





ANNUAL REPORT

From President Ellen Weiss

t the beginning of 2016, I set two goals. The first was to increase our outreach with our SVOSH chapters. Our SVOSH visits to each of the schools by board or committee members are coming along nicely, and the student enthusiasm is contagious. VOSH was blessed with student interns that helped us in so many ways this past year. We also hosted successful student



reception in Boston in June, in conjunction with AOA, and in Anaheim at our annual meeting. If you didn't get a chance, check out our student video contest winners on our Facebook page.

My second priority was to support the expansion of VOSH chapters in Mexico. The VOSH board has a wonderful resource in member Marcela Frazier; and with the addition of Cecilia Dennie from Mexico to our VOSH/SVOSH International chapters committee, I see great potential for VOSH expanding throughout Mexico.

I had the pleasure of representing VOSH at the American Partners Forum for Our Children's Vision during the Vision Expo West meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to bring VOSH, Essilor Vision Foundation, Vision Impact Institute, Eyelliance, VSP, Optometry Giving Sight, World Council of Optometry, Charity Vision, Special Olympics and others together to join forces and address the lack of eyecare for children in the United States. While there, Greg Pearl and I met with Kim Schuy, president of Essilor Vision Foundation-Americas and Sam Hahn from Kids Vision for Life to brainstorm more about domestic missions and resources regarding US school kids. From this meeting, VOSH has created a calendar on our website highlighting the domestic missions and contact people, to better coordinate timing, personnel, and supplies.

In October I attended the IAPB meeting in Durban, South Africa, where I presented a poster on the VOSH Technology Transfer Program (TTP). The speakers were excellent and the networking opportunities on behalf of VOSH were immense. Also in October, I presented at the International Optometric Educators SIG luncheon.

My job as president is to guide, provide feedback, and delegate. We all have different strengths and weaknesses, but together we're a wonderful organization. I greatly admire our volunteer board and the time and effort they put into making VOSH the great organization that it is.

Mission Statement

We believe in the freedom to see.

We provide the gift of vision and quality 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.







Collecting Data for Awareness and Advocacy

Data from 23 VOSH and SVOSH groups reported serving 98,886 patients in 21 countries for 2016. Our data is an invaluable tool for advocacy groups. As they bring the issue of refractive blindness to the forefront, one day we will one day see it recognized as a public health concern to the same degree as malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS.

In 2016, VOSH/International became a member of EYElliance, a multisectoral advocacy group working to bring attention to the issue of visual impairment and blindness among international leaders and stake holders. According to a



recent report, 2.5 billion people need eyeglasses while those affected by river blindness is 40 million. However, the global funding for eyeglasses is only \$0.02 per person per year, for river blindness it is \$6.51. www.eyelliance.org As one of the largest grass roots organizations providing direct delivery of eye care in the developing world, VOSH is uniquely positioned to significantly contribute to the growing knowledge base regarding the value of a pair of eyeglasses. The lack of good vision translates to failing at school, jobs, health and personal lives. The socio-economic impact of correcting refractive error in these poor communities is equal to or greater than that of cataract surgery or the eradication of river blindness. vosh.org/clinic-data/

VOSH and SVOSH teams held 48 clinics in 21 countries.

98,886 patients received eye care.

The value of the services provided by VOSH in 2016 is \$19,777,200.

VOSH/International 2016 Leadership



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Ellen Weiss, OD, FVI

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Natalie Venezia, Esq., FVI

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Harry I. Zeltzer, OD, DOS, FAAO, **FVI**

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Michel Listenberger, OD, FVI

Ruth McAndrews, OD, FVI

Greg Pearl, OD, FVI

C. Ellis Potter, OD, FVI

David Stacy, OD

Uduak Udom, OD

Student Interns 2016

The accomplishments of the all-volunteer V/I board are due in part to help from SVOSH interns. The interns work with board members and committee chairs on a myriad of endeavors such as social media, website development, chapter liaisons, SVOSH relations, fundraising, and development. The 2016 interns were:

Hennen, Rachel (MCPHS) TTP Kahn, Umair (MCPHS) SVOSH

Committee

Konig, Ben (UAB) Communications, Social Media, Facebook,

Instagram, Twitter

Koss, Stephanie (U of Wisconsin

pre-optometry)

Communications, Social Media, Website

Le, Vy (MCPHS) Certificates Nehring, Emilee (MCPHS)

Communications, Constant

Contact

Sayyed, Ayra (MCPH) Data Collection





VOSH-Ghana

Our newly formed VOSH chapters in Ghana, worked together with Rotarians, 24 students from KNUST School of Optometry, and local dignitaries to provide free eye screening and education.

VOSH Chapters

NORTH AMERICA CANADA

Alberta

British Columbia (TWECS)

Ontario

Québec (Santa Cruz)

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

CARIBBEAN

Puerto Rico

WORLD

GHANA

HONDURAS

INDIA (MAHARASHTRA)

PERU

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, University of Pikeville-Kentucky College of Optometry, New England College of Optometry (MA), Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University. University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Optometry, 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 & Tobago)

MEXICO

UNAM Fes Iztacala, Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes, Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

Universidad Nacional de La Plata

BOLIVIA

Institutito de Optometría y Óptica -Filadelfia

COLUMBIA

Universidad de La Salle, Universidad Santo Thomas, Universidad El Bosque, Universidad Fundación de Área Andean

ECUADOR

Metropolitana

NICARAGUA

Nicaragua - Universidad Nacional Autónoma De Nicaragua

PFRIJ

Instituto Eurohispano, Institutito de Optometría y Óptica

AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

University of Gondar Optometry Department

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 Department of Optometry

ASIA

PHILIPPINES

Manila Central University College of Optometry

Building Capacity

VOSH Corps

The VOSH Corps is a collaboration of VOSH/International and the Brien Holden Vision Institute with funding from Optometry Giving Sight. This program was created for VOSH to recruit US and Canadian optometrists to teach optometry at fledgling optometry schools in the developing world where few optometrists and fewer optometry professors exist.

The VOSH Corps program was initiated in September 2015 with the placement of Dr. Justin Manning at the Universidad Nacional Autónomia de Nicaragua (UNAN).

The VOSH Corps committee also supported two other US trained optometrists to teach optometry in Africa. Dr. Sara McGowan has been teaching optometry for five years at the Mzuzu University College of Optometry in Mzuzu, Malawi. Dr. Jerson Desiderio was funded to teach a year at the Makerere University College of Optometry in Kampala, Uganda in 2016.

Two other VOSH Corps volunteers, Drs. Robert and Jaqueline Molter, are recently retired optometrists from Michigan who wanted to teach in Southeast Asia. They were placed at the Pham Ngoc Thach University College of Optometry in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, where they are teaching optometry from October 2016 until July 2017.

UNAN Optometry School Graduates its First Class

VOSH/International, the Brien Holden Vision Institute, and Optometry Giving Sight have supported the development of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma

de Nicaragua (UNAN-Managua) School of Optometry for 7 years to witness this first graduation ceremony on June 24, 2016.

The advocacy and leadership of Dr. Miguel Silva, the optometry school coordinator; and Dr. Justin Manning, the

first VOSH Corps instructor, have been essential to the success of this school.

Nicaragua now has 20 new, well-trained optometrists, most of which are the first in their family to get a college degree. It was a tremendously proud day for these graduates and their families and a great day for Nicaraguan visual health.





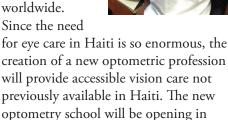
Optometry Coming To Haiti

Haiti, known as the poorest country in the western hemisphere, has only 50 ophthalmologists to serve nine million people. It is with the generous support from recognized leaders in eye health that VOSH and others can take vital steps to eliminate avoidable



blindness worldwide.

October 2017.







Malawi Outreach

Malawi optometry students held outreach clinics in northern Malawi. This area has few eye care providers, no optometrists, and no refractive services. Some of the highlights included discovering and treating a 10 year old boy with high myopia and astigmatism and identifying an infant with bilateral congenital cataracts.



Lending a Helping Hand

Technology Transfer Program (TTP)

The VOSH Technology Transfer Program collected donations of phoropters, uncut lenses, frames, handheld instruments, lensometers, and low vision devices. As the program grew in 2016, the TTF committee chaired by Dr. David Stacy, collected and distributed donations and requests for equipment.

Distribution to sustainable clinics included Mexico, Nicaragua, Romania, Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Ghana. TTP has stored frames in Mexico, which will be available to the Guerrero Clinic, Schools of Optometry in Monterrey, Torréon, Sinaloa, Aguascalientas, and Hermosillo. Where possible, TTP establishes connections to Ghana and other distant locations.

Rotarians and National Vision, Inc. have been establishing some regional storage sites. More funding would accelerate the refurbishing and cleaning of the donated materials.





TTP is developing a loaner program, which should be active in 2017.

FUDEM

VOSH teams are always welcome and continue work with FUDEM on their rural outreach clinics to increase their capacity. FUDEM is a private, non-profit foundation in El Salvador. Starting with the help of VOSH-CA, it focuses its services on visual health, aiming to fight blindness in El Salvador, especially, among those who live in conditions of extreme poverty. Now 25 years later, they



have clinics in four locations in addition to the main clinic in San Salvador. Optometric, optical, and ophthalmological services are provided. FUDEM's mobile units go to every corner of the country and carry out visual health campaigns, becoming agents of change for thousands of people who live excluded and forgotten due to the conditions of poverty in which they live. To be able to carry out this task, FUDEM works hand in hand with communal leaders, health promoters, religious leaders and with any person or institution that wishes to join their efforts to improve life conditions for the members of their communities.

VOSH Reserves, Nepal Recovery Project 2016

The Gorkha earthquake in April 2015 was the worst natural disaster to strike Nepal since 1934. Ten eye doctors and six general volunteers from Canada and the United States were in Nepal in March 2016 to help earthquake survivors. VOSH provided free eye care and prescription glasses donated by Canadians through the Canadian registered Charity TWECS Canada/VOSH-BC.



The team traveled on dangerous, narrow mountain roads to where some of the worst destruction had occurred. Once sturdy pre-earthquake schools had been replaced with rough tin sheds. The rough dirt-floored sheds, tents and corrugated shacks without electricity were challenging clinical settings.

Morning lines were mainly full of children and older persons. By the hot midday sun, true to our host's prediction, dozens of other women began arriving en masse - those who had finished caring for their fields, homes and children then trekked to our clinic site. Some of the students seen were orphaned by the earthquake and at the end of the long day, before they returned to our hotel, the team visited their homes and gave shoes, clothes and bags of rice to the ladies who care for them.

In 7 days of intense clinics we were able to give care and eyeglasses to over 3,000 people in 5 different locations. vosh.org/get-involved/join-the-vosh-reserves-





Spreading the Vision

Video

VOSH Building Eye Care Capacity in the Developing World

https://vimeo.com/183017972. The video focuses on VOSH/International sustainability initiatives including the first graduating optometry class at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua-Managua (UNAN), VOSH Corps, the Technology Transfer Program (TTP) and efforts to develop other sustainable clinics. It premiered at the November annual meeting and reached 10,300 views in the first three months.

VOSH/International Changing Lives: The Gift of Vision

https://vimeo.com/90429995 (original video still available on the web) viewed 2,145 times in 2016 with total 3-year reach of 103,000

Media

Voice of America: Donna Harvey OD, was the guest representing VOSH on a 30 minute program for an independent station in Afghanistan. The interview focused on myopia and presbyopia. It was then translated into the Afghan language of Dari and broadcast by Voice of America to an audience estimated at one million.

AOSA Foresight Online Magazine: https://theaosa.org/351-2/ The spring issue of the student magazine featured VOSH and an interview with President, Ellen Weiss.

Vision Monday: http://www.visionmonday.com/vm-reports/article/executive-suite-vm0718/ Dr. Ellen Weiss, President of VOSH/International was honored in Vision Monday in "Women Who Wow."

http://www.bausch.com/our-company/recent-news/id/2340/10202016-thursday Vision Monday recognized the work in Haiti by Past VOSH/International President, Dave McPhillips, and VOSH-PA. (p9)

Electronic

www.VOSH.org: over 4,000 page views per month.

2,148 sessions and 5,643 page views in December alone

Facebook: 14,931 reach per month, 179,181 for the year with 2,445 following

Twitter: 11 posts a month -2,223 average monthly impressions **Instagram**: Has a reach of 490. Account now being redeveloped. **Constant Contact**: average 3 posts/month with a reach of 4,708

World Sight Day

http://www.storyofsight.com/ Produced by Koenig Films, this PBS documentary debuted on World Sight Day. Narrated by Sir Elton John, the story's threads weave the tale of the journey of humanity that discovered the science; technology and medicine that allows us to understand how sight works, cure diseases of the eye and correct vision. VOSH was a sponsor and advisor in the project.



In Person

Exhibit Halls: VOSH exhibits at most major optometric meetings, including Heart of America, SECO International, American Optometric Association, Vision Expo West, and the American Academy of Optometry.

Our VOSH presence allows us to meet with those wanting more information, connect people with their local chapters, and share experiences. VOSH visibility has allowed us to establish great connections and resources through visiting with the other vendors. Thank you to Vistakon, a division of Johnson & Johnson, for their support of our exhibit hall efforts.

Annual Meeting: The 2106 Annual Meeting was held in Anaheim, CA on November 13. The keynote speaker was Dra. Evelyn Díaz of the Dominican Republic. (p14)

SVOSH Visits: Student VOSH chapters are the future of VOSH and are vital in accomplishing the goal of providing access to eye examinations and glasses. It is the goal of VOSH/International to have a VOSH representative meet with all the student chapters of each optometry school in North America once a year. It aims to further inspire each student's involvement in eliminating refractive blindness. We also advise them on the resources that are available; stress the importance of developing sustainable clinics; and introduce the importance of accurate data collection and reporting.

VOSH Annual Meeting

The VOSH/International Annual Meeting is a wonderful opportunity to meet and personally connect with other VOSH members and luminaries in the humanitarian eye care industry. We share updates on vision care from around the world. Board members, committees, chapter leaders, and students have the opportunity to meet each other, participate in focus groups, and share common challenges and ideas.

The 2016 VOSH Annual Meeting was held in Anaheim, CA on Sunday, November 13. The keynote speaker was Dra. Evelyn Díaz discussing "VOSH Eye Care Programs in the Dominican Republic: Improving Vision and Changing Lives in the Caribbean." Other speakers from outside the United States were Dr. Kovin Naidoo, CEO of the Brien Holden Institute; and Dr. Cecilia Dennie of Durango, Mexico.

Eighty-seven attendees registered, representing 17 chapters and 10 student chapters. They travelled from across the United States, 2 Canadian provinces, Australia, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, and Mexico. Posters were displayed by the individual chapters to portray their activities of the past year and 8 exhibitors were available to demonstrate clinic equipment and supplies.



Fellows of VOSH/International

There are now 37 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. New Fellows in 2016 were Dr. Tracy Matchinski and Dr. David Stacy.

vosh.org/get-involved/fellow-of-voshinternational/

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. There are now 57 VOSH volunteers that have been recognized.

vosh.org/get-involved/franklin-harms-society/

Harry I. Zeltzer Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr. Jim Hess

Dr. Jim Hess of Minnesota is one of three past VOSH/ International presidents from the Illinois College of Optometry Class of 1979. He was president from 1990-92 and served on its board of directors for 13 years. Dr. Hess has been president of VOSH-Minnesota since 1983. He has participated in or lead 47 VOSH clinics to all parts of the world. As co-leader to a trip to Tanzania, they brought along some British optometrists who later formed Vision Aid Overseas. He was later a co-leader of a joint mission to India in 1986 with the newly-formed VAO.







Humanitarian of the Year: Dr. Bina Patel

Dr. Patel has been a faculty member of the New England College of Optometry since 1989. She has been the faculty advisor for the SVOSH group for over 20 years, been actively involved in VOSH-ONE, and a past board member of VOSH/International. In addition to foreign clinics, Dr. Patel has encouraged students to be active in local screenings and provision of care for those in need in the greater Boston area. She has many years of international teaching experience in primary care optometry with an emphasis on ocular disease.

President's Circle Award: Dr. Michel Listenberger

In 1986 Dr. Michel Listenberger along with Dr. Nelson Edwards founded VOSH-Michigan. Michel was VOSH/International President 1995-1997, and a few years ago inherited the role of VOSH Historian. Along with the title, Michel inherited boxes of old VOSH files and documents. He then began converting hundreds of pages of materials into a book. Mike poses the question, "Why would anyone put their life on hold, paying their own expenses, traveling to the other side of the world, to give others they don't even know, the gift of sight?" The book will be published and available for purchase in early 2017.

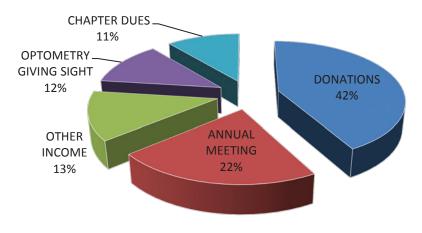


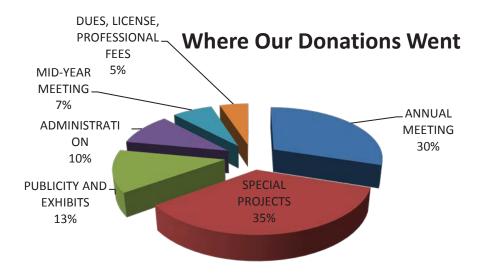
VOSH-International Profit & Loss

January through December 2016

Incomo	
Income	.
Annual Meeting Sponsorship	\$14,000
Annual Meeting Registration	\$6,795
Chapter Dues Income	\$11,114
Donations Received	\$40,694
Fellowship Applications	\$480
Interest Income	\$4
Optometry Giving Sight - Organizational Devel.	\$11,250
Other Primary Income	\$12,097
Total Income	\$96,435
Expenses	
Annual Meeting	\$21,253
Board Travel Expenses	\$3,865
Dues and Subscriptions	\$3,535
Exhibits	\$4,011
License and Professional Fees	\$1,053
Mid-year Meeting	\$6,051
Publicity (website, video, printing)	\$6,587
Miscellaneous Expense	\$4,664
Special Projects	\$3,588
Contract Labor	\$25,400
Total Expense	\$84,348

Where Our Donations Came From





Thank You To Our Sponsors

VISIONARY: \$25,000

Optometry Giving Sight (supporting VOSH programs since 2009)

AMBASSADOR: \$10,000 - \$24,999

National Vision, Inc. The Korzeniewski Family Foundation

PARTNER: \$5,000 - \$9,999

Johnson and Johnson Vision, Inc. CEWIRE (Paul and Adam Farkas)

ADVOCATE: \$2,500 - \$4,999

Essilor of America Greg Pearl, OD Paul Sager and Natalie Venezia Family Foundation Valorie Seyfert

BENEFACTOR: \$1,000 to \$2,499

VSP

Walter and Elsa Branson Shelly Kryger and Jason Gold Lisbeth Faulstich, OD Kelly and Janice Ferrell Dr. and Mrs. C. Ellis Potter

PATRON: \$500 - \$999

Matthew and Sara Axline
Wayne Collier
Charles Grey, OD
Bruce and Rebecca Hollinger
Ruth, Eric and Mark Mandel
C. Ellis Potter, OD
Natalie C. Venezia
Ellen Weiss, OD
Harry I. Zeltzer, OD

VOSH Historical Society Founding Members

Charles Grey, OD Greg Pearl, OD, FVI C. Ellis Potter, OD, FVI Natalie Venezia, FVI Harry I . Zeltzer, OD, FVI VOSH-Texas by Walter and Elsa Branson and Tom Pruitt, OD

VOSH Historical Society Scroll of Vision

Walter Branson, FVI and Elsa Branson
Charles Grey, OD
Mel Muchnik, PhD
C. Ellis Potter, OD, FVI
University of Houston School of Optometry
University of Missouri School of Optometry
VOSH-Texas, Tom Pruett, OD, President
Natalie Venezia, Esq., FVI
Ellen L. Weiss, OD, FVI
Harry I. Zeltzer, OD, FVI

Greg Pearl, OD, FVI

Gifts in Memory of

Dr. Jerry Ferrell

Kelly and Janice Ferrell Matthew and Sara Axline

Wayne Collier

Bruce and Rebecca Hollinger David and Beverly Deck

Fort Wayne Radiology

Larry Lewis

Anonymous Erin Wimmer

Tim and Debbie Beihle

Donald and Norma Ferrell

David and Rosanne Boudouris

John and Sheila Burge

Nancy, Gary, Erin & Elizabeth Demorest

Gregory DiSanto

Terrence and Kathy Fisher

Amanda Fling

Margaret Fragal

Timothy and Mary Frericks

Ricky and Debra Fulton

Char Gatrell

Kent Gottfried

Ron and Katherine Griffith

Robert Haas

Kristen Hosni

Mary and James Kearns

Sharon Lindemann

Beverly Lynch

Timothy and Rita Lyons

Kenneth and Sue Norris Sara McLean

Roger and Eileen Pfeiffer

Art and Colleen Tofte

Mr. and Mrs. Tong

Sharon Zajac

Craig Baxter

Rite-Style Optical Dr. Ellen and Carl Weiss

Dr. Elias Mandel

Ruth, Eric and Mark Mandel

Larry Hauler

Mindy Haenn

Erica Podloski

Lauren Rubin, OD

Julia Heiden

Monty Yao

Dave Nordstrom

Rite-Style Optical

Gary Maddox

Rite-Style Optical

Mother of John Barry

Rite-Style Optical

Gifts in Honor of

Marriage of Shelly Kryger and Jason Gold

Shelly Kryger and Jason Gold

Jayme Matchinski

Moira Gibbons

Marriage of

Dr. Kyle and Erica Ohman

Walter and Elsa Branson

Natalie Venezia
Laura Zimmerman

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Transforming lives through the gift of vision

















CEwire 2016



















IntroEyes



www.VOSH.org