasses to see. Imagine if you made shoes for a living and were unable to provide for your family just because you could no longer see your work. Imagine if you drive a taxi for a living but no longer can see well enough to drive. Imagine if you were fortunate enough to be able to go to school, your escape route from the cycle of poverty in your family; but were so nearsighted you couldn't see to learn. In all of these examples you become a burden to your family. An inexpensive pair of eyeglasses has a huge impact not only on an individual, but on poverty.

Vision is our business. Helping patients see better is our goal. Many of those we have examined had never had eye examinations. They have suffered years of poor eyesight or lost glasses. They have never appreciated the visual efficiency given by a simple lens device. In fact, they had succumbed to the mystery of gradually worsening eyesight. It is the smiles, the tears of joy, the thanks, the hugs, the singing, the dancing, the token gifts but most of all it's the knowledge that the patients have left with more than a pair of glasses. It is the knowledge that we have given something that many have never had before; it is knowing that someone cares and that there is a ray of hope for a better future.

We could not do this without the thousands of volunteer hours by our VOSH/International team, our chapter participants, and our special sponsors:

- OptometryGivingSight
- Walman Optical
- Esther Kahn Foundation
- Vistakon



**OPTOMETRYGIVINGSIGHT**