



**VOSH/INTERNATIONAL**  
 Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity



**2011**  
**Annual Report**



# VOSH/International 2011

By President C. Ellis Potter, OD, FAAO, FVI

VOSH! We do much! We have much to do!

VOSH International continues as an aide organization where thousands of our volunteers attend over one hundred thousand patients annually. We:

- function as a developmental organization to lead efforts toward sustainable clinics.
- provide advice, support, and equipment for optometry schools and training clinics.
- interact with our Student VOSH chapters to provide guidance and support toward student clinics.
- represent our chapters in International Preventable Blindness vision forums.
- provide a visible presence at major meeting exhibit halls and conferences.
- provide an educational experience at our annual meeting highlighting international vision care projects.
- collaborate with other vision care organizations to formulate plans toward the elimination of preventable eye problems.

- participate in research studies determining the degree of vision problems.
- advocate for eliminating refractive error handicaps and for optimum eye health.
- seek and support the best training methods for eye care personnel.
- encourage state of the art vision care interventions with demonstrations at the annual meeting.
- maintain our website as an online source for the dissemination of VOSH news and activities.

We do much! We have much to do! We are limited only by our interest and dedication. Our imagination determines our possibilities!

Together our chapters, VOSH/International Board of Directors, sponsors, donors, and others; all of whom are volunteers, make a difference for the furthering of our mission statement: "...to facilitate the provision and the sustainability of vision care worldwide for people who can neither afford nor obtain such care."

Thanks to all!

## VOSH/International 2011 Governance Team



Left to right: John Gehrig, Esq. (Legal Counsel); Deb Wright-DeMadeiros (Event Planner); Harry Zeltzer, OD, DOS, FAAO, FVI (Executive Director, Webmaster); Gret Pearl, OD, FVI (Immediate Past-President); Ruth McAndrews, OD, FVI (Newsletter Co-Editor); Mike DeRosier, OD, FVI (Director); Clive Miller (Optometry Giving Sight); Charles Covington, FVI (Treasurer); James Vaught, OD (Director); John Spencer, OD (Director); Natalie Venezia, Esq. (Secretary); Leslie Walls OD, MD, DOS (Director); Bina Patel OD (past director); David McPhillips, OD, FAAO (Vice-President); Ellis Potter, OD, FAAO, FVI (President); Dale Cole OD, FVI (Historian) Not pictured: Tracy Matchinski, OD, FAAO (Director); Ellen Weiss, O.D. (Director); Todd Fleisher (Newsletter Co-Editor)

## VOSH Chapters and Officers 2011

**CANADA:** British Columbia (TWECS): Marina Roma-March, OD; Ontario: Kara Peterson; Santa Cruz (Quebec): Joel Ries

**HONDURAS:** Ruth Berkling

**NETHERLANDS:** Imran Khan, OD

**NICARAGUA:** (VOSH/Int'l Pro-Vision): Dr. Alejandro Narvaez

**UNITED STATES:** Arizona: David R. Stacy, OD; California: Shirley Hong, OD; Colorado: Jay Greenstein, OD; Connecticut: Matt Blondin, OD; Delaware Valley (PA, DE, NJ): Christine Smith, RN, OD; Illinois: Tracy Matchinski, OD; Indiana: Jeff Marshall, OD; Iowa: Barbara Scheetz, OD; Kansas: Doug Ball, OD and Diana Carriger; Kentucky: Greg Hagedorn; Michigan: Scott Chenard, ABOC, FNAO; Minnesota: Bob Boeding; Missouri: Bud Falkenhain, OD; Nebraska: Ellen Weiss, OD; New York: Jorge Won, OD; Northeast (MD, RI): Carl Sakovits, OD; North Carolina: Jill Scullion, OD; Northwest (WA, ID, AK): Jeff Forrey, OD; Ohio: Mark David Pifer, OD; ONE (of New England): Wendy Crusberg, OD; Oregon: Ann Slocum-Edmonds, OD; South Dakota: Thomas Garrity, OD; Southeast (AL, FL, GA, SC, MS): Paul Anderson, OD; Virginia: Nancy Clark, OD; Wisconsin: Mark Ebben, OD; Wyoming: Mark Wells, OD

**CHAPTERS AFFILIATED WITH COLLEGES OF OPTOMETRY:** Argentina: VOSH-University of La Plata, Laura Brusi, O.D.; Bolivia: Optometry School at Centro de Educacion Profesional Filadelfia, Lucy Leonor Mamani, Pres.; Canada: VOSH-University of Waterloo; Ghana: VOSH-KNUST: Mohammed Abdul-Kabir; VOSH-UCC, Alex Ilechie, OD; Colombia: VOSH-LaSalle: Roberto Valncia, OD; VOSH-Santo Thomas, Pilar Oviedo. Pres.; Nigeria: VOSH-UNIBEN, Faustina IDU, OD; VOSH-ABIA, Ikonne Uche, OD; Peru: VOSH-SOS, Optometrist Severo Sanchez, ; 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, U. of the Incarnate Word School of Optometry, Western University College of Optometry

## www.VOSH.org

www.VOSH.org is the hub of VOSH. The website is diligently maintained by Dr. Harry Zeltzer and contains the information on clinics that have been held. In 2011 VOSH volunteers provided care to over 100,000 patients. The website also provides links to chapters, mission leaders, affiliated organizations, equipment, supplies, ready-made glasses, and more. Communication tools include an active message board, stories of the month, past newsletters, and meeting information.

For 2011 www.VOSH.org was visited by 2367 unique visitors with an average of 591 unique visitors every week. They read 188,828 total pages for an average of 3631 page views per week.

## Humanitarian of the Year: Dr. Don Kuehn



*Dr. Don Kuehn (VOSH/Kansas) right.*



## Professor Brien Holden Lifetime Achievement Award

# Establishing Eye Care in Haiti

Once the richest colony in the Caribbean, Haiti is now the poorest country in the western hemisphere and one of the poorest nations in the world. The earthquake that flattened Port-au-Prince January 12, 2010 ranks among the worst disasters in modern history: Haiti's chronic conditions--extreme poverty, food and water insecurity, lack of economic opportunities, crumbling public health and education systems--left the country even more vulnerable to this acute disaster.

VOSH/PA began working in Haiti seven years ago. We were naïve, had very few resources, and were surrounded by great need. The results and progress have been remarkable. VOSH has been instrumental in the construction of a full service eye clinic, providing a social clinic to two Haitian ophthalmologists who have been working with VOSH volunteers since the beginning. Partnerships and support from organizations like the International Eye Foundation, Vision for the Poor, OptometryGivingSight, and others have made this dream a reality.

Calling forth one of our goals of self-empowerment of the people and communities VOSH serves, an entrepreneurial reading glass program has been successfully established. Selected people have been educated to provide reading glasses to people in need in rural areas without access to care. This also serves as a referral source to the new eye clinic and VOSH teams.

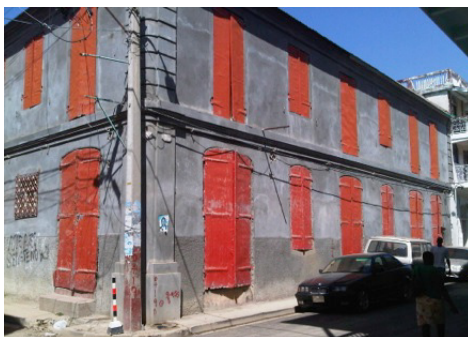


VOSH has also established a partnership with the Hopital Sacre Coeur, the largest private hospital in the North of Haiti. VOSH teams have helped provide quality eye care to the sick and poor in and around this Haitian community with a quarterly presence and also provide education for those who deliver healthcare in this area.

Short-term projects have grown into a long-term commitment and development of a sustainable program. It was once said that “someone” would take care of the eye care problems Haitians were facing. VOSH was that someone.

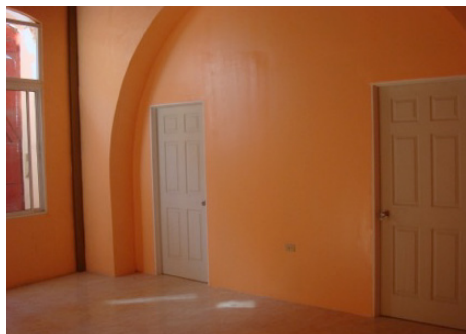
## Cap-Haitian Clinic Remodel

**Building - Before**



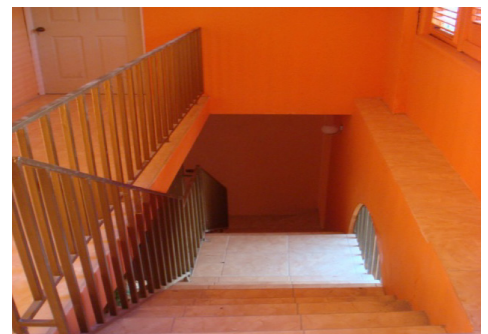
*After*

**Social Consultation Room - Before**



*After*

**Private clinic to the first floor - Before**



*After*

# VOSH Pro-Vision Project in Nicaragua

The Pro-Vision Clinic in Managua was founded in July 2009. Led by Program Director, Dr. Alejandra Narvaez, the clinic now has a staff of two optometrists, two opticians, a receptionist, and an accountant. They conducted 42 mobile clinics throughout Managua where they performed 10,434 eye exams; dispensing reading glasses, pre-made bifocals, ocular lubricants, and non-prescription sunglasses to the patients. The most difficult cases were referred to the Pro-Vision clinic in Managua where 604 patients were examined and prescribed custom prescriptions.

The Pro-Vision clinic is a registered non-profit tax-exempt entity in Nicaragua earned \$51,837 in income from patient services and glasses. The clinic, staff and supplies expenses were \$107,303. Cost recovery has improved from 23% in January 2011 to 72% in December 2011.



## UNAN Optometry School; Managua, Nicaragua



UNAN began their optometry program in 2011 with 34 students. They will graduate in 2016. Eventually, the program plans to train 50 students per year. Under the direction of Dr. Roger Juarez, a 10 lane pre-clinic optometry laboratory is being constructed. Funding for the equipment was in collaboration with OptometryGivingSight.



In October 2008 VOSH/International and OptometryGivingSight agreed to work together to create more sustainable vision care projects for those without access to eye care. The collaboration is allowing us to help develop local clinics and well-equipped optometric training programs. To date \$300,000 has been allocated or disbursed to support sustainable VOSH projects. These include:

- Trial lens sets for optometry schools in Peru, Panama, Nigeria, and Trinidad.
- Development of an optometry school at Xochicalco University, Tijuana.
- Presbyopia study in Nicaragua
- Training and outreach program in Afghanistan (IAM)
- Equipment for UNAN School of Optometry, Nicaragua
- Technology Transfer Program
- Vision Center and Outreach Program, Haiti
- Support for satellite clinics with FUEDEM, El Salvador

## Technology Transfer Program

The TTP aims to collect usable instruments and equipment from offices in the United States and then distribute them to schools of optometry and clinics in the third world. Some of the major accomplishments this year include:

- Funding from OptometryGivingSight and the Esther Kahn Foundation in the amount of two \$10,000 gifts has significantly enabled the program to procure, refurbish and ship equipment.
- The program refurbished 40 pieces of equipment: Phoropter (10); Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscope (5); Keratometer (3); Lensometer (9); Autolensometer (1); Pulsair (1); Perkins handheld tonometer (1); Projector (7); Autorefractor (2); Auto perimeter (1)
- Shipments of equipment went to: Trinidad, Haiti, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Mexico and Columbia.
- A contact with ALDOO's immediate past-president, Juan Vasquez, resulted in his attendance at the VI Annual Meeting in October. Through this association a need for equipment at the optometry school in LaPlata, Argentina was identified. The

### Funds from 2011 were allocated to 2 projects:

1. \$75,000 for equipment purchase for the Optometry Laboratory at UNAN (National Autonomous University of Nicaragua) in Managua, Nicaragua. The aim of the project is to provide equipment for an optometry laboratory in Nicaragua so that the University can educate, train and graduate Nicaraguan Optometrists and develop the human resources needed to provide affordable and accessible services for people in Nicaragua. The clinic is expected to open in May 2012.
2. \$20,000 for the VOSH International Technology Transfer Program to support clinical instruction at Central and South American Optometry Schools. This will be done by refurbishing donated equipment and/or obtaining new optometric equipment, then shipping it to schools as recommended in conjunction with the Association of Latin American Optometry Organizations (ALDOO).



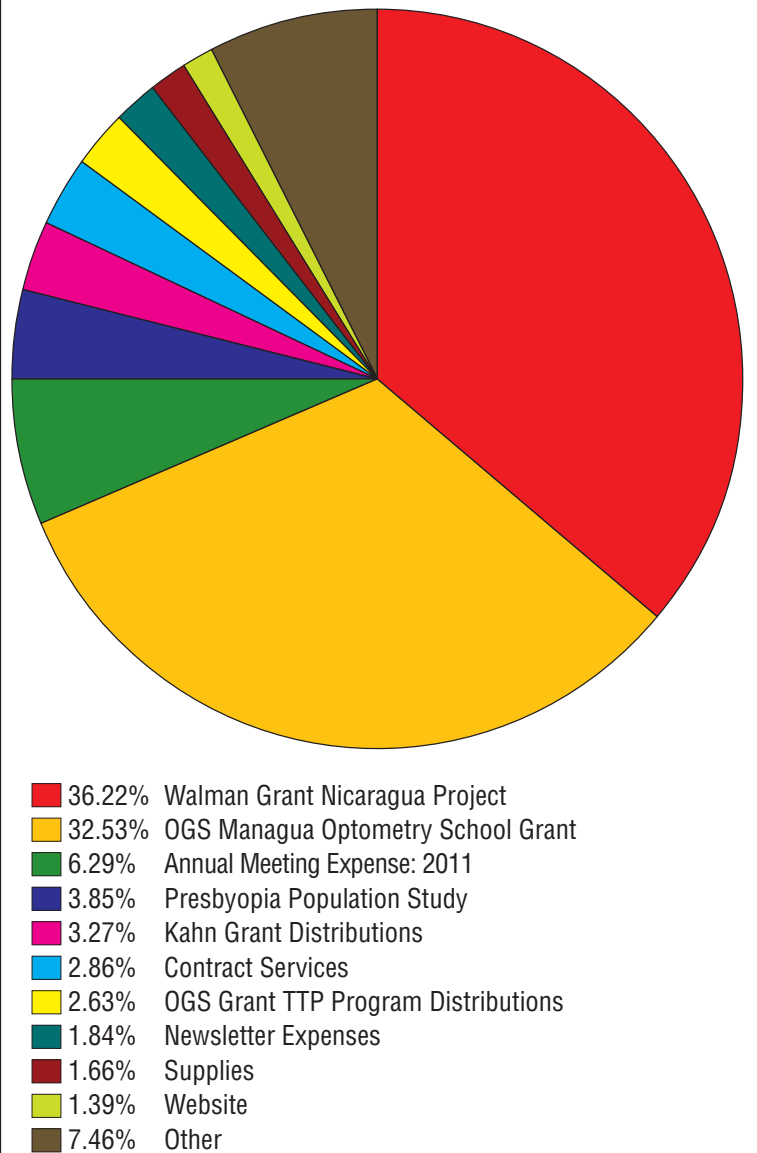
equipment has been prepared for shipment. The Argentine government has some requirements that must be satisfied to be able to get the equipment into the country and these are diligently being addressed. The students will hopefully have the new-to-them equipment in time for their second semester of study this year. It is hoped that continuation of this relationship will help to identify other optometry schools in Central and South America that could benefit from the TTP.

# From the Executive Director's Desk

## Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity, Inc. for the Year Ended 2010 and 2011

	2010	2011
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$95,435.50</b>	<b>\$109,291.64</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Annual Meeting	\$3,641.16	\$4,569.39
Chapter Dues	\$3,124.42	\$2,896.81
Donations	\$11,809.83	\$15,256.87
Interest	\$31.91	\$15.57
Walman Grant	\$70,000.00	\$70,720.00
Grants	\$10,000.00	\$777.40
OGS Funding	\$92,500.00	\$110,573.80
Eyeglass Program	\$8,844.81	\$8,067.84
Misc	\$97.45	\$120
	<b>\$200,049.58</b>	<b>\$212,997.68</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Donations	\$500.00	
Annual Meeting	\$21,555.81	\$15,022.12
Board Meetings	\$1,525.51	\$3,023.66
Awards	\$129.21	\$383.15
Bank Charges	\$206.96	\$50.00
Legal	\$272.14	\$527.14
Contract Labor	\$7,200.00	\$6,600.00
Dues and Subscriptions	\$3,911.69	\$929.21
Newsletter	\$4,687.92	\$4,251.67
Conferences	\$918.82	\$642.06
Trade Shows	\$2,682.68	\$7,201.64
Postage	\$910.17	\$437.19
Supplies	\$4,749.06	\$4,478.69
Telephone	\$630.30	\$231.64
Website	\$2,080.22	\$3,207.85
Project Distributions	\$126,514.68	\$182,322.95
Eyeglass Program	\$7,360.85	\$1,314.81
Misc	\$357.43	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$186,193.44</b>	<b>\$230,623.78</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>\$109,291.64</b>	<b>\$91,665.54</b>

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



## Gifts In Kind to VOSH/International 2011

### 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

### Pharmaceuticals:

Alcon

# Mission Statement

*The primary mission of VOSH/International is to facilitate the provision and the sustainability of vision care worldwide for people who can neither afford nor obtain such care.*



**OPTOMETRYGIVINGSIGHT**