

# IN Sights

A Newsletter For Friends of World Blindness Outreach, Inc.



2024 Edition

Greetings WBO Friends!

While preparing this newsletter, our annual report to you - our many generous supporters, we are reminded of the value and importance of time. As the years pass, our perspective on many things in life changes and evolves. We come to understand that the best measure of time is not based on quantity, but rather the quality of our time and those with whom we share it.

When we began World Blindness Outreach, some 35 years ago, we had no idea of the many wonderful people we would encounter and the positive changes we might make in the lives of those who received the gift of a life-changing surgery. We had no firm plans beyond that first mission to Nigeria in 1989, but hoped it could be just the beginning of a journey that would continue for many years. Our impact all over the world is now an important legacy that we all share.

This year, we completed our 97th mission and hope to reach that 100 milestone in the near future. We could not have accomplished what has been done without the support of all the people who have contributed their time and financial support over the years. They all understand the value and joy of serving others. That's what our WBO family does - together, we make a difference!

Included in this edition is a special tribute in memory of Sharon Yingst, who we lost in March. We miss Sharon dearly, but cherish the time that we spent with her, doing what she loved best - serving others. We cherish those special memories with each of you and thank you for your continued support in helping us bring light into the darkness.

Sincerely,

Albert A. Alley, M.D.

Founder & President, WBO

## The Value of Ongoing Relationships...

Our ongoing 35 year relationship with Rotary has been substantially impactful in the success of WBO's ability to conduct missions around the world. We look forward to continuing this relationship into the future.



The collaboration between WBO and our Ecuadorian partner, Vista Para Todos, has been ongoing for 25 years, and hopefully will continue for many more.

*Bringing Light Into Darkness For Over 30 Years!*

[www.worldblindnessoutreach.org](http://www.worldblindnessoutreach.org) • (717) 273-0662

# Ecuador Mission XXIII

December 10-16, 2023

*Albert A. Alley, M.D.*

*Cynthia Alley, M.D.*

*Julio Martinez, M.D.*

*Ana Roldan Vasquez, M.D. (Resident)*

*Ellen Dreibelbis, CRNP*

*Laney Herndon, Medical Student*

*Elizabeth Chan, Medical Student*



*WBO Team to Ecuador*

Our team, which included two surgeons from Ecuador, Dr. Landazuri and Dr. Benton, an active duty surgeon with the Ecuadorian Air Force, was very productive. We performed 150 cataract procedures and 25 strabismus surgeries. That was an incredible accomplishment in less than a week.

WBO has always encouraged physicians in training to join us on a mission trip, and we were very pleased to have a resident physician and two medical students along for this trip. Ana Roldan Vasquez is a resident physician with Penn State Health. She hails from Ecuador and is following in the footsteps of her mother, who is an ophthalmologist. Laney Herndon (granddaughter of Dr. Alley) and Elizabeth Chan just completed their first year of medical studies at Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Thanks to all who contributed to another successful trip – especially our regular host and long-term partner, Vista Para Todos, who provides the surgical facility and additional support personnel.



*Three patients waiting to go into the operating room for surgery.*

## WBO Memorial Tribute To Sharon Yingst



*Sharon Irene Yingst (Smoyer)*

1/17/50 - 3/27/24

Sharon leaves a legacy of service to her family, her community and her profession. She was a devoted mother and grandmother to her family, was very active in her community and very skilled in her field as an Ophthalmologic Medical Technician and Surgical Coordinator. She generously volunteered her time and expertise on over 20 mission trips to Honduras, Argentina, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, India, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Cambodia, and Ethiopia. Sharon touched many lives during her time here on earth and will be missed by many. But our grief is lifted by the powerful legacy of her commitment to serving others.

# Dominican Republic XXVIII

April 14-20, 2024 (Salcedo)

*Albert A. Alley, M.D.*  
*Cynthia Alley, M.D.*  
*Iftikhar Chaudhry, M.D.*  
*Drew Stoken, M.D.*  
*Megan Ruben, M.D. (Resident)*  
*Ellen Dreibelbis, CRNP*  
*Robert Ramirez-Rodriguez,*  
*A-Scan Technician*  
*Kristen Bailey, Surgical Technician*  
*Bill Cluley, Instrument Technician*  
*Zena Korba, Volunteer*



*WBO Team to Dominican Republic*

During our stay in the Dominican Republic, we were able to perform 45 cataract procedures, 8 corneal transplants and 20 patients received strabismus surgeries. This mission was our 28th time to the Dominican and created many special memories for all of us.

One of the highlights of this trip was being able to once again restore the sight of a patient who began his care with us 20 years ago at the age of 16. This patient had corneal obscurity in both



*Dr. Chaudhry with his transplant patient after the 3rd operation in 20 years to repair cloudy corneas!*

eyes and his original surgery in 2004 was a complete success. Unfortunately, over time, a transplanted

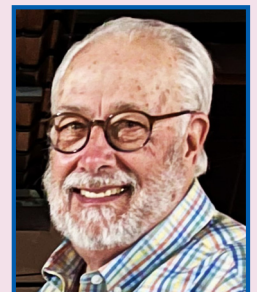


*Happy patients after corrective strabismus procedures.*

cornea can also become obscured so that at age 36 this patient received his third transplant from Dr. Chaudhry. You can see from the photo at left, he is thrilled to be able to enjoy improved vision again. We were also touched by a unique case of identical twin girls, both of whom presented with the same strabismus diagnosis (eye turned inward). Dr. Cynthia Alley performed corrective procedures and we're pleased to report that both surgeries were a complete success.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Bill Cluley

Bill Cluley, a retired ordained minister, traveled with us this year to the Dominican Republic on his 27th mission. Bill has been to 16 different countries over the past 15 years. He has been our right-hand man and jack-of-all trades serving in many different capacities. He is primarily our instrument technician, and performs many other functions such as maintaining our equipment, packing for trips, and onsite travel coordinating, to name a few. Sadly, Bill told us he is retiring from travel, but will continue to help us prepare and pack for future missions and will continue to maintain our equipment. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Bill, "Volunteer Extraordinaire", for his long-term dedication and service to WBO!



*Bill Cluley*

World Blindness Outreach, Inc.  
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Lebanon, PA 17042

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**Future  
Mission  
Plans**

**Ecuador** - October 13-19, 2024 (24th mission to Ecuador)

**Dominican Republic** (Nagua) 2025 (29th mission to DR)

***For Those Who Might Like to Make a Donation – We Value Your Support!***

For many years, our annual golf tournament provided vital funding to support the work of our mission teams. Although most mission volunteers are responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses, there are many other costs associated with mission medical supplies, equipment and logistics.

A variety of factors led to the end of our annual tournament several years ago, but many loyal supporters continue to offer donations in support of our cause. These donations are key to the sustainability of our work and the WBO missions. We can play a round of golf anytime, but we don't often get opportunities to change lives. That is the result of our efforts – and your tax-deductible gift is a great way to make a difference.

When we remove those bandages during post-op visits and sight is restored, the look on the faces of our patients is priceless – and the joy of their families is immeasurable. If you'd like to invest in this important and life-changing work, please send your gift to:

**World Blindness Outreach, Inc.**  
1510 Cornwall Road • Lebanon, Pa 17042

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