



# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

INTERNATIONAL  
Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity™



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## VOSH/International 2014

*From President David R. McPhillips, OD, FVI*



For more than 40 years, VOSH/International (VOSH) and its chapters have been the voice of optometry in developing nations. VOSH

restores more than vision. It allows individuals to regain independence through sight, to return to work, and to imagine the future. We do this by embracing our traditions while expanding our horizons.

VOSH has grown to almost 5,000 members in over 75 state, regional, optometry school and international chapters. VOSH campaigns help over 100,000 patients annually. We have provided free, quality eye care services to those most in need using a variety of delivery systems and clinic models. As the landscape of health care and technology has changed, VOSH has also changed.

Globally, there are an estimated 600 million vision impaired (>20/50)

who need eyeglasses, 90% of those in the developing world. In an effort to support the World Health Organization's goal of eliminating preventable blindness by the year 2020, VOSH partners with local groups to expand the capacity of their outreach programs. VOSH also partners with many other international organizations pursuing similar goals. These partnerships and relationships are increasing every year as VOSH chapters expand the provision of sustainable eye health to people worldwide.

Everyone, regardless of their circumstances, has the right to clear, comfortable vision. Everyone has the right to glasses that look and fit comfortably. Local facilities should be supported to provide appropriate low cost or no cost high quality eye care. The vision needs of the planet are enormous, but working together we can provide quality eye care through a multitude of delivery systems thus changing the lives of millions.

## VOSH/International 2014 Team

### President

David McPhillips OD, FVI

### Executive Director

Natalie Venezia, Esq.

### Vice President

Ellen Weiss, OD, FVI

### Immediate Past-President

Ellis Potter, OD, FVI

### Secretary

Natalie Venezia, Esq.

### Treasurer

James Duran

### Directors

Lis Faulstich, OD

Marcela Frazier, OD

Greg Kane, OD

Tracy Matchinski, OD

Clive Miller

(OptometryGivingSight)

John Spencer, OD

David Stacy, OD

### Director Emeritus

Harry I. Zeltzer, OD, FVI

### Legal Counsel

John Gehrig, Esq., FVI

### Administrative Officers

Augusto Carrion, OD

Michel Listenberger, OD

Justin Manning, OD

Ruth McAndrews, OD, FVI

Mel Muchnik, PhD

Greg Pearl, OD, FVI

Uduak Udom, OD

[vosh.org/about-us/vi-board-members-and-staff/](http://vosh.org/about-us/vi-board-members-and-staff/)





## Sharing the Gift of Sight

### Student Reflection, Manila Central University

Manila Central University College of Optometry is a new Student VOSH affiliate. The students worked with Dr. Marina Roma-March in providing vision care near a railroad station in a much-neglected area of Manila. Following this experience, student Sharon Danisha M. Vaswnai wrote: My determination to become an optometrist has strengthened and been boosted by this community service. Through my many years of studying, I learned more about this profession and then better understood myself. Optometry appeals to me because of its interdisciplinary nature, its intellectual challenges, and most importantly, the satisfaction in knowing that I can impact people's lives in a meaningful way through the act of healing. All in all, this experience made me realize that truly, optometry is a labor of love and I realized the true significance of sharing this gift of sight with others as well.

## VOSH Chapters

(\*new in 2014)

### NORTH AMERICA

#### CANADA

Alberta, British Columbia (TWECS), Ontario, Santa Cruz (Montréal)

#### UNITED STATES

Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Northeast (MD, RI), Northwest (WA, ID, AK, OR), North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, VOSH-ONE (Of New England) (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT), Pennsylvania, Southeast (AL, FL, GA, SC, MS), South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

### CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

Honduras, Peru

### CARIBBEAN

Puerto Rico

### EUROPE

Netherlands

### ASIA

India\*

### CHAPTERS AFFILIATED WITH COLLEGES OF OPTOMETRY

#### NORTH AMERICA

##### CANADA

University of Waterloo, School of Optometry and Vision Science

##### UNITED STATES

University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry; Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry\*; Southern California College of Optometry; University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry; Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry (CA); Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry (FL); Illinois College of Optometry; Indiana University School of Optometry; New England College of Optometry (MA); Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University; University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Optometry; New York State University of New York College of Optometry; The Ohio State University College of Optometry; Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry; Pacific University College of Optometry, Amigos Eye Care (OR); Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University; Southern College of Optometry (TN); University of Houston College of Optometry; University of the Incarnate Word, Rosenberg School of Optometry (TX)

### CARIBBEAN

Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry  
University of West Indies School of Optometry (Trinidad)

### SOUTH AMERICA

#### ARGENTINA

Universidad Nacional de La Plata

#### BOLIVIA

Filadelfia Optometry School of Centro de Educacion Profesional

#### COLUMBIA

Universidad de La Salle  
Universidad Santo Tomas  
Universidad El Bosque  
University Fundacion de Area Andean

#### ECUADOR

Metropolitana

#### PERU

Instituto Eurohispano  
Instituto de Optometria y Optica

### AFRICA

#### ETHIOPIA

University of Gondar

#### GHANA

University of Cape Coast  
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology

#### MALAWI

Malawi College of Health Sciences  
Mzuzu University

#### NIGERIA:

Abia State University, Department of Optometry College of Medicine and Health Science  
University of Benin

### ASIA

#### PHILIPPINES

Manila Central University College of Optometry\*



## Thank You

By Sara McGowan, MS, OD, FAAO  
Head of Optometry Department  
Mzuzu University, Malawi

Thank you to VOSH/International for a generous donation of retinoscopes, direct ophthalmoscopes, and bulbs to our program here. These items will be incorporated into our outreach supplies and utilized for services offered through Mzuni SVOSH. We are looking forward to a productive semester incorporating a significant expansion of our outreach capabilities.

Thanks again to V/I for their devotion to our program here, along with the significant work you do supporting programs and providing services all over the world. We can look forward to continued improvement of our course and the ability to expand our services through donations of supplies such as these, as well as through productive and cooperative partnerships such as those between V/I, the Brien Holden Vision Institute, Optometry Giving Sight and Mzuzu University.

## VOSH Corps

VOSH/International, Brien Holden Vision Institute and Optometry Giving Sight have partnered together to establish the VOSH Corps. The program is designed to build capacity and sustainability through a longer-term teaching assignment to schools of optometry in underserved regions throughout the world. North American ODs are invited to serve in emerging optometric institutions as faculty and program development assistants. In 2014 V/I promoted this new initiative, recruited and held discussions with 14 candidates, forwarding its recommendations to the BHVI. Placements are anticipated in late 2015 or 2016. More information is available at <http://vosh.org/vosh-corps/>.

## Establishing Optometry in Haiti



Photo: Cielo Pictures / Optometry Giving Sight

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Almost 2 million Haitians suffer from uncorrected refractive error - simply the need for an eye exam and glasses. Only six ophthalmologists in the public sector service a country of 10 million. This lack of access to eye health services significantly reduces their ability to break the cycle of poverty through better education and employment.

Advocacy has begun, with consultations between stakeholders, Universite d'Etat d'Haiti (UEH), and the Haitian government. The profession of optometry is included for the first time in the National Plan of Haiti.

The Haiti Optometry Program will establish a School of Optometry and Academic Vision Center within the new Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy building that is currently being constructed at UEH. Work towards the development of a suitable curriculum for the new degree has already commenced, thanks to funding provided by VOSH/International, the Brien Holden Vision Institute, and Optometry Giving Sight. Our goal is to welcome the first students into the new optometry program in October 2016. A conservative estimate is for the school to produce 16 students per year. Upon graduation in 2021, these students will be able to reach a minimum of 24,000 patients in their first professional year.

## Technology Transfer Program (TTP)



The Technology Transfer Program (TTP) is a program whereby VOSH/International collects donated ophthalmic equipment, repairs and refurbishes it, then ships it to needy schools and clinics.

In 2014 the University in Durango, Mexico, received about 15 pallets containing 40 large items of ophthalmic equipment to enhance the new optometry program. These shipments included slit lamps, phoropters, lensometers, and keratometers. UNAN, the University in Managua, Nicaragua, received several shipments, including a large assortment of low vision aids and teaching equipment. UNAN also received four examination chairs and stands for their outreach program.

Smaller shipments were sent to the University of Mzuzu in Malawi; the Dominican Republic; Haiti; Chiapas, Monterrey, and Torreon, Mexico.

Warehouses in Arizona (donated by Ed York) and Florida (VOSH-SE) receive donations from all over the United States. OptometryGivingSight and the Esther Kahn Foundation have been invaluable partners in implementing this program.

## Dr. Harry I. Zeltzer Lifetime Achievement Award: Ruth McAndrews, OD, FVI



The (newly named) *Dr. Harry I. Zeltzer Lifetime Achievement Award* is presented at the V/I Annual Meeting to a person recognized as an exemplary humanitarian by providing a lifetime of service to humanity through improving visual welfare through leadership; dedication; invention; public health; developing sustainable eye care; and furthering the understanding and correction of refractive error. The recipient of this award is recognized as one who meets the highest criteria that exemplifies the spirit of VOSH/International. This year's recipient was Ruth McAndrews, OD, FVI (VOSH-IA). Dr. McAndrews has served, and continues to serve, VOSH selflessly and without hesitation and as such, has improved not only V/I as a service organization, but has positively affected the lives of the hundreds of thousands of people served by VOSH and its chapters. <http://vosh.org/membership/voshinternational-awards/>

## Humanitarian of the Year: Dr. Jeff Marshall (VOSH-Indiana)

Dr. Marshall has been president of VOSH-Indiana for over 25 years. Dr. Jeff is shown here with former patient, Hector. Over twenty years ago Hector came to a VOSH clinic, was diagnosed with retinoblastoma, and brought to the states for treatment. Hector now comes to the clinic with his wife and family. Hector survives because VOSH was there.



## The V/I President's Circle Award

The V/I President's Circle Award is presented to a premier volunteer or chapter of VOSH, who has demonstrated outstanding and extraordinary service during the year, and whose recognition inspires others to take positive action to change the world.

### President's Circle Award: Dr. Marina Roma-March



When Typhoon Haiyan devastated the Philippines, Dr. Marina Roma-March sprang into action. Dr. Roma-March practices in Vancouver, British Columbia and has family in the Philippines. She is president of Third World Eyecare Society

(TWECES or VOSH-British Columbia). Dr. Roma-March quickly assembled two containers of clothing, blankets, eyeglasses, and other relief supplies as well as a team of 18 eye doctors from Canada, the United States, New Zealand, Australia, Africa and the Philippines. Dr. Roma March was awarded the President's Circle Award for her efforts in helping over 8000 people. More information can be found on <http://twecstacloban.blogspot.com/> or by listening to her moving recap <https://vimeo.com/115820774>.

### President's Circle Award: Natalie Venezia, Esq.

Community service and volunteerism have always played an important role in Ms. Venezia's personal and professional life.

Since retiring from a San Diego law firm, Natalie has led or participated in 18 VOSH missions with VOSH-IL and VOSH-CA. Besides VOSH, she has also led several missions for Operation Rainbow, a non-profit organization providing free reconstructive surgery for children with cleft abnormalities.

In 2007 Natalie began serving as the V/I Board Administrator. She was instrumental in consolidating the efforts of a geographically separated, all volunteer board. Electronic communications became streamlined and accessible. The website was re-designed and made more user-friendly. Her organizational skills and attention to detail have been invaluable.

This past year, Ms. Venezia became the V/I Executive Director. Natalie is continually an inspiration to the entire board of V/I, owing much of what it has accomplished to her tireless efforts and dedication.





# CONNECTIONS

## Creating Awareness of VOSH and the Need for Vision Care

### www.VOSH.org

The V/I website receives an average of 100 hits a day or about 3000 views each month. Primary activity is on the VOSH video, clinics by date, message board, new member applications, Student-VOSH related pages, chapter resources, and requests for equipment from TTP. Usage is particularly high when VOSHers are signing up for the V/I Annual Meeting in October.

### Social Media

Facebook Likes: 1314

Twitter Followers: 177

Constant Contact Mailing: 1568

### Publications featuring articles about VOSH

Optometry Times

Vision Monday

Montreal Gazette

VMail

WCO Newsletter

### Exhibits and Representation

17 exhibit halls with thousands of attendees

African optometric meetings

World Council of Optometry/ALDOO meeting in Trinidad/Tobago

Vision 2020 meeting in Washington DC

## Fellowship of VOSH/ International: Dr. Ellen Weiss, Dr. Cheri Lodl and Dr. Albert Nemiroff

The Fellowship of VOSH International acknowledges the skills and experience necessary for a member of VOSH to give advice on the global challenge of preventable blindness; to foster the development of future leaders to meet the challenge of VISION 2020; 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 V/I. Following a review of his/her qualifications the candidates then pass written and oral examinations. There are now 29 Fellows of VOSH International (FVI). <http://vosh.org/fellow-of-voshinternational/>



Dr. Ellen Weiss at Heart of America

### Videos

These videos have been viewed in the United States, Canada, and 50 other countries.

**Changing Lives: the Gift of Vision:** <http://vosh.org/why-vision/> This 7-minute video premiered publicly at the VOSH annual meeting in Denver in November, 2014 and then was posted on the internet. It received over 3,000 loads and over 1000 on-line plays all by the end of the year. It has been featured on a number of websites including the online newsletter, Vision Monday. The video is being used by V/I and its chapters as well as a tool for public presentations, recruitment of volunteers, and information for potential donors.

**VOSH Corps PowerPoint 2.0:** <http://vosh.org/vosh-corps/> was loaded online 1,299 times with 203 online plays.

**Annual Meeting 2014:** at <http://vosh.org/2015-voshinternational-annual-meeting/2014-vi-annual-meeting-recap/>. For the third year, key sessions are available. Assistance this year was from the University of Denver graduate media program.

### Annual Meeting 2014

The November 2014 annual meeting brought over 100 attendees to Denver from around the world. Guest presenters from Africa to Canada updated us on progress in optometric education, World Sight Day initiatives, as well as updates on vision care projects in Central and South America, Haiti, and the United States. The afternoon break-out sessions afforded opportunities for networking and dialogue on improving our effectiveness.

## Franklin Harms Society

VOSH participants have volunteered thousands of hours of service providing vision care to those in need. To honor those dedicated individuals, VOSH/International has created The Franklin Harms Society, named after its founder, Franklin Harms. This honor recognizes those optometrists and other volunteers who have served in 10 or more VOSH clinics. Fifty-eight individuals have now qualified for this recognition. <http://vosh.org/membership/franklin-harms-society/>

# VOSH Profit & Loss

January through December 2014

## Income

Annual Meeting	\$5,163.20
Annual Meeting Registration	\$7,148.59
Dues Income	\$3,170.00
Donations	\$35,583.30
Fellowship Applications	\$150.00
Grants	\$13,750.00
Interest Income	\$4.52
Optometry Giving Sight - Organizational Development	\$11,250.00

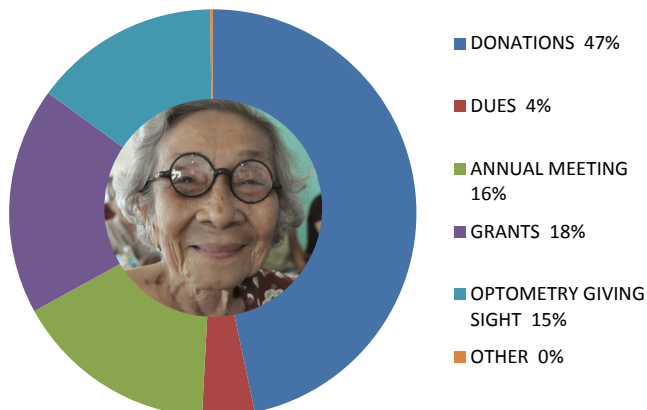
**Total Income \$76,219.61**

## Expense

Annual Meeting	\$17,789.74
Dues & Subscriptions	\$2,720.59
Exhibits	\$7,011.91
Publicity Expense	\$785.00
Project Expenses	\$16,794.04
Salary and Contractor Payment	\$17,000.00
Presidential Travel Expense	-\$1,635.22
Website	\$1,707.58

**Total Expense \$64,049.42**

# Where Our Donations Came From



# Where Our Donations Went

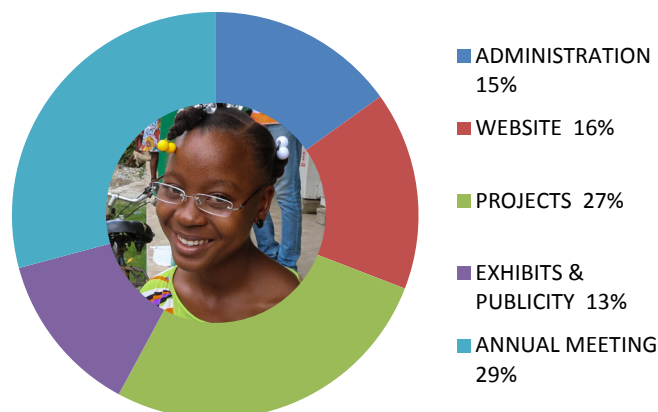


Photo: Cielo Pictures / Optometry Giving Sight

# Thank You!

The following sponsors contributed \$500 or more to VOSH/International in 2014. With their support we have been able to give the gift of sight to thousands around the world. In addition, we thank all the volunteers who participate in VOSH clinics. They receive no pay or income for their time or services.

## Optometry Giving Sight

- The Korzeniewski Family Foundation
- Esther B. Kahn Charitable Foundation
- Cleinman Performance Partners
- Heart of America Contact Lens Society
- Johnson and Johnson, Vision Care Inc.
- National Vision, Inc.
- Greg Pearl, OD
- Essilor
- VSP Vision Care

## Lisbeth Faulstich, OD

- Paul Sager and Natalie Venezia Family Trust
- Dr. and Mrs. Ellis Potter
- Smart Vision Labs
- Michelle Simpson
- Tracy Matchinski, OD
- Michel Listenberger, OD
- Mel Muchnik
- Thomas Rigler
- Derek Feifke, OD



# 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.

