

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL

Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity

www.VOSH.org

Volume XV No.2 Fall/Winter, 2001-2002



EAGERTOSERVE YOU: 2001-2002 VOSH/INTERNATIONAL officers: L-r: Patti Fuhr-Wimbs, OD of Alabama; Jeff Marshall, OD, of Indiana; Charles Covington, of Florida; Harry Zeltzer, OD, of MA; Ann Slocum-Edmonds, OD, of Oregon; Dale Cole, OD, of Kansas and Dieter Ruehrmund, of IL, just before being sworn-in at the Bradenton, Florida, annual meeting.

V/I welcomes three new chapters, reorganizes board duties

As an experiment, the agenda for this year's VOSH/INTERNATIONAL annual meeting took place over a two-day period, leaving large open blocks of time for informal discussion, breakout sessions and old-fashioned socializing.

It was such a productive event that the model will be

used again at next year's annual meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Three new chapters

The mood was upbeat right from the beginning when three new chapters were welcomed into the organization: VOSH-CT, VOSH-New York and VOSH-Netherlands-our first European chapter. (See

p. 6). Names of all chapter presidents, with contact information, is listed on p. 8 in order to encourage better channels of communication.

Student scholarships

The V/I Board voted to provide one \$100 scholarship for each of the 17 student chapters to defray travel costs for optometric students par-

ticipating in VOSH missions.

Assignment changes

In an effort to continue to develop the organizational advances instituted by past-president Dr. Jeff Marshall, newly-elected president Dr. Harry Zeltzer has made

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The Weisses go to Wise, VA

While VOSH has projects going all around the globe, what about here at home?

This past July, Vicki Weiss, OD, and her husband, Douglas Weiss, OD, collaborated in a combined medical care team that provided health services to

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Vicki Weiss, OD, with a patient

Pioneer in computer cataloguing of glasses

If you've ever worked in the dispensary of a VOSH clinic, you've encountered firsthand the frustration of going through box upon box to find the best available prescription for the patient. When volunteer Dennis Gunst experienced the problem, he took on the challenge of writing a computer program to simplify the task. Along the way he's set up a complete glasses recycling center and developed a few other innovations.

British by birth, a Californian by temperament, Dennis is one of those inventive, engineering types whose mind never stops. His resume provides a fascinating glimpse into his restless talent. Among his accomplishments, he was a sound engineer for feature films; he designed an automatic editing

machine for CBS and an automatic storyboard machine for NBC; he also designed and made special wind tunnels for the US Navy Missile Test Center.

Then, in 1963, when Dennis was 38 years old, he retired. He began taking Spanish lessons and joined the Flying Samaritans, a group dedicated to providing medical care to the needy in lower CA. Soon he was coordinating one of their eye clinics and was much in demand as a teacher. "He's a mentor and a friend," says Neil Mietus,

OD, of CA. "Dennis showed us how to measure, mark, edge (with a simple sanding pad on a drill) and mount lenses on the spot in 10 minutes."

Dennis joined VOSH, Rotary and

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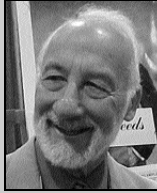


Dennis Gunst at work

From the President's desk

One of the greatest cities in the world will now be remembered as the site of death and destruction on Sept 11, 2001. It will also be remembered for the enormous courage and sacrifice of police and fire fighters who lost their lives.

Personally, I felt what happened also rocked the foundation of our civilization, drawing us into a new and dangerous era.



After receiving several calls from members, I realized terrorism also posed a threat to VOSH, mainly for those of us who travel to underdeveloped countries. The ordinary risks of traveling to a Third World country begins to pale in light of that tragedy. Now we must reconsider purpose and risks.

As unpaid volunteers, our individual commitment to the Third World eye programs should and can be discharged without explanation. We have a responsibility to examine our purpose as VOSHERS versus our duty to loved ones, not an easy task for humanitarians. Perhaps the answer is to compromise and carefully select a mission or to serve in other ways.

The other reality is an overwhelming need for eye care where it is not available or affordable. That need can only be addressed by VOSH and an unthwarted determination to correct an imbalance caused by poverty. It is a personal decision for each one of us to make.

For the record I am happy to report that VOSH is still in business. Missions to Mexico and Lithuania left as scheduled days after the attack. Two more missions to Mexico, Venezuela and El Salvador remain scheduled for November and at present there are no missions canceled for next year. Understandably, we have had some individual cancellations but empty spaces have been refilled.

As your new president I am encouraged to move forward. I hope to increase membership and increase missions using our newsletter and web site - www.VOSH.org.

I also wish to bring chapters into a closer family by sharing data and building on the sound steps of my predecessor, Dr Jeff Marshall, and fellow officers.

Harry I. Zeltzer, OD, FFAO
President, VOSH-International

VOSH recognizes Lions International efforts

At an International Lions Club meeting held in Indianapolis in early July, former VOSH/INTERNATIONAL president Jeff Marshall, OD, made a presentation recognizing the International Association of Lions Clubs for its continuing support of VOSH projects. He cited in particular the group's ongoing collection and processing of eyeglasses for use on eye missions, its hosting of VOSH teams in third-world countries and its efforts to increase public awareness of the need to recycle used glasses. Shortly after the event, Dr. Marshall received the following note:

Dear Jeff:

On behalf of Lions Clubs International, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you and the entire VOSH network for your kind words of

acknowledgment at the recent International Relations Seminar in Indianapolis. We are indeed fortunate that our two organizations can combine forces to reach the common goal of serving those in need.

The large crowd at the seminar certainly showed the great interest that Lions have in the important work of the VOSH missions. Again, I thank you for taking the time from your busy schedule to attend and present Lions with the award. I speak for all Lions when I offer the most sincere wishes for our continued strong partnership in bringing better sight to the world.

Margaret Newell,
Manager of Cultural and Environmental
Program Development
for Lions Clubs International

From our mailbox-expressions of solidarity

Here, in their own words, are a few of the expressions of concern that were received by VOSH team leaders following the horrible events of September 11.

Hola Dr. D'Amico-

Con mucho consternacion hemos escuchado y visto a traves de los medios de comunicacion, lo que acontece en su pais producto del desastre ocurrido en las torres gemelas, donde miles de personas fueron afectados.

Servicios Medicos Comunales quiere expresar sus muestras de solidaridad para con su pueblo y pedimos a Dios que ninguno de ustedes haiga sido afectado directamente y que se acaben los actos que lesionan la paz mundial.

Dra. Rosa Elena Bello,
San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua

* * *

Hi Bob [Bob Merriam of VOSH-Indiana],

We are all in shock for what happen in NY and DC. I can only express our solidarity with all of you for such a terrible terrorist attack.

My regards,
Miguel
Lions host, Cusco, Peru

Dear Mr. Jeff:

Greetings from Vietnam! It has been a long time not to hear from you. We are terribly sorry for what happened on September 11th, 2001 and we are always by your side. We've gotta know how to act rightly to the human planet and it was inhumane action caused by terrorists to ordinary people.

We also noted that as an American you have been doing some thing to solve these matters and we do hope that you still remember Vietnam as your plan.

Please let me hear from you soonest as we are waiting for. Once again, may you take this chance of sharing the pain from deepest of my heart to American and I can ensure that you would get over it easily.

With deepest sympathy,
Le Tuong

Please share your news

Send in your features, photos or anecdotes regarding recent missions or other items of interest to eyeclam@aol.com or snail mail news to: V/I Newsletter Editor, PO Box 41, Holden, MA 01520. When sending VOSH photos (good quality only) be sure to include basic cutline information (who, what, where, when, how).

Computer program

Continued from page 1
Lions, other organizations whose goal is to help eliminate avoidable blindness.

While helping out at clinics, he came to feel strongly that a computer could be a big help in cataloguing prescriptions. In the early '90s, Dennis Gunst collaborated with Mexican student Martin Figueroa in writing one of the first computer programs to facilitate the task of selecting recycled eyeglasses for patients. The two men wrote a computer program using weighted errors to determine which pair of glasses would provide the closest match for the patient's prescription.

Then, for their dissertation, two students at the Southern California College of Optometry were enlisted to test the computer program against three members of the faculty. The computer and staff were given a random bunch of prescriptions to fill and were also given a random bunch of glasses prescriptions. Their task was to choose the best glasses for each patient. The computer was as good as the members on the faculty and happened to be the least divergent of all.

Currently, Dennis and his colleagues are working on a new version of the computer program that will connect the computer to an auto-refractor and have a host of other improvements, like bar coding of glasses and providing statistics on what types of prescriptions are more common on various missions.

In 1988, an institute for crippled children in Mexicali, Mexico, offered the use of their facilities for storing glasses. Dennis saw it as a place to do more. He enclosed the space with bookshelves, covered the concrete floor with plastic, sought out donations of equipment and turned the space into a sophisticated glasses recycling center. He's also enlisted volunteer professionals to offer eyecare clinics here periodically.

Very shortly, the entire operation will be transferred to a new, larger building which is being constructed in Ensenada, Mexico, and will be available to charities for clinics.

Dennis has set up another glasses recycling center/eyecare clinic for "Regale una Buena Vision," a joint project of



The Eyeglass Recycling Center in Ensenada, Mexico. Optometrists and other volunteers are needed and wanted, be it for a weekend or a few weeks. Contact Dennis Gunst, dgunst@hotmail.com

Rotary Clubs, the Mexican Red Cross and Opticas Devlyn in Mexico City.

Here, through further innovations initiated by Dennis, used glasses are sorted, cleaned and scanned by a Zeiss Humphrey lens analyzer, which then sends the prescription to a computer.

Dennis hasn't had any financial gain from his many efforts to enable used eyeglasses to be utilized more fully in serving the needy. He has dedicated himself to the effort simply because he knows how important it is to see the world clearly.

"There's still a lot of work to be done," says Dennis. He sees a need to come up with a way to remove scratches from lenses, whatever the prescription. And, instead of finding a frame and then shaping a blank to fit the frame, he'd like to see a universal frame that accepts any shape lens. Another concern of his is large loose lenses that are usually discarded, not recycled. These are often avail-

able because the patient opts to keep the old frame despite having a new prescription. Dennis feels these lenses should be inventoried and then cut down for children's glasses (always scarce) at the clinic site.

Dennis doesn't have the solutions yet, but when he's not helping out at an eyecare clinic you can find him at the Eyeglass Recycling Center in Ensenada, Mexico, working on the problems.

He sees himself in a further role as an advocate for encouraging combined organizational efforts. Dennis feels that all of the groups working to prevent avoidable blindness - The Flying Samaritans, VOSH, Lions, Rotary- should be working closely together, especially American eye professionals close to the border with Mexico.

For further information about his computer program, contact Dennis at: dgunst@hotmail.com

About another computer program

A pet peeve among so many people working to provide eyecare in third-world countries is the lack of communication. We'd like to share information about another computer program that is up and running. If your group or organization knows of still others, please let us know so that we can print the information in our next newsletter and on the V/I website, WWW.VOSH.org. Our goal is to encourage dialogue between people working on similar projects so that we can all continue to do a better job delivering our services, whether individually or through collaborations. email info to: eyeclam@aol.com

Friends of ASAPROSAR, a group that runs an annual eye care clinic in El Salvador, has developed a Windows program written in FoxPro to maintain and search a database of 10,000 donated and recycled single vision and bifocal glasses. Sequential identifying numbers are assigned as glasses are entered in the database and they are stored by number.

Developed by Skip Charles under the supervision of the late Dr. Philip Richmond, a VOSH/NECO legend, the program, REIMS (Richmond Eyeglass Inventory Management System), takes a prescription and finds the glasses with the best match. The program searches by either or both eyes, looks for spherical equivalents and uses a table of cylinder driven axis tolerances devised by Dr. Richmond.

Candidates are then ranked by considering differences from the ideal prescription and using a number of objective judgments determined by Dr. Richmond. The results appear in a browse screen. For further information, contact Skip Charles: hjc@world.std.com

More Chapter news

VOSH-Northeast team to Monimbo, Nicaragua

By Jonathan Wasserstein, OD

VOSH-Northeast assembled a comprehensive team of 65 people for its combined medical/surgical team that traveled to Monimbo, Nicaragua earlier this year.

Participants included 6 optometrists, 9 optometry students, a well-trained dispensing staff, 7 medical examiners, more nurses than you can count, 3 dentists, a full dental team, and various support staff.

The team hit the "obligatory flat tire" early on in the trip. For those who don't know, there is inevitably some type of transportation problem at some point in a mission. This time around, the bus simply would not start. It took two hours to find cables to give the bus a jump-start and allow the group to get underway.

Final numbers for the mission included 2,267 eye examinations, of which 2021 received eyeglasses; 25 cataract surgeries; 1,628 medical examinations; 465 dental examinations, and 41 wheelchairs were dispensed.

Every mission has a myriad of personal experiences that are heartwarming reminders of why these efforts are so important:

Jama Chim was able to reassure a mother of a boy with an eye turn that she had done nothing wrong, that she no longer needed to blame herself for her



An optometrist examining a patient in Monimbo, Nicaragua

child's problem.

Carl Sakovits OD: "My most memorable experience came from the surgical end of our efforts. An 81-year-old farmer wept like a baby for fifteen minutes. Like a man released from a jail term of no fault of his own; he was free."

Carol Peltier wore an old pair of sneakers, intending to leave them there. She put them in the trash pail and was surprised to see one of the hotel staff putting them on. The person was embarrassed, but appreciative when she told her to keep them.

A video of this 2001 VOSH-Northeast trip to Monimbo, Nicaragua is available for \$25 (includes postage) from Peter Eudenbach, 204 Richards St., Brooklyn, NY 11231.

Our first European Chapter is well on its way, thanks to Jonathan Wasserstein, OD, of NY who filed the adjacent trip report. We thought you'd be interested in learning how the Chapter evolved. Bravo, Jonathan!

VOSH-Netherlands is up and running

By Jonathan Wasserstein, OD

I had been a part of VOSH since my first year of optometry school in 1994 and had gone on four consecutive missions with VOSH-Northeast to Honduras and Nicaragua. However, for the 2000-2001 school year I took an optometric teaching position at the Hogeschool van Utrecht, The Netherlands. I informed my fellow VOSHers that I would be unable to join the 2001 mission due to financial and logistical constraints.

Once the date drew closer, I got the "VOSH" itch and arranged to take time off from school. I even got financial assistance from VOSH-Northeast to enable one of my students, Martine Cornegge, to join the mission.

Finding considerable interest on campus upon our return, I floated the idea of starting a VOSH chapter in The Netherlands. Over 75% of the school's full-time students expressed interest.

We have already started collecting eyeglasses and raising awareness in the community. Shortly we will receive certification from the government which will give us non-profit status.

Meanwhile, I've invited all Hogeschool van Utrecht students currently seeing patients at the school to join VOSH-Northeast on its January, 2001 mission. So far, nine students and two optometrists have signed up, despite examinations the following week.

My goal is to have this group fully independent and running its own missions by 2003. We have already received feelers from various people, wondering if the group could visit their country. This is the first optometric relief group in The Netherlands, and hopefully it will serve many people for a long time.



VOSH-NEBRASKA RETURNS TO ECUADOR: Through a patient of Dr. Gary Pederson, VOSH-Nebraska made contact with the Quito Lions Club and held a successful clinic there five years ago. Earlier this year Dr. Pederson returned to nearby Tena, Ecuador, with a team of fifteen, including Dr. Ellen Weiss (r). Above l: Two patients; Above r: waiting crowds.

Old friendship brings about eye clinic in Paraguay

by Stanley M. Sagara

VOSH-Florida held its first mission to this far away land from March 29-April 7, 2001. The eyecare clinic evolved when Doug Woolley a high school classmate of mission leader Charles Covington, contacted him via the internet. The two had not seen each other since high school, some 35 years earlier.

After emailing back and forth for nearly a year, Charlie learned that a friend of Doug's, Ellie Bay, ran a clinic for the poor in a village about sixty miles from Asuncion, capitol of Paraguay.

Ms. Bay is a nurse and the Paraguan wife of USA retired colonel Clyde Bay. His philanthropic generosity created the Clyde Bay clinic that Ms. Bay operates.



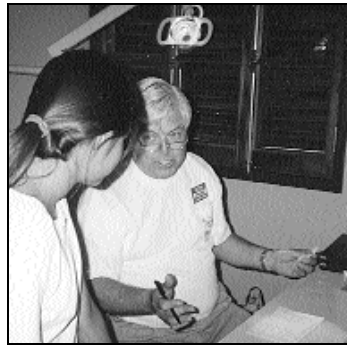
Clyde Bay celebrated his 91st birthday with the VOSH team.

Upon our arrival at the clinic site in the village of Yehguazu, we were treated to a ninety-first birthday celebration for Colonel Clyde Bay.

During the four and a half days of clinic, our team of 13 volunteers saw 1134 patients; 917 pairs of eyeglasses were dispensed.

We were assisted by American Peace Corps volunteers who served as interpreters. Very little Spanish is spoken. The official language of Paraguay is Guana (wa na).

Married couples were housed in the second floor of the clinic. "Bachelors" in the group were housed in a borrowed rancho house on acreage where there were cattle, chickens and a tropical fruit orchard. We held a wrapup barbecue party at the rancho, complete with live music and dancing for all of our volunteers and helpers, then went on to Rio de Janiero for some sightseeing and "a night in Rio."



UPPER RIGHT: VOSH-Fl mission volunteers in front of the Clyde Bay Clinic in Yehguazu, a small village about 60 miles from the capitol of Paraguay. UPPER LEFT: Clinic leader Joe Crosby, OD, with a Peace Corps volunteer/interpreter

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The Weisses in Wise, VA

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people in need in Wise, Virginia. The Charlottesville, Virginia couple offered their own services and they enlisted the participation of several VOSH colleagues and eight optometry students from their alma mater, State University of New York.

The clinic was held at Lonesome Pine Airport. Participating groups included RAMUSA (Remote Area Medical) volunteer corps and several cooperating organizations, including VOSH. More than 2,000 people benefited from eye, medical and dental care during this year's three-day event, up by 200 over the initial program that took place last year. Vicki coordinated the eye care team with an ophthalmologist and two residents from the Eastern Virginia Medical College.

Nearly 800 eye examinations were given and 680 pairs of eyeglasses were dispensed. According to Vicki, Wise County and the surrounding area of southwest Virginia has an average per capita income of \$16,858, compared to \$26,109 for Virginia as a whole. The poverty rate in southwest Virginia is twice the overall rate of the state-20% compared to 10.5%.

Doug and Vicki were active participants in VOSH when they were students in the mid-1980s. Since graduating, the

couple has taken turns in traveling to Central America annually to provide eyecare services with Northeast VOSH. Together they have volunteered their services in senior centers and in homeless shelters in NYC, in nursing homes and at the Charlottesville Free Clinic, but they wanted to do more to provide eye care to the needy at home.

Vicki's first collaboration with RAM was three years ago, in Johnson City, Tennessee and it was during this clinic that she conceived of the project in Wise. "I was impressed with the work they're doing," says Vicki, and "with the founder, Stan Brock."

Brock is a pioneer Amazon bush pilot, a noted authority on wildlife conservation management, even an expert on rainforests, but he is probably best-known from his role as host and associate producer of the television series, "Wild Kingdom."

A non-profit organization, RAM's mission is to provide free health care, dental and eye care and veteran services to people in remote areas of the US and the world. For further information, see www.RAMUSA.org

With Project 2001 behind them, Vicki and other healthcare volunteers are developing plans for next year. For information about future domestic eye care projects, contact DVCclear@aol.com

V/I annual meeting: Bradenton, Florida, October 26, 27,

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changes in officers' duties as follows:

While VPs will continue to have contact with Chapter presidents, Secretary Charles Covington will now be responsible for compiling information, data and trip reports from individual Chapters across the country.

Vice-president Dale Cole, OD, will work on recruiting additional VOSH chapters and he will serve as liaison to the American Optometric Association.

VOSH/Indiana to Cusco, Peru, 2001

By Robert Merriam

In late May, 26 members of a VOSH Indiana team converged in Houston from all over the U.S. From there it was a "Red Eye" overnighting to Lima, Peru, with a final morning leg to Cusco. The team, led by Bob Merriam, soon found that Cusco offered many unique attributes for an eye mission

For one, Cusco is in the Andes at 11,000 feet, offering a pleasant, sweater-wearing temperature for working. Cusco is an ancient Inca capital and is now the 'gringo' capital of South America. After each clinic day there were Inca ruins aplenty, beautiful churches and a town steeped in history. The nearby scenery was stunning.

Four of the Lions Clubs in Cusco joined forces to host our team in the Cusco Lions "clubhouse," located just a half-block from our hotel. This Lions building has ongoing clinics serving dental, eyeglass and other health needs. "Clubhouse" is a loose term for the 200 year-old, immense home surrounding a huge courtyard. Our dispensing room must have been 40 feet by 30 feet. A large team of Lady Lions served us mid-day dinners and light suppers.

Vice-president Patti Fuhr-Wimbs, OD, will serve as liaison to service organizations including Lions and Rotary, and seek foundation/service organization funding.

Vice-president Ann Slocum-Edmonds, OD, will serve as liaison to optical and pharmaceutical companies and pursue fundraising/sponsorship projects. Vice-president Dieter Ruehrmund's duties will be to work to support and strengthen ties with student VOSH chapters and their respective colleges.

Our team examined 1800 patients in four working days. Virtually everyone needed help and patient needs were outstanding. In Cusco, 56% of the kids needed glasses and 45% of the kids needed sphere and/or cylinder correction ranging from 1.25D up to 8.00D. These challenges were significantly aided by the

glasses carried to the clinic by our three VOSH/Ohio participants. They supplied 1800 pair with cylinders of -1.25D or higher, stuff we often throw away. With a population of 300,000, Cusco has an endless quantity of needy patients.

Also adding to the overall success of our trip was some solid preplanning. Having noticed some particularly poor "picking" on several previous missions, we had taken special pains to extensively train several of the people who were to work in the dispensary in a

month-long correspondence course prior to our departure. Analysis of the Cusco "picks" showed great improvements with many startlingly close matches to many of these difficult Rx's. For the few that we couldn't match, the Lions will have the glasses made up.

We topped off this extraordinary week with a wonderful sightseeing excursion to Machu Picchu, a world-class destination.

Breakout sessions

Informational sessions included a presentation by Janet Leasher, OD, MPH, of Oregon, on VOSH and its role vis a vis other world health organizations. Her email: leashejl@pacificu.edu

William Ringelstein, a Florida Document Preparations Specialist spoke about 501 (c) (3) tax exemptions for chapters and offered his services at a reasonable rate. His email: BILJEANR@sunline.net

Grev Hunt, program director of SightReach Surgical, a division of the International Eye Foundation, spoke about supplies and equipment that can be purchased more inexpensively through him. Email: GHunt@iefusa.org

SD VOSH 25th annual trip to Mexico

Mike Brooke, OD, Madison, SD

As I write this, I'm still catching my breath after returning from a very busy and successful mission to Gomez Palacio, Mexico. This year's Gomez mission was the 25th consecutive year of partnership between SD VOSH and the Gomez Palacio Lions Club in working together on this significant and meaningful charitable vision project that enabled us to serve over 3,000 needy individuals during the weeklong clinic.

This year's contingent consisted of 30 volunteers, a larger than average group by a fair stretch. There was plenty of volunteer help at all of the stations so back-ups and long lines were minimized.

In addition to the traditional evening social events (Welcome and Farewell Banquets, Mexican Night Fiesta, "tschopping,") there were a few gringo-style misadventures as well. A fender-bender in downtown Torreon involving one of our group resulted in a trip to the local Estacion de Policia for a little chat under a hot light. Everything turned out fine once the Lions member who owned the vehicle in question showed up at the Estacion with his attorney and insurance agent.



The Lions "clubhouse" is a 200-year-old home with a beautiful courtyard. Health clinics of all types are held here continually throughout the year.

VOSH newsbriefs at a glance

VOSH GOES TO WALL

STREET: The Wall Street Journal of Monday, October 22, 2001 (page R11), included a full-page travel feature chronicling "volunteer" vacations and how to get started on one. In addition to specifically highlighting VOSH/INTERNATIONAL in one paragraph, details on how to make contact with VOSH were provided in a selected listing of 18 groups that sponsor or support volunteer vacations and expeditions. For a reprint e-mail: VOSHFlorida@hotmail.com

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IN MEMORIAM: SHIRLEY COREY, 1942-2001:

Shirley Corey, a dedicated VOSHer who was a co-founder of VOSH-Oregon with her husband, Dr. Randy Corey, passed away on June 6 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Shirley and Randy also founded the Oregon Lions Recycling Program and it was Shirley who designed the donation boxes that are still in use all over the state.



Once bitten by the VOSH bug, Shirley became the first woman member of the Cedar Hills Lion Club and worked diligently with that organization and at her husband's optometric practice to recycle glasses for VOSH. She and her husband participated in several trips and were planning to join the team going to Chile when she was first diagnosed, in March, 2001.

Remembrances may be made to VOSH-Oregon. Contributions are tax-deductible and will support the children's programs that Shirley believed in.

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IN MEMORIAM: DR. ROBIN CAMERON:

VOSH-Northwest has established a memorial endowment in honor of Dr. Robin Cameron, founding optometrist of VOSH-Northwest, who passed away last year in the prime of her career. Dr. Cameron will be missed not only by her fellow VOSHers but by the entire Washington Association of Optometric Physicians.

Interest generated from the memorial endowment will subsidize travel on a VOSH-NW mission for newly-graduated ODs who might otherwise not have the monetary resources to undertake a mission while paying off college loans and beginning a professional career.

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YOU TOO CAN CONQUER KILIMINJARO:

VOSH/PA-Climb for Sight 2002 is seeking individuals for a hike of a lifetime to the top of Kiliminjaro plus a three-day safari from February 2-13, 2002. Participants are asked to seek sponsorships to fund sight-saving surgeries for children in Guatemala. If \$10K is raised, the climber travels FREE. Fundraising resources provided. Non technical route. No ropes or climbing experience needed. For details contact Zip Chambers at 386-734-1783 or www.voshpa.org

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CYCLE FOR SIGHT 2002: If Mt. Kiliminjaro isn't on your "must experience" list, how about a combined cycle/hike/kayak eco-adventure to Vancouver Island, British Columbia, scheduled for September, 2002? With

the success of last fall's trip to the Grand Canyon behind them, VOSH/PA is preparing for this upcoming fundraising event to support its eye clinics/hospital in Guatemala. Contact Doug Vellella, OD: doogie@erie.net

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KIDS HELPING KIDS:

Obtaining children's glasses in reusable condition is an ongoing struggle for most team leaders. Often the best a VOSH team can offer is a pair of adult frames adapted to fit a youth's face. When they learned of the problem, three elementary schools in the LA area initiated projects and have sent in over 500 pairs of glasses to VOSH/CA.

And, in Erie, PA, after being presented a slide show on children in Guatemala, 25 elementary schools in the Erie Diocese responded by collecting pennies to support VOSH/PA's effort to treat childhood blindness in Guatemala. The pennies that teachers and schoolchildren collected sure added up, totalling a whopping \$15,000!

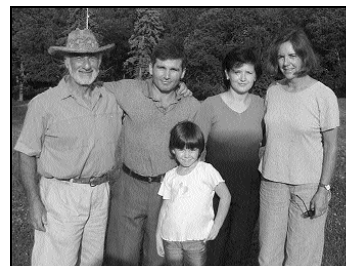
Seventy-five needy children will receive treatment directly as a result of the PA children's efforts. Needed care ranges from sight-restoring surgery for conditions such as congenital cataracts and infantile glaucoma to crossed eyes, corneal scarring, tear duct disease and parasitic infections.

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SOURCE FOR SURGICAL SUPPLIES: The International Eye Foundation (IEF) has a program for purchase of low-cost surgical supplies: IOL-\$14 each, Sutures, \$55 box of 12, viscoelastic, \$5 each. Other equipment and instru-

ments are also available at low-cost. For further information, contact Grev Hunt, Program Director, SightReach Surgical, a social enterprise of the IEF: 1-301-986-1830 x13, GHunt@iefusa.org. The IEF's website: www.iefusa.org

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WELCOME TO AMERICA:

"If you ever come to America, look me up," Dr Harry Zeltzer told Ilia Lecaj before returning home from a VOSH clinic in Albania in 1994. The two men had worked side-by-side and the Lecaj family hosted Dr. Zeltzer at home. Well, earlier this year, the Lecaj family packed up their belongings and came to America. They remembered Dr. Zeltzer's words and did come calling.

The newcomers to America have been overwhelmed by the many kindnesses shown to them by the Zeltzer family's friends and neighbors. With everyone's help they were able to move into a two-bedroom apartment that was completely furnished with donated items. The two families keep in touch on a weekly basis.

A former teacher, Ilia has a computer job. Flutara has already been promoted to head hostess at a resort and Jessie attends public school.

ABOVE: Fourth of July Celebration, L-r: Dr. Zeltzer, Ilia, Flutara, Dr. Zeltzer's wife Joan (r) and six-year-old Jessie Lecaj.



VOSH/INTERNATIONAL is a voluntary non-profit organization whose primary goal is to facilitate the provision of vision care worldwide to people who can neither afford nor obtain such care.

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL accomplishes this goal by service as a coordinating body for affiliated chapters, by administratively supporting activities of chapters and members and by actively promoting the formation of new chapters and new members.

Currently there are 27 chapters including Canada, Honduras and the Netherlands. In addition, there are 17 active student chapters.

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www.VOSH.org

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VOSH/INTERNATIONAL is a 501-(c)-3 corporation, meaning that all contributions are tax-deductible. Our primary source of income is membership, Chapter dues and donations. VOSH/INTERNATIONAL dues are \$30 per year. Chapter dues are \$100 per year. Please send dues or contributions to: VOSH/INTERNATIONAL, c/o Charles Covington, Sec/Treasurer, 102 Oak View Circle, Lake Mary, FL 32746

Calendar of upcoming VOSH missions

Need more info on upcoming missions? Contact the trip organizer. Trips are listed in order by country and nearest upcoming date. Additional info/photos regarding some clinics are available through links on the V/I web-site: www.VOSH.org

Mission leaders: Please e-mail updated trip information. With your continued input, we can inform potential VOSHers of opportunities as early on as possible: VOSHFlorida@hotmail.com and chuck.jan@cyberdude.com

● SAN BLAS, MEXICO, Jan. 2-16, 2002.
VOSH-Oregon/Amigos-PCO Dr. JP Lowery, thedmonds@msn.com

● OMETEPE, NICARAGUA,
Jan 5-14, 2002. VOSH-NECO,

Dr. Joseph A. D'Amico,
eyeclam@aol.com 508-829-6731 (w)

● CANGREJO, NICARAGUA,
Jan., 2002. VOSH-NECO, Dr. Jay Jordan,
JFEyecare@aol.com

● TICUANTEPE, NICARAGUA,
Jan.19-27, 2002. VOSH-Northeast,
Brady Hart, bradyhart@bradyhart.com

● SAN JUAN DEL SUR,
NICARAGUA, Jan 12-19, 2002
Dr. Matt Blondin,

Mblond2@aol.com 860-489-2781

● MEXICO, Jan. 26-Feb. 2, 2002.
VOSH-MI, Wayne Jackson, 231-894-2488
waynejackson291@cs.com

● DOMINICA, Jan. 26-Feb. 2, 2002.
Dan, Genie Wrubel, 517-663-2020
docwrubel@aol.com

● SANTA ANA, EL SALVADOR,
Jan. 30-Feb. 10, 2002. VOSH-NECO,
Dr. Harry Zeltzer, 978-356-0447
harryzeltzer@mediaone.net

● CAMBODIA, Feb., 2002. VOSH-Missouri, Bud Falkenhain, 573-364-1773,
drfalk@fidnet.com

● HONDURAS, Feb., 2002. VOSH-Mn, Kirk Thomas, 763-569-4070,
holeintheday@hotmail.com

● UNION DE TULA, JALISCO, MEXICO,
Feb., 2002. VOSH-PA,
Pat Seyer, patriciaseyer@hotmail.com

● GOMEZ PALACIO, MX, Feb., 2002.
VOSH-SD, Dr. Tim Lynch, lynchtt@hotmail.com

mail.com

● SAN CHRISTOBAL, CHIAPAS,
MEXICO, Feb. 2-12, 2002

VOSH-Iowa, Dr. Harlan Vander Griend
Sa.3@rconnect.com or 712-324-2552 (w)

● MEXICO, Feb., 2002. VOSH-WY,
Scott Loe, 307-237-8713, drloe@trib.com

● OAXACA, MEXICO, Feb., 2002.
VOSH-Iowa, Ruth McAndrews, sa3@rconnect.com

● SWAZILAND, SOUTH AFRICA, Feb.
1-10, 2002. VOSH-Illinois, Dr. Jim Sanderson, 815-469-2853 JasR517@aol.com

● BANGKOK, THAILAND, Feb., 2002.
VOSH-KS, Wes Clark, OD, 785-364-4183

● JAMAICA, spring, 2002. Scott Loe,
307-237-8713, drloe@trib.com

● KENYA, AFRICA, Feb/March, 2002.
VOSH-AL, Patti Fuhr-Wimbs, 205-591-8165,
pfuhr@mindspring.com

● HONDURAS, Feb., 2002. VOSH-MI,
Bob Foote, 231-935-0630

● GUYANA, March, 2002. VOSH-MI/Michigan College of Optometry,
Jim Miller, 591-2191 or Dave Storer,
1doc99@hotmail.com

● CAMBODIA, Feb., 2002. VOSH-BC,
Tod McNab, OD lynnmockler@hotmail.com

● HONDURAS-COPAN RUINS,
Feb. 23-March 2, 2002

VOSH-Indiana, Dr. Jeff Marshall,
317-322-7788, drjcm@att.net

● MEXICO, Feb. 23-Mar. 3, 2002.
VOSH-MI, Jill Cole, 517-655-9253
colej@metropolitantitle.com

● HONDURAS, March, 2002.
VOSH-Oregon, Dr. Janet Leasher,
janetleasher@hotmail.com 971-544-1928

● CHETEMAL, MEXICO, March, 2002.
VOSH-NECQ Kayla Baker, 781-642-0655
bakerk@ncopost@ne_optometry.edu

● ST. LUCIA, March 1-11. VOSH-MI,
David/Barbara Oosting,
231-924-4110 doubleo@triton.net

● PANAMA CITY AREA, March, 2002
VOSH-KS Don Kuehn, OD, 785-483-2291
dkuehn@russellks.net

● GUYANA, March, 2002.
VOSH-MI/Mi College of Optometry,
Jim Miller, 591-2191 or Dave Storer,
1doc99@hotmail.com

● PARAGUAY, March 1-9, 2002.
VOSH-FL, Charles Covington,
voshflorida@hotmail.com

● CHILE, March or April, 2002
Dr. Ellis Potter epotter@iolaks.com,

PERMANENT CLINICS SEEKING ASSISTANCE

● SAN JUAN DEL SUR,
NICARAGUA.

VOSH-NECO has established a permanent one-lane clinic at this site, situated on a bay in southern Nicaragua. Ideal for optometrists willing to combine service/Spanish language study/vacation. JFEyecare@aol.com or eyeclam@aol.com

● SAN PEDRO SULA,
HONDURAS, Fundacion para Servicios Medicos Voluntarios, Ruth Berkling,
rberkling@sulanet.net

● ENSENADA, MEXICO:
Optometrists and other volunteers wanted to work weekends/several weeks at the eye clinic/Eye Glasses Recycling Center, recently located to Ensenada (see p. 1 feature), Dennis Gunst, dgunst@hotmail.com



ABOVE: Examining room of the permanent eye clinic in Jeremie, Haiti.

● JEREMIE, HAITI

Haitian Health Foundation has a multi-disciplinary permanent clinic with a separate, modern eye care facility. Optometrists can be accommodated any week of the year. Housing is provided. Dr. Robert Pannone of CT 860-887-2060
dr.pannone@snet.net

Calendar of upcoming VOSH missions

316-365-2108

● GUANAJUATO, MEXICO, March, 2002. SVOSH-Indiana, Jessica Black jblack@indiana.edu

● HONDURAS, March 1-11, 2002. Bob/Sandy Foote, 231-935-0630

boone@chartermi.net

● HAITI, March 9-18, 2002.

VOSH-MI, Jim Miller,
231-591-2191 James_Miller@ferris.edu

● GRENADA, late March, 2002.

VOSH-MI, Dr. Nelson Edwards, 517-223-9988
eyecare@voyager.net

● HUE, VIETNAM, April 10-24, 2002. Charles Covington, VOSH-FL, VOSHFlorida@hotmail.com

● BOLIVIA, April, 2002. VOSH-CA, David Krasnow, drdavid@gte.net

● NEPAL, April, 2002. VOSH-CA, David Krasnow, drdavid@gte.net

● GUATEMALA, May, 2002. VOSH-CA, David Krasnow, drdavid@gte.net

● NEPAL, April, 2002. VOSH-CA, David Krasnow, drdavid@gte.net

● JUTIAPA, GUATEMALA, April, 2002. VOSH/PA, Chris Wurst, cwurst@aol.com

● SOUTH AFRICA, May, 2002. VOSH-MI, Paul Kropf, 231-947-1691

● KINGSTON, May, 2002. VOSH-CA, David Krasnow, drdavid@gte.net

● ROMANIA, May, 2002. VOSH-OR, Ann Slocum-Edmonds, 503-285-1671, thedmonds@msn.com

● CAMBODIA, Spring, 2002.

VOSH-BC, Barry lester, Tod McNab, twecs@aol.com

● HAITI, June, 2002. VOSH-CA, David Krasnow, idoc1@earthlink.net

● VENEZUELA, June, 2002. VOSH-CA, David Krasnow, idoc1@earthlink.net

● WESTERN SAMOA, June, 2002. VOSH-Mn, Kirk Thomas, 763-569-4070, holeintheday@hotmail.com

● CALCUTTA, INDIA, June, 2002. VOSH-CA, David Krasnow, idoc1@earthlink.net

● POLAND, June, 2002. VOSH-OHIO, Barbara Plougher, arliss@wcoil.com

Tim Morand, tsmorand@fuse.net

● MATAGALPA, NOCARAGUA, June 7-14, 2002 (tentative), VOSH-FL,

John Gehrig, orlandoeye@att.net

● SAMOA, June, 2002

VOSH-Northwest, Dr. Mike DeRosier
dpvc@juno.com 509-276-6932

● WISE, VIRGINIA, July 26-28, 2002

VOSH-Northeast, Dr. Vicki Weiss,
DVCClear@aol.com

● GHANA, July, 2002. VOSH-CA,

David Krasnow, drdavid@gte.net

● BRAZIL, July 30-Aug. 6, 2002. VOSH-FL, John Gehrig, orlandoeye@att.net

● BOLIVIA, Sept., 2002. VOSH-CA, David Krasnow, drdavid@gte.net

● LATVIA, Sept. 13-24, 2002. VOSH-MI, Dave Bennett, 517-694-0517 Doylej@msu.edu

● VIETNAM, Sept. 19-28, 2002

VOSH-Indiana/Ambassadors for Children, Dr. Jeff Marshall 317-322-7788 drjcm@att.net

● HAITI, Sept./Oct., 2002. VOSH-CA, David Krasnow, drdavid@gte.net

● GUATEMALA, Oct., 2002. VOSH-CA, David Krasnow, drdavid@gte.net

● NAIROBI, AFRICA, Nov., 2002

VOSH-KS, Susan Benkelman, 785-743-2815
sbenk@ruraltel.net

dcole@midkan.net or 785-823-6391 (w)

● SAN ANDREAS, GUATEMALA, Nov., 2002. VOSH-PA, Doug Villella, doogie@erie.net

● CAMEROON, AFRICA, Nov., 2002. VOSH-CA, David Krasnow, drdavid@gte.net

● OUTER MONGOLIA, July, 2003. VOSH-Missouri, Bud Falkenhain, 573-364-1773, drfalk@fidnet.com

● SAN ANDRES ITZAPA, GUATEMALA, March, 2003. VOSH-KS, Dale Cole, OD, 785-823-6391 dcole@informatica.net

Clinics, optometrists, teams wanted

If you're looking to find a site for your VOSH team or if you're thinking of taking on a leadership role but don't know where to go, consider the following requests. We'd like to include any additional locations or contacts you may learn of. Send info to Webmaster Chuck Covington at www.VOSH.org or to secretary-treasurer Charles Covington Sr. at VOSHFlorida@hotmail.com

NUEVA SEGOVIA, NICARAGUA:

Ayuda en Accion, a non-governmental organization, working in four municipalities in northern Nicaragua is requesting a team to plan a mission to their area. Contact Lic. Haydee Castillo Flores, Coordinadora, Ayuda en Accion, aea.nsegovia@netpor.com.ni

MEDIJUGORJE.

BOSNIA-HERZOGOVINA

Optometrists, ophthalmologists to serve

refugees, orphans in this area. Laura Allen, CARE FOR CHILDREN, mlacrown@wwa.com

DURANGO CITY, DURANGO, MX

Optometric team wanted

Contact Antonio Raul, 011-818-1347

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Batey Relief Organization (BRA) regularly organizes medical teams to serve Haitians who live in difficult conditions on bateyes in the Dominican Republic. Optometrists are needed for these teams. For further information, visit the BRA website: www.bateyrelief.org or contact Ulrick Gaillard, BRA President, at bateyrelief@mindspring.com

JUTIAPA and QUICHE, GUATEMALA

Need for an interested VOSH team to work with 3 Guatemalan ophthalmologists of the Vincent Pescatore Eye Assn.

Contact Dr. Doug Villella, doogie@erie.net 814-459-5707

HAITI: Dear Sirs or Madam:

The Church of the Risen Saviour, Burnsville, Minn., has a sister parish in Haiti. We have been trying to arrange an eye clinic. We have been unsuccessful so far in contacting any Drs. at this time. Could you help us? How do we contact the Drs. that would be interested?

Pat Limoges limogesj@earthlink.net or Mike Haasl admin@risensavior.org