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 (OptometryGivingSight)  
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## **VOSH/International 2013**

*By President David R. McPhillips, OD, FAAO, FVI*

I am excited about being the next president of VOSH/International! I'm honored because I'm following in the footsteps of 18 previous presidents; many of whom I have had the pleasure to know and admire, and some whom I did not have the pleasure to meet. They all shared one thing: a dedication to VOSH. I never dreamed after my two trips to Haiti while a student at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, I would be honored and humbled to be in this position.

I'm excited because I believe the 2014 version of VOSH will be better than ever before, offering more to its members and chapters than at any time in our 43 year history. I believe vision care is a human right, and we as VOSH members are on a mission to transform vision care, one patient at a time.

I'm excited because VOSH/International, in collaboration with the Brien Holden Vision Institute and supported by Optometry Giving Sight, is engaging in a new initiative in building optometric education worldwide called 'VOSH Corps.'

I'm excited because of the many services VOSH/International continues to provide for its chapters: matching

potential members with local chapters, providing one voice for the American Optometric Association, Optometry Giving Sight, the World Council of Optometry, Vision 2020, Lions and Rotary International, Surgical Eye Expeditions (SEE), UNESCO, Remote Area Missions (RAM), and others.

I'm excited about the brand new [www.VOSH.org](http://www.VOSH.org) website which will unify chapters through clinic listings, contacts for chapter leaders, recruitment of new members, information, advice, and resources.

I'm excited because VOSH/International has an amazing group of 10 board members and support staff from around the country, all volunteers with a common goal. They are redefining what's possible in vision care, but they need your help.

Paraphrasing what a mission volunteer once said, "I can't take credit for helping the girl see today without taking responsibility for the man's blindness yesterday, so I choose to do neither. Instead, I prefer to simply keep working to improve the system as a whole."

**We can do it together!**

## **VOSH/International 2013 Governance Team**



*Left to Right: Barry Leonard, Ellen Weiss, Greg Pearl, Tracy Matchinski, David Stacy, Marcela Frazier, Lis Faulstich, Ellis Potter, Harry Zeltzer, Mel Muchnik, David McPhillips, John Spencer, Greg Kane, Justin Manning.*

# World Sight Day: October 9, 2013

In honor of World Sight Day, the VOSH/International board and other annual meeting attendees joined the Puerto Rico Optometric Association and the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry with a joint clinic at the San Mateo Church in Santurce.



## Humanitarian of the Year: Dr. Carl Sakovits (VOSH-Northeast)



Dr. Sakovits has been involved in VOSH since 1987. His teams include students, ophthalmologists to perform training and surgery, dental, medical, pharmacy, audiology, and veterinary care.

## VOSH Chapters

(\*new in 2013)

### NORTH AMERICA

#### CANADA

Alberta\*, British Columbia (TWECS), Ontario, Santa Cruz - Montréal (Québec)

#### 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: (PA, DE, NJ, MD), Southeast (AL, FL, GA, SC, MS), South Dakota, Texas\*, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

### CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

HONDURAS, PERU\*

### CARIBBEAN

PUERTO RICO\*

### EUROPE

NETHERLANDS

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)

### CARRIBEAN

Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry, University of West Indies School of Optometry

### SOUTH AMERICA

#### ARGENTINA

Universidad Nacional de La Plata

#### BOLIVIA

Optometry School of Centro de Educacion Profesional, Filadelfia

#### COLUMBIA

Universidad de La Salle, Santo Thomas, Universidad El Bosque, University Foundation of Area Andean

#### ECUADOR

Metropolitana

#### PERU

School of Optometry and Science Eurohispano

### 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, Department of Optometry University of Benin



## 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, OD. This honor recognizes those optometrists and other volunteers who have served in 10 or more VOSH clinics. Forty-two individuals have qualified this first year.

## Thank You from University of La Plata (Argentina)

*Dr. Graciela L. De Antoni  
Professor, Dean UNLP*

We would like to express our appreciation for the donation of the ocular diagnostic equipment to be used by students and faculty for our Bachelors in Ocular Optics and Optometry. We especially thank the support of international organizations such as VOSH, OGS, and ALDOO who also play an important part in the global strategies against avoidable blindness. The equipment received will be installed in the exam rooms and used for teaching and outreach activities.

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**I never could have imagined in the beginning how life changing and enriching being a member of VOSH would become for me. I am grateful for every opportunity I have had to help those less fortunate and to help share this experience with others whenever possible.**

**Carl Sakovits**

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## Fellowship of VOSH/International: Dr. Nelson Rivera and Dr. Gregory Kane

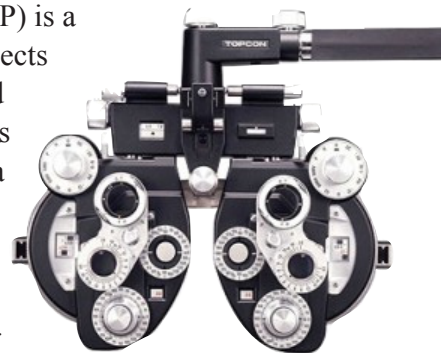
Drs. Nelson Rivera and Gregory Kane are the newest Fellows of VOSH/International. The Fellowship of VOSH/International acknowledges the skills and experience necessary for a member of VOSH to give advice on the global challenge of preventable blindness; to foster the development of future leaders to 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 26 Fellows of VOSH/International (FVI).

## 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. We have warehouses in Florida and Arizona.

In 2013, The TTP received donated optometry equipment from forty-two optometrists and optometry-related groups. After the donated equipment is in operating condition, it is shipped to deserving recipients.

Fifteen shipments, many with multiple items, including phoropters, slit lamps, chairs with stands, autorefractors, low vision supplies, hand instruments, and BIOs, have been sent to schools and organizations in Nepal, Nicaragua, Mexico, and Dominican Republic. Funding has been primarily supplied by a grant from the Esther B. Kahn Charitable Foundation for shipments within the United States and by Optometry Giving Sight for shipments sent abroad.



## Hope For Haiti

By David R. McPhillips, OD, FAAO, FVI



With 58 ophthalmologists (only 6 in the public sector) and no optometrists in a country of 10 million, refractive errors and basic eye care remain largely unattended in Haiti. Further, the personnel are primarily located in the capital of Port au Prince, making it even more difficult for 70% of the people in this poor country to access health services.

L'UEH, one of Haiti's institutions of higher education, expressed its intention to start a Haiti Optometry Program and engaged VOSH, which has been involved in Haiti for many years. Because of the Brien Holden Vision Institute's experience in the area, VOSH invited the Institute to assess the situation and subsequently an MOU was signed and both parties substantially contributed to the Haiti National Plan for Blindness Prevention and Eye Care, which will be submitted to the Minister of Health. With the help of the international community, the opportunity exists to establish not only an optometry program, but also a comprehensive eye health program that will increase capacity through education.

The Haiti Optometry Program could serve to lay the foundations for the future development of sustainable eye care services in Haiti. It is estimated that 50% of all the blind people in the Caribbean are in Haiti. A successful strategic intervention in Haiti could therefore make a significant contribution to reducing avoidable blindness and visual impairment in the Caribbean region. Although dependent on sufficient funding, the hope is to initiate this landmark program in October 2014.

## Mexico



Dr. Greg Pearl and a VOSH team traveled across the border to Tijuana and Ensenada, Mexico in May 2013 to examine orphans and staff from orphanage homes supported by Corazon de Vida ([corazondevida.org](http://corazondevida.org)). Drs. Pearl and Al Nemiroff were assisted by students from Midwestern University College of Optometry, students from Tijuana's Xochicalco University Optometry Clinic; as well as Frank Mora, a VOSH Tijuana-based clinic coordinator, and a local dentist in Ensenada. They have an invitation to return in 2014 to screen orphans in 15 more homes, each housing 40-60 orphans.



# CONNECTIONS

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

### www.VOSH.org

The V/I website receives an average of 50 hits a day or about 1500 views each month. Primary activity is on the message board, new member applications, student-VOSH related pages, and requests for equipment from TTP.

### Exhibit Halls

Visited by over 33,000 attendees from over 20 countries including:

- Heart of America
- SECO
- Optometria 2013 Congress (Mexico City)
- WCO European Academy
- Arizona, Iowa, and Nebraska Optometric Associations
- American Optometric Association
- Canadian Optometric Association
- Nigerian Optometric Association
- Colorado Vision Summit
- World Council of Optometry European Academy (Malaga, Spain)
- Great Western Council of Optometry Vision Expo West
- Puerto Rico Optometric Association (San Juan, P.R.)
- American Academy of Optometry



*Dr. Uduak Udom (left), President-Elect World Council of Optometry, and Dr Edidiong Udom represent VOSH at the Nigerian Optometric Association.*

### Facebook

658 Followers (3200 visits the last week of the student photo contest)

### Twitter

107 Followers

### Constant Contact

1008 Subscribers

### Logo

The VOSH logo was updated and simplified. All VOSH chapters were provided with individualized logos bearing their chapter names.

### Brochure

A new VOSH brochure was designed for use by VI or chapters.

### Video

VOSH continues its goal to serve its regional, state and SVOSH chapters, donors, and community meetings through numerous video and cross-media efforts. Los Angeles professional filmmaker, Jeff Cowan, completed a two-minute holiday funding appeal sent out via Constant Contact. Mr. Cowan completed field work in Paraguay and Cameroon in order to produce a stunning 8 minute promotional video. Mel Muchnik developed an informative PowerPoint with embedded video and voice presenting the new VOSH-CORPS initiative. Key sessions of the 2013 VOSH Annual Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico were recorded in high definition and posted on the VOSH website where it received more than 200 views. Videos will be posted on the V/I website and available for dropbox distribution.

### Annual Meeting

San Juan, Puerto Rico; October 10, 2013. The VOSH/International meeting was held along with the Puerto Rican optometric meeting, allowing V/I members to get to better connect with their Latin American colleagues. VOSH members had the opportunity to tour the Inter-American University School of Optometry and were able to conduct a joint clinic with them in honor of World Sight Day. VOSH President Dr. Ellis Potter passed the leadership gavel to Dr. David McPhillips.



## VOSH Profit & Loss

January through December 2013

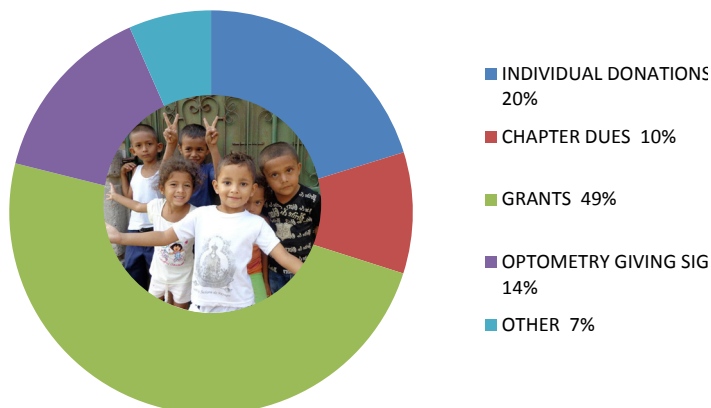
### Income

Annual Meeting 2013 - San Juan	\$2,320.00
Chapter Dues Income	\$7,175.00
Convention Registration Fees	\$1,963.87
Donations Received	\$64,925.54
Fellowship Apps	\$300.00
Interest Income	\$7.61
Membership Dues	\$360.00
Uncategorized Income	\$536.39
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$77,588.41</b>

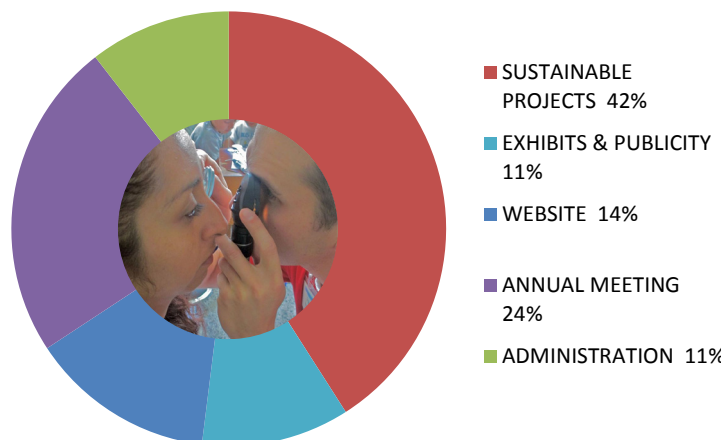
### Expense

Total Annual Mtg Exp San Juan	\$4,200.00
Awards	\$500.00
Bank Service Charges	\$162.00
Contract Services	\$8,317.50
Convention and Meeting Expense	\$12,540.77
Dues & Subscriptions	\$2,489.21
Equipment Purchases	\$15,991.36
Equipment Repair Expense	\$2,748.00
Exhibitor Booth Expenses	\$5,012.56
License and Professional Fees	\$7.14
Marketing Expense	\$700.00
Misc. Expense	\$806.00
Newsletter Expense	\$616.00
Office Expense	\$106.78
Office Supplies	\$162.50
Packaging Material Expense	\$422.38
Postage & Freight Expense	\$6,315.84
Presidential Travel Funds	\$521.70
Printing Expense	\$1,267.41
Professional Fees	\$349.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-0.72
Reimbursement Expense	
Meal Expense	\$76.11
Reimbursement Expense - Other	\$653.13
Total Reimbursement Expense	\$729.24
Rent Expense	\$4,258.00
Suspense	\$656.11
Travel	\$380.10
Website	\$1,677.71
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$70,936.59</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$6,651.82</b>

## Where Our Donations Came From



## Where Our Donations Went



## Gifts In Kind to VOSH/International 2013

All of the volunteers who participate in VOSH clinics volunteer their time and services. They receive no pay or income for participating in clinics globally as well as in the USA. That translates into millions of dollars annually of in-kind donations.

# 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