



---

## 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

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](mailto: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](mailto:plusegu@gmail.com)

**SVOSH**  
SVOSH-BINGHAM-NIGERIA  
Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity

**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 "SHARPER EYE-O", SERVED IN BINGHAM DURING WISC, 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**  
SVOSH-AAU-JORDAN  
Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity

**Moorfields UAE : A Year in Focus**  
8th International Ophthalmology Conference  
10th January (in-person) & 11th January (virtual) - 2026

**Disclaimers: Attendance is restricted to individuals aged 18 years and above**

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

Professor Gammoh 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](#).

**FALL/WINTER 2025 ISSUE**

**AMIGOS NEWSLETTER**  
AMIGOS EYE CARE  
SVOSH AT PACIFIC UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

**PERU, GUATEMALA, EYE BALL, AND LOCAL OUTREACH**

**Read on to learn more about what AMIGOS has been up to from late summer to winter of 2025!**

**FOLLOW US**  
@amigosyecare  
AMIGOS Eye Care  
[www.amigosyecare.com](http://www.amigosyecare.com)

**THIS FALL WAS A BUSY SEMESTER FOR AMIGOS! WE WORKED ON FUNDRAISING THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER FOR OUR TWO INTERNATIONAL TRIPS IN AUGUST: PERU AND GUATEMALA. TWO GROUPS OF APPROXIMATELY 12 STUDENTS & DOCTORS EACH TRAVELED SIMULTANEOUSLY TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, PROVIDING EYE CARE TO OVER 1000 PATIENTS IN TOTAL IN THE SPAN OF A WEEK. BACK IN OREGON, THE SUMMER AND FALL WERE FILLED WITH LOCAL OUTREACH TRIPS AND EVENTS, PARTICIPATING IN THE ANNUAL FOREST GROVE LIONS RUN/WALK, AND OUR HIGHLY ANTICIPATED EYE BALL GOLF & FUNDRAISER! AT THE CORE OF EACH OF THESE EVENTS WE ARE A PART OF OUR CONTINUAL MISSION TO PROVIDE EYE CARE TO UNDERPRIVILEGED AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES, WHEREVER THOSE MAY BE. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF THE SUPPORT WE HAVE RECEIVED THIS PAST YEAR AND WANT TO SEND A HUGE THANK YOU TO ANYONE WHO HAS DONATED, COME TO OUR EVENTS, OR HELPED SPREAD OUR MISSION IN SOME WAY. LOOKING FORWARD TO 2026!**

**AMIGOS SVOSH**  
SVOSH-PUCO

## 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](mailto: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](#).



## 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 Svinkin, co-president SVOSH-OSUCO at [svinkin.1@buckeyemail.osu.edu](mailto: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](#).



## 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, Yvonie, 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 wouldis ok 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](mailto:mrakoczy831@gmail.com)

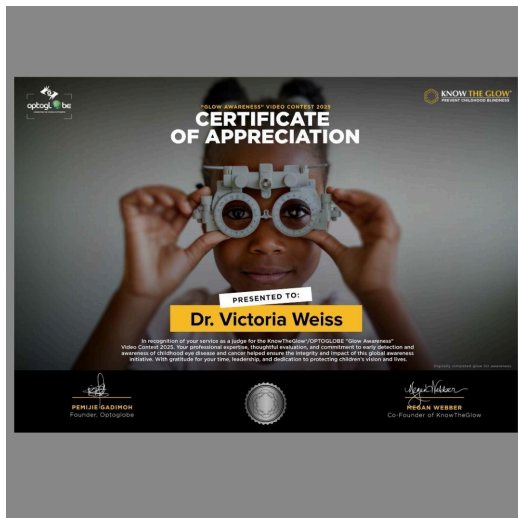


## News from our partners



### 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](mailto:lisam@thehopealliance.org)



Visit our Website and Follow us



VOSH/International | 12660 Q Street | Omaha , NE 68137 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

How did you like this email?

