

VOSH/International and Charity Vision: partners in the crusade against darkness

President's Insights

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As President of VOSH/International, I commend the recent achievement of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between VOSH/International and Charity Vision with great pride and enthusiasm. This landmark agreement represents a significant milestone in our shared mission to bring quality eye health and vision care to underserved populations worldwide.

Charity Vision rests on the kindness and vision of Dr. Bill Jackson and his wife, Audrey. In the 1960s, they dedicated themselves to humanitarian medical work globally. By the late 1980s, they established the Deseret International Foundation. In 2001, Doug Jackson, son of Bill and Audrey, became the organization's Executive Director. By 2014, the organization became Charity Vision focused on eye care.

Charity Vision's mission is to restore curable vision impairment worldwide. They believe in building long-term, community-driven solutions. They support local medical professionals, making eye care affordable and accessible to all in need. This work has been sustained mainly by providing cataract surgeries and eyeglasses to needy patients worldwide. One of the more impactful projects is the development of cataract surgery supply kits at a very low cost. Their impact is astounding as of 2024, more than 140,000 cataract surgeries and 180,000 eyeglasses donated.

The agreement between VOSH/International and Charity Vision outlines a comprehensive scope of collaboration focused on three key streams:

- Identification, preparation, and shipment of donated ophthalmic equipment to VOSH and SVOSH chapters and partners in need. This process includes rigorous assessment of equipment requests, due

diligence with beneficiaries, and coordinated logistics managed by VOSH's Technology Transfer Program (TTP) Committee and Charity Vision's warehouse team.

- Appraisal and acceptance of donated equipment, ensuring that only viable, high-quality items that meet VOSH's project needs are accepted, refurbished, and integrated into the donation inventory. This ensures responsible stewardship of resources and maximizes impact.
- Facilitation of cataract surgery kits to support humanitarian clinics, addressing a critical barrier to sight-restoring surgeries. In turn, VOSH supports Charity Vision's projects by providing frames for their clinics, fostering mutual benefit and resource sharing.

Our heartfelt thanks to Doug Jackson, Executive Director of Charity Vision, and the Charity Board for supporting this alliance. Together, we can make the difference!



Dr. Bill Jackson, his wife Audrey (RIP), and their son, Doug

You can watch the wonderful story of Bill, Audrey, and Doug at:https://youtu.be/cqTgrmq77SE?si=Kq_qGGLo2833qCb7

Charity Vision Website: <https://charityvision.org/>