

VOSH celebrates World Optometry Day

President's insights

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Every year on March 23rd, the world celebrates World Optometry Day, which honors the vital role optometrists play in eye health and vision care. The World Council of Optometry (WCO), formerly the International Optometric and Optical League (IOOL), founded World Optometry Day in 1986. Since then, it has developed into a global forum for highlighting the value of optometry in healthcare systems.

Raising awareness of vision problems, honoring the commitment of optometrists, and enhancing accessibility to eye care services are the main goals of World Optometry Day. The mission of VOSH/International is strongly aligned with these ideals.

How does VOSH/International respond to the challenge of World Optometry Day?

Humanitarian clinics

Over 100,000 patients receive free eye treatment each year from our 114 chapters in Canada, the USA, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and the Eastern Mediterranean. The clinics frequently act as stepping stones for establishing long-lasting eye care systems.

Initiatives for Education and Training

Globally, VOSH/International aids in the education of aspiring optometrists. Around the world, we have student chapters at many optometry schools. Through programs like the Ambassador,

Mentor, and VOSH Corps, we offer consultation, mentorship, and lectures to optometry schools around the world.



Program for Technology Transfer (TTP)

The TTP assists in providing the required examination equipment to community clinics and new optometry schools. This program promotes the growth of sustainable eye care services by giving local healthcare practitioners the resources they need to provide high-quality care.

Collaborative service and research projects

In underprivileged communities, VOSH/International provides eye exams, vision screenings, and refractive correction in partnership with local optometry students and practitioners. These partnerships improve clinical expertise and provide a better comprehension of the needs for eye care around the world. Some of the projects have resulted in journal publications that enhance our knowledge of the prevalence of refractive error and visual impairment of underserved populations.

Alliances to enhance our capacity to serve

We encourage partnerships with groups that increase our efficacy. We have agreements with the OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation (OSELF) and the Latin American Association of

Optometry and Optics (ALDOO). We are now working on partnerships with Charity Vision and the Special Olympics LatAm. These alliances strengthen our ability to fulfill our mission.

Celebrating our successes, inspired to do more

VOSH/International has been committed to helping people needing eye care for the past 53 years. We are proud of the many lives we have changed and impacted. We are proud of the accomplishments we have made. However, when we take stock of our achievements, we are reminded that much more has to be done. Our desire to reach more people and have a greater effect is fueled by the tenacity and thankfulness of the communities we serve. With renewed energy and purpose, we look forward to continuing our mission, ensuring everyone has access to quality eye care and the opportunity to see a brighter future.

