

Annual Report 2012



*Celebrating 40 Years of Volunteer
Eye Care to the Underserved*

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL
Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity



2012 A Year of Progress

by C. Ellis Potter, OD, FAAO, FVI; VOSH/International President

2012 was a year where VOSH/International continued to make progress in reducing avoidable blindness. Our chapters participated in 67 reported mission attending well over 100,000 patients. We conducted missions in 22 countries as well as 8 reported domestic clinics in the United States.

VOSH expanded its reach and numbers by granting provisional status to three new chapters; Texas, Puerto Rico and Peru. Two more chapters are close to being granted provisional status: Alberta and Oklahoma. We welcomed five new Student VOSH (SVOSH) chapters; the University of Incarnate Word in San Antonio, University of Gondar-Ethiopia; two chapters in Columbia-El Bosque and FUAA Pereira, and the University of West Indies-Trinidad/Tobago. We increased our public profile by conducting exhibits at the AAO, AOA, SECO, Vision East, Vision West, Heart of American and numerous state association meetings. We published two newsletters and an annual report. Our Website continues to bring update information about our activities, events, the story of the month and offers a JOIN NOW online application.

We expanded awareness of our organization with your leadership taking part in several forums, seminars and events. We represented VOSH chapters and individual members with a voice at the World Council of Optometry (WCO), Vision 2020 USA, International Association for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) and other such meetings.

Internally, the VOSH Board of Directors ratified a new constitution, by-laws and protocols. We made progress on the implementation of a new 5 year strategic plan.

The Annual meeting in Phoenix celebrated the PAST 40 years since our founding by Dr. Franklin Harms, looked at the PRESENT activities of VOSH/International and our chapters, and explored the FUTURE with ideas to guide our endeavors to provide eye care to the underprivileged of the third world. We recorded the meeting giving chapters and individuals glimpses of the proceedings. You may view the highlights at www.vosh.org.

Our progress was helped by generous grants and donations from Vistakon, Cleinman Practice Management, Essilor and many others as well as with ongoing support from Optometry Giving Sight. The annual meeting was sponsored by National Vision.

Other grants from Optometry Giving Sight and the Esther Kahn Foundation advanced our Technology Transfer Program for collecting and disturbing donated ophthalmic equipment to schools and clinics in developing countries. Significant equipment contributions were made to LaPlata University Optometry school clinic in Argentina.

All and all, we moved forward toward our mission to facilitate the provision and the sustainability of vision care worldwide for people who can neither afford nor obtain such care.

VOSH/International 2012 Governance Team



Left to Right Clive Miller (OptometryGivingSight), Dr. John Spencer (Director), Dr. Ruth McAndrews (Past-President, Newsletter Co-editor), Deborah Wright-DeMaderios (Event Planner), Dr. Les Walls (Director), Dr. Greg Pearl (Immediate Past-President), Dr. Ellen Weiss (Director), Dr. David McPhillips (Vice-President), Dr. Mel Muchnik (Communications Officer), Dr. Barry Leonard (Treasurer), Dr. Lisbeth Faulstich (Public Relations), Dr. David Stacy (Director), Dr. Dale Cole (Historian), Dr. Tracy Matchinski (Director), Natalie Venezia, Esq. (Secretary), Dr. Harry Zeltzer (Executive Director/Webmaster), Dr. Ellis Potter (President). Not pictured: Dr. Marcela Frazier (Director), Todd Fleischer (Newsletter Co-editor), John Gehrig, Esq (Legal Counsel).

VOSH Chapters and Officers 2012

CANADA: British Columbia (TWECS): Marina Roma-March, OD
Ontario: Kara Peterson,

Santa Cruz (Quebec): Claude Chagnon, OD

HONDURAS: Ruth Berklings,

NETHERLANDS: Nelleke Brand

PERU: Gladys Gonzales

UNITED STATES: Arizona: David R. Stacy, OD; California: Greg Pearl, OD, FVI; Colorado: Kara Fedders, OD; Connecticut: Matt Blondin, OD; Illinois: Alfred Rosenbloom OD, MAm DOS, FAAO; Indiana: Jeff Marshall, OD, FVI; Iowa: Pam Young, OD; Kansas: Benjamin Whittredge, OD; Kentucky: Greg Hagedorn, OD; Michigan: Mark Cook, OD; Minnesota: Bob Boeding; Missouri: Bud Falkenhain, OD, FVI; 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: Larry Hookway, OD, FVI; ONE (of New England): Wendy Crusberg, OD; Pennsylvania: Mark Rakoczy, O.D; Puerto Rico: Augusto Carrion, OD; South Dakota: Dallas Wilkinson, OD; Southeast (AL, FL, GA, SC, MS): Paul Anderson, OD; Texas: Javier Morales, OD; Virginia: Nancy Clark, OD; Wisconsin: Mark Ebben, OD; Wyoming: Mark Wells, OD

CHAPTERS AFFILIATED WITH COLLEGES OF OPTOMETRY

Argentina: Univ. Nacional de La Plata; Bolivia: Optometry at Centro de Educacion Profesional Filadelfia; Canada: Univ. of ; Caribbean: University of the West Indies College of Optometry Ethiopia: Univ. of Gondar; Ghana: Kwame Nkrumah Univ Of Science & Technology, Univ. of Cape Coast; Colombia: LaSalle Colombia Univ., Santo Thomas, Univ. el Bosque, Univ. Foundation of Area Andea; Nigeria: Abia State Univ., Univ. of Benin; Peru: School of Optometry and Science Eurohispano; United States: Illinois College of Optometry, Indiana Univ. School of Optometry, Inter-American Univ. of Puerto Rico School of Optometry, Midwestern University, Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State Univ., New England College of Optometry, Northeastern State Univ. College of Optometry, NOVA Southeastern Univ. College of Optometry, Ohio State Univ. College of Optometry, Pacific Univ. College of Optometry, Salus Univ. College of Optometry, Southern CA College of Optometry, Southern College of Optometry, State Univ. of NY College of Optometry, Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry, Univ. of CA Berkeley School of Optometry, Univ. of Missouri-St. Louis School of Optometry, Univ. of Houston College of Optometry, Univ. of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg College of Optometry, Western Univ. College of Optometry

Missions Held

VOSH chapters conducted over 73 clinics, providing eye care to over 100,000 patients in 2012.



Caption

Humanitarian of the Year: Fr. Pierre Labine



Fr. Pierre Labine of Montreal, Canada (VOSH-Santa Cruz) was honored as the 2012 Humanitarian of the Year.



Our Partnership with Optometry Giving Sight

VOSH/International is pleased to recognize the support provided by Optometry Giving Sight, which now totals \$375,000 since our partnership commenced in 2008. These funds have been used to support a range of sustainable vision care projects including the following in 2102:

Haiti The Vision Entrepreneurs pilot project was implemented by VOSH Pennsylvania to deliver prescription eye-wear and sunglasses to poor people in remote parts of Haiti. 24 local people received training to help sell reading glasses and sunglasses to those in need.

Argentina Funds were donated to provide equipment for a vision center at La Plata School of Optometry and Optics in Argentina as part of their “Visual Health for All” program, which also promotes the important role of optometry and optometrists in primary eye health.

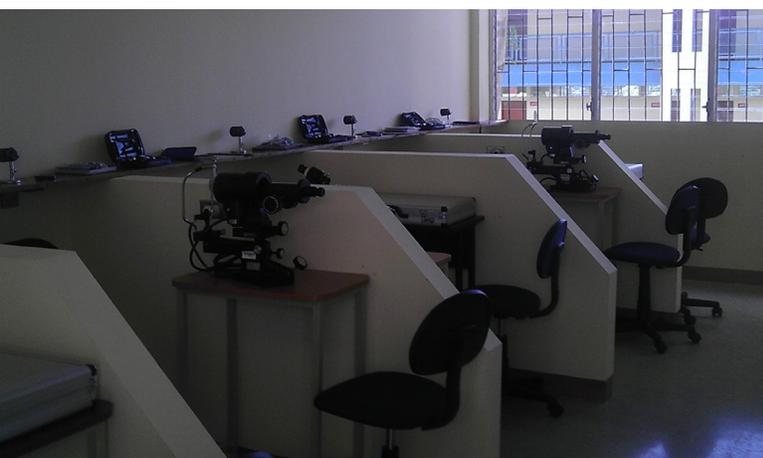
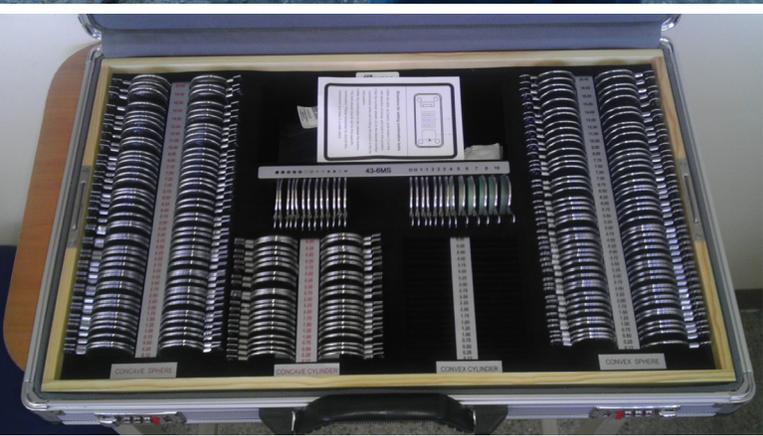
Afghanistan VOSH/International in partnership with Optometry Giving Sight has allocated funds to support a documentary film on the life of Dr. Tom Little, who was killed while on an eye care mission in Afghanistan. The film will be released in 2013.

Nicaragua Equipment was purchased to establish the first teaching laboratory at the Autonomous University of Nicaragua (UNAN). The laboratory was inaugurated on July 26th 2012 and has 3 full lanes and 10 practice refraction lanes, and will greatly assist the 50 students who graduate from the program each year.

Nicaragua A Population Study and Outreach/Referral Screening Program, which was undertaken in 2011, was published at the American Academy of Optometry meeting in October by lead investigator, Dr. Larry Hookway. The data for the quality of life and spectacle usage surveys was collected by trained local workers. Community health nurses screened and dispensed readers and ready-made equal sphere bifocals to an estimated 2,000 people.

VOSH Corps Funds have also been allocated to a new project to be launched in June 2013, in association with the Brien Holden Vision Institute, which will enable new graduates to do their residency at a School of Optometry in an underserved community in Africa or Latin America.

Finally, Optometry Giving Sight was also pleased to nominate Dr. Greg Pearl as an Eye Health Hero at the 9th General Assembly of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness in Hyderabad, India in September.



Building Local Capacity

The Need: Nicaragua Presbyopia Study

The World Health Organization estimates that 153 million people are visually impaired due to uncorrected refractive error. It estimates that 517 million are visually impaired due to uncorrected presbyopia.

In this study anyone over age 34 with unaided near vision equal to or worse than 20/40 were considered presbyopic. The study concluded approximately 81% of people in Nicaragua that are visually impaired at near due to uncorrected presbyopia do not have the spectacles that they need. Affordable spectacle lens options and increased manpower to examine eyes will be needed to elevate the problem.

Dr. Hookway estimated that it would take almost 400 VOSH clinics, each seeing 2500 people over the age of 34 to address the need of Nicaragua alone.



Vision Entrepreneurs in Haiti

One of the newly trained vision entrepreneurs said it is hard to describe just how much the readers program is helping people in his country. “It is a pleasure for me to participate in the program, because it gives me an opportunity to help many folks who otherwise would not be able to afford buying a pair of glasses,” he said. “Helping my people makes me feel that I’m serving a purpose, that’s saying a lot. I will never stop thanking you for giving me an opportunity to fulfill this purpose!”

Technology Transfer Program

The Technology Transfer Program collect usable ophthalmic instruments and equipment for distribution to schools of optometry and clinics in underserved countries. Support from the Esther Khan Foundation and Optometry Giving Sight make this a reality. Most of the materials are warehoused in Florida. This year an additional facility was established in Arizona. We were able to provide equipment to Argentina, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Mexico.



Nicaragua Pro-Vision Project

Walman Optical provided a five-year grant in 2007 to establish an eye care program in Nicaragua. The Pro-Vision clinic in Managua was established in 2009 as a part of this project. In 2012, the mobile clinics examined over 4,000 patients and over 500 in the Pro-Vision clinic. In October VOSH/International turned over the project to local control with direction from Dr. Jay Jordan and Dr. Greg Pearl. The Pro-Vision staff will continue to support VOSH clinic team working in Nicaragua.

A major outcome of this original project was the subsequent establishment of the UNAN school of optometry. This will ultimately create more availability of eye care for the population than the original vision imagined. The first class will graduate in 2014.



Connections

Annual Meeting 2012

VOSH/International celebrated its 40th year of service to humanity in Phoenix, Arizona. The annual meeting gives a chance for all interested individuals to come together for discussion, planning, and networking. This year, thanks to Jeff Cowan, a video was produced containing highlights of the meeting as well as topics on eye care needs with ideas on changing our approach to better meet these needs.



Trade Shows

VOSH/International was represented at several national and regional trade shows including Optometry's Meeting, American Academy of Optometry, Vision Expo East and West, Heart of America, Southeast Conference of Optometry. Over 55,000 attendees visited these exhibit halls in 2012. Being present at these events provides opportunity for the VOSH/International team to connect with local chapters and students; recruit new volunteers; and create awareness for the need for affordable vision care.



This is a photo of the first VOSH mission. In October 1979 Dr. Franklin Harms (photo on front cover) led a Kansas team who flew two of their own airplanes to Montemorelos, Mexico with barrels of glasses. Team members (not in order pictured) were Franklin Harms, OD-Hillsboro, KS; Norman Abrahams, OD-Hillsboro, KS; David Benelli, OD-Pittsburg, KS; Jac Landes, OD-Wichita KS; O.R. Morlong, OD-Clay Center, KS and James Enns, MD-Newton, KS

Fellowship of VOSH/International Dr. David McPhillips



Dr. Dave McPhillips is the newest Fellow of VOSH/International. 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 24 Fellows of VOSH International (FVI).

www.VOSH.org

The www.VOSH.org website received 8198 hits in 2012. Dr. Harry Zeltzer diligently monitors and maintains this important communications tool. It includes an active message board, story of the month, past newsletters, and meeting information. Contact information and links are provided for the leadership team, chapters, affiliated organizations, and resource information.

Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity, Inc.

For the year ended December 31, 2012

Income

Annual Meeting	5316.55
Chapter Dues	3800.00
Donations	31645.88
Interest	12.55
OGS Funding	11250.00
Other	234.10
Total	52259.08

Expenses

Annual Meeting	16747.55
Bank Charges	239.39
Professional Fees	298.00
Contract Labor	7200.00
Dues & Subscriptions	580.28
Newsletter	1569.87
Trade Shows	3777.22
Postage	1051.74
Supplies	636.87
Telephone	142.74
Website	1397.50
Marketing	2017.54
Travel	1882.52
Misc	711.06
Special Projects	1500.00
Total	41112.28

Grants (continuing)

Walman Optical: For development and operation of the ProVision Clinic in Nicaragua	
Beginning Balance	83523.21
Year Ending Balance	2719.98

Optometry Giving Sight: Determining incidence of uncorrected presbyopia in Nicaragua

Beginning Balance	8994.41
Ending Balance	8699.41

Grants (new)

Esther Kahn Foundation: TTP storage, refurbishing, collection, and purchasing equipment

Grant Received	10000.00
Ending Balance	2598.77

Optometry Giving Sight: TTP storage, refurbishing, collection, and purchasing equipment

One major expenditure during this year was to provide equipment for the La Palta University, Argentina Optometry school.

Grants Received	45,000.00
Ending Balance	14391.18

Visionary Sponsors 2012

Cleinman Performance Group

Essilor

National Vision

Vistakon

Gifts In Kind to VOSH/International 2012

Governance Team:

Executive Director	1.00 full-time equivalent
President	.50 FTE
Legal, Meetings, Communications, Admin.	.75 FTE
Technology Transfer Program	.75 FTE
Video Production	10,000

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