



Global vision in action

January 2026 Newsletter

January brought powerful stories of leadership and impact across VOSH and SVOSH chapters: President Weiss marks low-vision awareness month with insights from Dr. Tracy Matchinski. From key presentations to webinars to inspiring chapter initiatives and life-changing humanitarian clinics, this month's updates from Jordan, Colombia, Haiti, Mexico, Nigeria, and the US highlight our shared commitment to expanding access to eye care worldwide. Enjoy reading it and share it widely.

President's Insights
January 2026
Marking Low Vision Awareness Month

President's Insights

This month, President Weiss speaks with Dr. Tracy Matchinski, faculty adviser of SVOSH at the Illinois College of Optometry, and an expert on low vision rehabilitation, marking Low Vision Awareness Month.

Watch the video [here](#).

English and Spanish subtitles are available in the video settings.

Resources for low vision rehabilitation

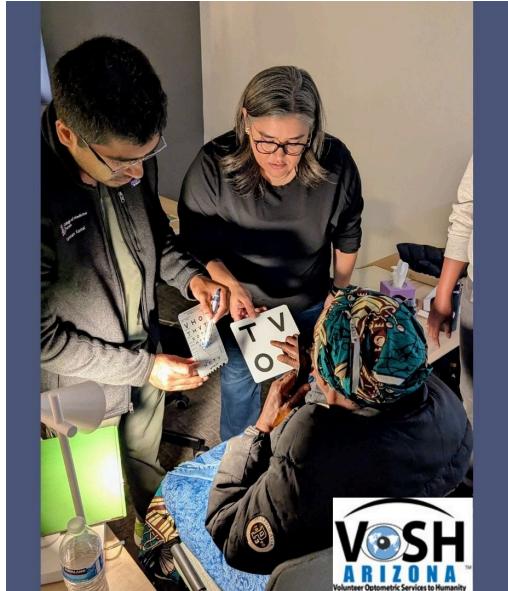
Dr Matchinski shared a summary of low vision rehabilitation resources that VOSH and SVOSH chapters can use during humanitarian clinics. Access the document [here](#).

News from our chapters

VOSH-Arizona partners with the IRC to serve migrants

VOSH-Arizona partnered with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Tucson to provide free eye exams to recently settled refugees in Tucson. An interprofessional team provided these important services.

Read more [here](#)



VOSH-Arizona goes to Navojoa, Mexico

From March 1-7, VOSH-AZ will be in Navojoa and welcomes optometrists from outside Arizona to join. For more information, contact Dr. Destin Whipple at vosharizona@gmail.com

VOSH-ASOSAVIN hosts webinar on early detection of neurodevelopmental issues in children

On January 28, the Colombian Optometrists Association for Children's Vision (ASOSAVIN) hosted a webinar led by Dr. Juan Felipe Jaramillo on early detection of neurodevelopmental issues in children by optometrists and other health professionals.

Watch the recording (in Spanish) [here](#).



SVOSH-Bingham-Nigeria hosts mentoring webinar

On January 3, 2026, SVOSH-Bingham held a webinar entitled "Navigating Optometry: From Classroom Confidence to Clinical Clarity" to inspire optometry students to develop confidence, clarity, and purpose as they prepare for their careers.

This is a great initiative to start the year.

For more information, contact Praise Olusegun at plusegu@gmail.com

After dilation vision will come back to normal naturally after 4-6 hours. Come with a person who can take you back safely.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

KNOW YOUR SPEAKERS:

DR. STELLAMARIS CHIAMAKA ONYEGBULE

PIONEER **TOP INNOVATIVE IN EYE HEALTH** **HUMANITARIAN**

WE'RE EXCITED TO WELCOME DR. STELLAMARIS CHIAMAKA ONYEGBULE – A SHINING LIGHT IN THE WORLD OF OPTOMETRY AND A PASSIONATE ADVOCATE FOR ACCESSIBLE EYE CARE.

A DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY GRADUATE FROM FUTO, SHE WAS RECOGNIZED AS THE MOST INNOVATIVE OPTOMETRY STUDENT IN NIGERIA (2021). SHE COMPLETED HER INTERNSHIP AT 'SKIPPER EYE-O', SERVED IN BINGHAM DURING RYSC, AND SPEARHEADED A VISION OUTREACH PROJECT FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES. RESTORING HOPE THROUGH SIGHT.

NOW A PRACTICING CLINICIAN, HER JOURNEY BLENDS ACADEMIC BRILLIANCE WITH HANDS-ON IMPACT. SHE'LL BE SPEAKING ON THE TOPIC: 'FROM TOP OF THE CLASS TO FRONTLINE CARE: TURNING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE INTO REAL-WORLD OPTOMETRY IMPACT' PREPARE TO BE INSPIRED!

SAT 3RD JANUARY 2026 7 - 9PM

GOOGLE MEET



SVOSH-AAU-Jordan Faculty adviser at the Moorfields Eye Hospitals UAE Conference

Professor Gammon of Al-Ahliyya Amman University presented VOSH-funded research at the Moorfields UAE Annual Conference, showcasing a school vision screening model developed in Jordan. Read more [here](#).



SVOSH-PUCO Fall Newsletter available

The SVOSH chapter at the Pacific University College of Optometry released its fall newsletter featuring updates on work in Peru, Guatemala, and fundraising. You can find the newsletter [here](#).

For more information, contact Tiffany Li, chapter historian at litiff@pacificu.edu

VOSH-Sinaloa distributes 5000 glasses

VOSH-Sinaloa closed 2025 by distributing 5000 glasses to underserved senior citizens across Sinaloa through local partnerships. Read more [here](#).



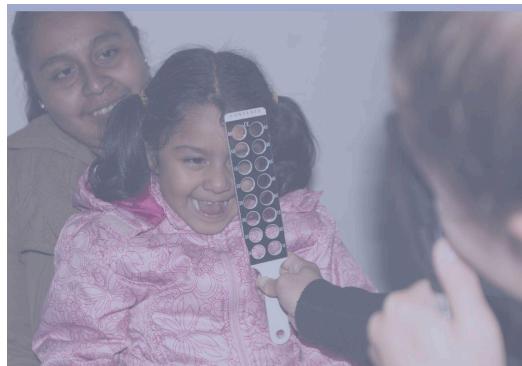
A great end of 2025

5000 people served

SVOSH-OSU seeking to join a clinic in August

SVOSH-Ohio State University G is planning its annual humanitarian clinic for August 8-15 and is seeking to partner with VOSH chapters or like-minded organisations.

If you can help, please contact Elizabeth Svinke, co-president SVOSH-OSUCO at svinkin.1@buckeyemail.osu.edu



January marked US Glaucoma Awareness Month and Haiti's National Day

Explore VOSH President Insights on Glaucoma [here](#).

Watch Drs Rakoczy and Previl's lecture on glaucoma in Haiti [here](#).

Additional glaucoma resources from Prevent Blindness [here](#).



On US Glaucoma Awareness Month

VOSH-PA continued support to Haiti

Despite ongoing challenges, VOSH-PA remains steadfast in its commitment to Haiti. By the end of 2025, they dispensed more than 30 prescription glasses produced with support from Keralink -each pair transforming a life. One patient, Yvonne, 74, had felt helpless for years, relying on others for basic daily tasks. With her new glasses, she regained her independence and was looking forward to a better 2026. Another young woman, struggling with her university studies, was burdened by the feeling of having failed her parents' sacrifices to give her a better education. With her new glasses, she can continue pursuing her studies and make her parents proud. VOSH-PA travels to Haiti every year, and through its partnership with the New Hope Hospital, the team can serve hundreds of patients who otherwise would not receive eye care. Watch the space for updates on the 2026 clinic to Haiti. For more information, contact Dr Mark Rakoczy at mrakoczy831@gmail.com

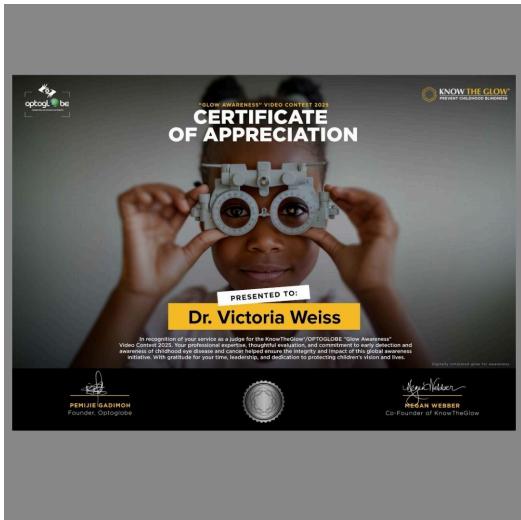


News from our partners



Nigerian Optometric Students' Association (NOSA) leadership in Abuja.

NOSA leaders met with Nigerian authorities in Abuja, the administrative and political capital of this country, to advocate for stronger policies supporting children's and youth vision care. Read more [here](#).



Know the Glow/OPTOGLOBE video Contest

VOSH/International, represented by Dr Vicki Weiss, once again participated in judging entries for the [Know the Glow](#) and [OPTOGLOBE](#) video contest, raising awareness about leukocoria. Watch the winning entries [here](#).

GOPHA hosts online forum on optometry and global public health.

On January 17, the Global Optometry Public Health Alliance ([GOPHA](#)), in partnership with the India Vision Institute ([IVI](#)), hosted an online forum on The role of optometry in global public health: challenges and opportunities. Recognised global leaders discussed with attendees and a preliminary document produced. A final version will be shared soon.



The Hope Alliance seeking volunteers for Uganda clinic.

The [Hope Alliance](#), a non-profit organisation from Utah, USA, is seeking optometrists, opticians, and lay volunteers for its July clinic in Uganda. Hope Alliance works with the Bwindi Community Hospital to serve local communities. The trip runs July 1 -13. Read details about this activity [here](#).

For more information, contact Lisa Mosher, International Coordinator for Hope Alliance at lisam@thehopealliance.org



Goes to Uganda and needs help

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