


VOSH ANNUAL REPORT 2015

INTERNATIONAL
Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity™





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vosh.org/about-us/vi-leadership/

VOSH/International 2015

From President Ellen Weiss, OD, FVI

Merriam - Webster Dictionary has multiple definitions for the word service. The two that I feel apply best to VOSH include “the work performed by one that serves” and “contribution to the welfare of others”.

I joined VOSH as a first year optometry student in 1988, and have been an active member since. Like the majority of SVOSH students, I started out volunteering at school in the donated glasses storage area, cleaning, neutralizing and sorting glasses. I was thrilled to go on my first VOSH trip to Iguala, Mexico as a third year student and again to Kingston, Jamaica as a fourth year student. From the knowledge gained, relationships developed, and passion for service from these trips, I’ve become a VOSHer for life.

This connection to VOSH as an optometry student was an important one for me, and furthering this relationship with our SVOSH chapters is a priority I’ve set for 2016. The VOSH board is developing an informational power point presentation and is arranging for a board or committee member to visit each of the optometry schools to present VOSH to the SVOSH chapters, learn how their SVOSH chapter functions, connect with the SVOSH advisors and school administration, answer questions, compile a data base of contact info, and encourage the students to convert from SVOSH to VOSH members when they graduate.

VOSH/International is recognized as a leader in providing the gift of vision and eye health to people worldwide. The depth of our impact internationally by programs such as the VOSH Corps program and the Technology Transfer Program (TTP) supports the VOSH goal to increase our global impact by supporting sustainable eye clinics, optometry schools and optometric educators in areas lacking sufficient eye care. Thanks to the previous presidents and board of directors that served our organization so capable. I look forward to continuing this tradition.



VOSH Chapters

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, 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

WORLD

GHANA, HONDURAS, INDIA (MAHARASHTRA), NETHERLANDS, PERU, PUERTO RICO

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; MCPHS 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)

CARRIBEAN

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

MEXICO

Mexico - UNAM Fes Iztacala

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

Universidad Nacional de La Plata

BOLIVIA

Filadelfia Optometry School of Centro de Educacion Profesional

COLUMBIA

Universidad de La Salle; Universidad Santo Thomas; Universidad El Bosque; Universidad Fundacion de Area Andean

ECUADOR

Metropolitana

NICARAGUA

Nicaragua - Universidad Nacional Autonoma De Nicaragua

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*

SVOSH Liaison and Interns

Eric (Justin) Bushmann (AZCOPT)

Patty Durongwong (SCCO/Ketchum - AOSA Liaison)

Umair Kahn (MCPHS)

Ben Konig (UAB)

Matthew Krewer (SCCO/Ketchum)

Vy Le (MCPHS)

Emilee Nehring (MCPHS)



Technology Transfer Program



VOSH/International collects usable ophthalmic equipment. The donations are inspected, given minor repairs or refurbishing, inventoried, and then shipped to needy schools and clinics. 2015 was notable for the acquisition of a large amount of equipment and frames gathered by pick up trips to California(3), Michigan, Missouri, Washington, Oregon(2), and Wyoming. The largest acquisition of new frames (over 100,000 frames) was donated to VOSH/International by National Vision Associates.

Readying the donations is a continual process and our Chandler, AZ warehouse can always use volunteers. Therefore, Midwestern University College of Optometry students held a warehouse work party in April.

With funding from OptometryGivingSight, 14 shipments of equipment were sent during the year. Shipment destinations included Chihuahua, Sonora, and other sites in Mexico; the Dominican Republic, and to various VOSH chapters for their clinics.

During the year, the warehouse was visited by Ruth McAndrews, Bob Stein, Natalie Venezia, Mexican ODs, and faculty and optometry students from MWU, Glendale, AZ.

Collaboration Brings Optometry To Haiti



Continued efforts by VOSH/International, the Brien Holden Vision Institute, OptometryGivingSight, with other supporters like Essilor, Vision Source, and Charity Vision, are about to make the first optometry school in Haiti a reality. Fifty percent of visually impaired people in the Caribbean are in Haiti. Seven percent of school children in Haiti have uncorrected refractive error.

There are currently 3 optometrists and 42 ophthalmologists (mostly in the capital) to provide all the eye care for the country. Seven million Haitians have no access to eye care. The creation of a new profession to address preventable blindness and to provide primary eye care will deliver vision care in a way any number of VOSH missions could not. The new program will educate students to become Haiti's first locally-trained optometrists. As a result, the Haitian community, especially children, will gain access to eye and vision care services. Thanks to a 4-year total team effort, it is projected that the school will open in late 2016.

VOSH-Corps in Action

Dr. Justin Manning is the first VOSH-Corps placement. The program is in partnership with OptometryGivingSight and the Brien Holden Vision Institute. It is designed to build capacity and sustainability through a longer-term teaching assignment to schools of optometry in underserved regions throughout the world. VOSH recruits optometrists and BHVI places them as professors and clinical mentors in the first optometry schools in the world's poorest countries.

Dr. Manning is serving at the UNAN School of Optometry in Managua, Nicaragua. During the fall semester, he worked with a total of 73 students teaching classes in clinical skills and ocular disease. Dr. Justin was also honored to serve on the jury committee for the JUDC 2015 research contest in which a group of optometry students won the whole contest from across the entire university. Dr Manning helped to organize and taught at the second annual UNAN Vision Forum, an all-day continuing education conference open to all practicing refractionists, optometrists, and ophthalmologists in Nicaragua.

The VOSH Corps also provides support for Dr. Sara McGowan, Dean of the optometry school in Malawi; and Dr. Jerson Desiderio in Uganda. The Mzuzu University of Malawi School of Optometry opened in 2009, establishing a new profession there. Most of the 32 graduates now work for public health hospitals throughout the country and recently formed the Malawi Optometric Association. Dr. Jerson Desiderio teaches 10 optometry students in the first two classes at the Makerere University College of Optometry.

We are very excited to see this program finally in action. More information is available at <http://vosh.org/get-involved/vosh-corps/>.



Harry I. Zeltzer Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr. Greg Pearl

For decades, Dr. Greg Pearl (VOSH-CA) has worked tirelessly to improve the state of vision care throughout the world, particularly in Mexico and Central America. Greg has served as VOSH-CA President, Past V/I President and has been a generous donor to V/I and VOSH-CA. He also serves as an ambassador by staffing many of the V/I exhibits around the country.

In addition to his many years of volunteer optometry, Dr. Pearl continues to enjoy introducing optometry students to the challenges of humanitarian service in clinics in Mexico and El Salvador. However, his greatest interest now is fundraising for Optometry Giving Sight to establish optometry schools



and sustainable eye clinics in the world's poorest countries. He has been directly involved in helping develop schools in Mexico and Nicaragua. In addition, he chairs the VOSH Corps program, which recruits volunteer optometrists from the US to serve as optometry professors in fledgling optometry schools in the developing world.



Humanitarian of the Year: Dr. Victoria Molnar Weiss

VOSH/International was proud to honor Dr. Victoria Molnar Weiss as the 2015 Humanitarian of the Year. Dr. Weiss has been a member of VOSH and providing vision care for the underserved since her optometric student days.

Dr. Molnar Weiss helped to establish VOSH-Virginia and is the current Vice President of VOSH-Virginia. She helped to found the now well-established RAM (Remote Area Medical)

mission held in Wise, Virginia each summer. She has served as its Vision Director for the past 14 years and for a similar mission in Grundy, Virginia for the past 7 years. She led 3 Clinics in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina and has participated in over 30 RAM Clinics. Dr. Weiss and her husband, Dr. Douglass Weiss have received several honors in recognition of their outreach efforts.

Franklin Harms Society

VOSH participants have volunteered thousands of hours of service providing vision care to those in need. The Franklin Harms Society, named after our founder, recognizes those optometrists and other volunteers who have served in 10 or more VOSH clinics. Those honored in 2015 include: Cindy Bachrodt (VOSH-MO), Harlan Vander Griend (VOSH-IA), David Krasnow, OD, MPH, MBA (VOSH-CA), Willa K. Liberman, M.S.(VOSH-CA), J. Rocco Robilotto, OD (VOSH-NE), Jean Rose (VOSH-IA), Stephen Rose (VOSH-IA), Dale Simmons (VOSH-MN), Victoria Molnar Weiss, OD (VOSH-VA), Julie Walsh, OD (VOSH-MN), Diane G. Wilson, OD (VOSH-MO). <http://vosh.org/get-involved/franklin-harms-society/>.

President's Circle Award: Max Bruss

Max Bruss has been very involved in VOSH-Southeast (formerly VOSH-Florida) for many years. Max began collecting, refurbishing and distributing usable donated optical equipment before the official VOSH TTP program was even established. He is constantly working to improve acquisition of affordable equipment and glasses. He then forges relationships and connections to expedite delivery of the materials and equipment to optometry schools and needy clinic sites. Max is tireless and inspiring in his efforts to continually improve eye care world-wide.

President's Circle Award: Justin Manning, O.D.

Dr. Justin Manning served as our first VOSH student intern. He is now serving as our first VOSH-Corps representative. (See page 4) Justin was contacted via Skype during the annual meeting to announce his award.



New Fellows of VOSH/International

The Fellowship of VOSH/International (FVI) 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. In order to increase global awareness of the VOSH mission, we encourage all of our members to become a VOSH Fellow. <http://vosh.org/get-involved/fellow-of-voshinternational/> New fellows in 2015: Walter Branson (VOSH-TX), David Krasnow, OD, MPH, MBA (VOSH-CA), Marina Roma-March, OD (VOSH-BC), Natalie Venezia, Esq. (VOSH-IL), Carl Weiss (VOSH-NE).



Building Connections in Person

In 2015 VOSH/International exhibited at the Heart of America (HOACLS), SECO International, Vision Expo East, Vision Source, American Optometric Association, World Council of Optometry, International Vision Conference, Vision Expo West, American Academy of Optometry, VOSH/International and various state and local meetings.



Why does VOSH exhibit? One reason is visibility. Our webpage is full of great user-friendly information, but there's a personal connection when we can visit one on one as we swap stories. VOSH visibility is also important to other vendors, as we've built developed new connections and resources by meeting other exhibitors.

Another reason to exhibit is to increase membership. It's an effective recruitment tool for local chapters to work the booth space when a meeting is in their region. What will you find at our VOSH booth? We have a variety of flyers that allow people to gather information and read about what is relevant to them. These may include local chapter information, clinic opportunities, information on our TTP program, VOSH Corps, and the annual meeting.

Thank you to Vistakon, a division of Johnson & Johnson, for their support.

VOSH Annual Meeting in New Orleans Inspires Clinic on World Sight Day

Repeating its practice of doing a World Sight Day clinic in conjunction with its annual meeting, VOSH/International joined forces with VSP's mobile outreach program and OptometryGivingSight in an area devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Ten years after Hurricane Katrina, the Lower 9th Ward of New Orleans is still in recovery and rebuilding from the devastation. Together, we converted the Andrew P. ("Pete") Sanchez Community Center into a vision clinic for the day.

More than 400 patients received free eye exams and glasses with the help of ten optometrists and 20 students and volunteers. VOSH members worked along with locals to provide the care. VSP Mobile Eyes, which evolved from relief efforts following hurricanes Katrina and Rita, provided a fully-stocked, state-of-the-art, 45-foot-long mobile eye exam clinic for vision care and a full frame dispensary for adults and children. Some patients had not had eye care or new glasses since Katrina. The very last patient of the day was a young lady with broken glasses and over 20 diopters of myopia.



SVOSH-Connections

Students are the future of VOSH and establishing sustainable vision care throughout the world. Consequently, the V/I board has expanded its efforts to better connect with SVOSH chapters and keep their members involved after graduation. We have established student interns (see p. 3) to help us develop our communications throughout the organization, especially in learning to take advantage of social media. In addition to electronic communications, the SVOSH Outreach program, funded in part by OptometryGivingSight, is allowing V/I board members to visit each of the North American optometry schools to deliver a presentation and engage in face-to-face dialogue with the students.

www.VOSH.org

The V/I website receives an average of 130 hits a day, exceeding 4000 page 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 attendees are signing up for the V/I Annual Meeting. Social media and video viewing have increased dramatically over the last three years with the V/I video, Changing Lives: The Gift of Vision, spiking last year with 81,074 loads. A new video on sustainability is in production.

Social Media:

Facebook Followers: 1865
Twitter Followers: 435
Instagram Followers: 98
Constant Contact Mailing: 1,568

Video Views:

Changing Lives: The Gift of Vision: 81,047 loads, countries viewed – 125 (26 over 100 times each).
VOSH Corps 2.0: 2,267 loads
All 13 V/I videos in last 3 years: 95,754 loads, 3,000+ online plays.

VOSH-International Profit & Loss

January through December 2015

Income

Annual Meeting Sponsorship	\$10,240
Annual Meeting Registration	\$5,760
Chapter Dues Income	\$4,026
Donations Received	\$51,737
Fellowship Applications	\$960
Interest Income	\$2
Optometry Giving Sight - Admin. Funds	\$11,250
Technology Transfer Grants	\$15,000
VOSH Corps Grant	\$32,207

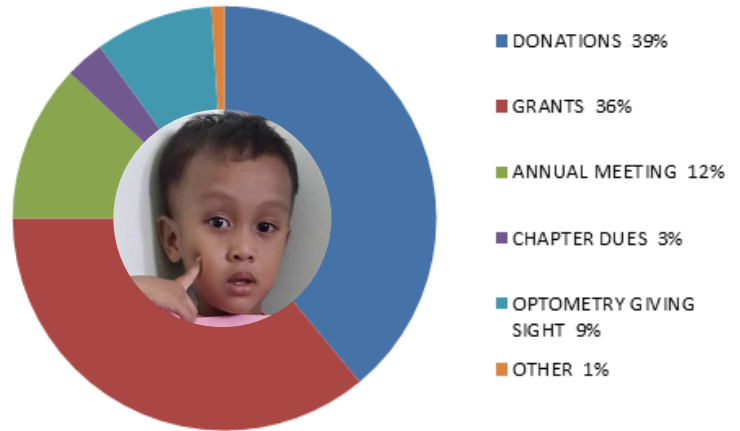
Total Income \$131,182

Expenses

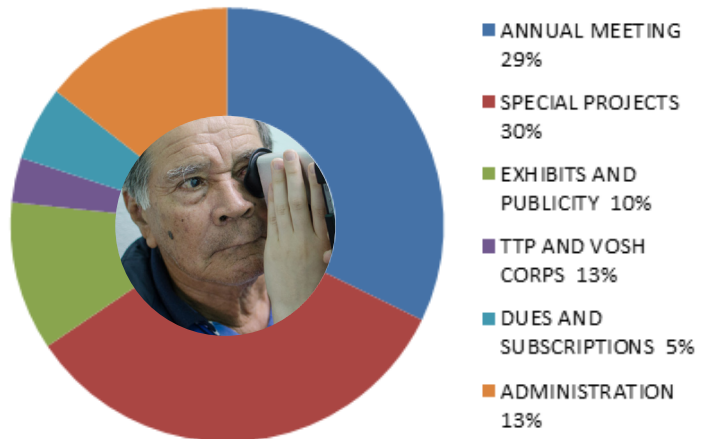
Annual Meeting	\$21,253
Presidential Travel Funds	\$4,237
Dues and Subscriptions	\$3,580
Exhibits	\$5,218
Miscellaneous Expense	\$4,941
Special Projects	\$21,800
Publicity	\$571
Website	\$1,628
Technology Transfer	\$2,117
VOSH Corps	\$6,797

Total Expense \$72,142

Where Our Donations Came From



Where Our Donations Went



Thank You!

The following sponsors contributed \$500 or more to VOSH/International in 2015. 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

National Vision, Inc.

The Korzeniewski Family Foundation

Cleinman Performance Partners

Heart of America Contact Lens Society

Johnson and Johnson, Vision Care Inc.

Paul Sager and Natalie Venezia Family Foundation

Greg Pearl, OD

Essilor

Chase Brownstein, In Memory of Sol Tannebaum, OD

The Cahill Family Fund

VSP Vision Care

Lisbeth Faulstich, OD

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

VOSH/International believes in the freedom to see, providing the gift of vision and eye health to people worldwide. We facilitate the provision and the sustainability of vision care worldwide for people who can neither afford nor obtain such care. Our goal is to increase our global impact whenever possible by supporting sustainable eye clinics, optometry schools and optometric educators in areas lacking sufficient eye care. There are over 75 VOSH regional, state, and school chapters worldwide working to accomplish our goals.

