

World Blindness Outreach, Inc.  
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# IN Sights

A Newsletter For Friends of World Blindness Outreach, Inc.



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we pen this edition of our newsletter – our version of an annual report to you, we can reflect on yet another busy year for WBO and the countless individuals who play a part in making these missions successful. When we formed the World Blindness Outreach Foundation in 1990, we were reacting to what we perceived was a vast need for our surgical services to help those with curable blindness throughout the world – most often in third world countries.

That vast need remains, but we have helped countless since 1990 and each mission is a humbling experience as we are reminded of the vast number of people dedicated to our mission. In addition to tremendous financial support, we are blessed with wonderful people who donate their time, talent and resources to help plan, prepare and perform in the name of WBO to help others less fortunate, around the world and right here in our back yard.

On a recent trip to Ethiopia, we were reminded of this kind of selfless dedication. Our trip was the result of a Rotarian associated with the Sunrise Club of Lancaster. Getachew Hirpo is a native of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. Five years ago, he approached us to explain the overwhelming need in his homeland and assured us that he would help us organize a mission. This was our third trip to Ethiopia and we are grateful to Getachew and his family. They have helped us to make a major impact in this area of the world – an area filled with people in need of our help.

The scene when we arrived was incredible and unforgettable. We were greeted by a huge mass of people – all seeking our help. It is at times like these, that our team members are reminded of the tremendous blessings we enjoy at home. We are reminded of many in need of our help. We are saddened to know that so many remain underserved around the world, but gratified that we have been and will continue to help many.

A man by the name of John D. Snider once wrote, “The greatest sin against yourself is to have a good impulse and fail to act upon it.” Thanks to people like Getachew Hirpo and many other friends of WBO, dedicated to the needs of others, we will continue to act upon our good impulses and help those less fortunate.

Albert A. Alley, M.D.

Founder & President  
World Blindness Outreach

**Reminder!**

## 2008 WBO Golf Tournament

19th Annual  
WBO Open  
Monday, August 25  
Hershey Country Club

The WBO Golf Tournament Committee, under the direction of Chairman Brooks Trefsgar has already begun the planning process for what we hope will be another successful and fun-filled event this year. Please mark your calendar for Monday, August 25. We hope to see you at Hershey Country Club and actively involved in this very important event for WBO. A special feature this year will include a demonstration by professional Ben Witter.

**Please Make Plans To Join Us!**

## Visit Our Web Site...



We have established a web site so that all of our friends and supporters are able to find more information about our work - around the clock and around the globe!

[www.worldblindnessoutreach.org](http://www.worldblindnessoutreach.org)

(717) 273-0662

## WBO Receives Another Giant Bear Hug!

WBO leaders were invited to the Giant Center recently, as recipients of a special charity award presented by the Hershey Bears organization. This is the fourth time the Bears have recognized and chosen to support WBO with a financial contribution. This gift was for \$16,000 and will be put to good use supporting our efforts. We are very grateful to the Hershey Bears organization for their continued support! In the photo, Dr. Alley and Ginny Hollinger accept a check on behalf of WBO from Doug Yiengst, CEO of the Hershey Bears Hockey Club.



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## Dominican Republic Vision Mission 14

Nine members of a WBO Team descended upon the Dominican Republic for the 14<sup>th</sup> time. As in previous trips, we were very successful and were able to perform approximately 70 cataract procedures and 20 strabismus surgeries to correct the vision of children with crossed eyes. The trip was a combined effort of the Rotary Club of Salcedo and WBO. Rotarians, Dr. Rita Brito, a local dentist and Jose Tabor were integral in coordinating the mission details and served as interpreters.

This was our second visit to Salcedo General Hospital, where the facilities were fairly adequate, in spite of the lack of some equipment which we were able to supply. We were joined on this trip by two recent Temple medical school students, Susan Wang and Animesh Petkar, who both want to enter the field of ophthalmology. We were happy to learn recently they have both been accepted in ophthalmology residency programs. Perhaps someday they will rejoin WBO as accomplished surgeons in their field. We were proud to have them on our team and wish them continued success!

In addition to Susan Wang and Animesh Petkar, the team members included: Albert Alley, M.D., Cynthia Alley, M.D., Justin Blum, M.D., Iftikhar Chaudhry, M.D., Carolyn Peters, R.N., Eileen Geiss, R.N., and Shanieka Brinkley.



## WBO Life Enhancement Awards

In 1999 the Life Enhancement award was created by WBO to help those in need living in Central Pennsylvania. The intention of this award is to assist a person with a vision impairment either by purchasing a piece of equipment or aid to enhance their life. WBO has purchased computers, software packages to make a computer accessible, taxi tickets to enable an individual to get to the grocery store and closed circuit TV's which enlarge information on a computer type screen, to name a few. All of the awards given help in keeping or maintaining the independence of these individuals.

Committee Chairperson Kay Macsi has announced that the recipients for 2008 include Katarina Eller of New Holland and a student at Elizabethtown College. She will receive a Franklin Language Master – which is an audio dictionary. Rebecca Wright of Columbia will be receiving a computer with a screen enlargement program, Angie Lopez will receive a computer and some Braille board games and Doris Brown, will receive an Amigo, a video magnifier. Both of these women reside in Lancaster. All items were selected because they enhance the day to day activities for each.

## Ethiopia Vision Mission 3

Dr. Abiye Mulugeta, chairman of the department of ophthalmology at Das Resta Hospital in Addis Ababa, and hospital administrator Dr. Abraham Ashnake, helped coordinate our third visit to Ethiopia. They were very helpful and gracious hosts. We were also glad to see the family of Getachew Hirpo, who have played a key role in each trip to Ethiopia. Our visits there have been some of the most successful we've ever done in terms of procedures.

As we completed this third visit, we calculate that WBO teams have performed approximately 600 procedures! This trip was a partnership between the Rotary Club of Lancaster – Sunrise, WBO and the Rotary Club of Finot Addis Ababa, under the direction of their club president, Yigebashol Kassa.

We look forward to a future trip to Ethiopia, as it is painfully obvious of the huge demand for our services. The scene at our arrival is hard for us to describe in words, as we were greeted by a huge mass of people in need. This WBO team included: Albert Alley, M.D., Briggs Bralliar, M.D., Ruben Landazuri, M.D., Elaine Alley Wrone, Cindy Poucel, R.N., Monica Zinnser, R.N., Sharon Yingst, C.O.T., Rita Colley Hendrickson, C.O.T., Getachew Hirpo, Selina Mann, William Cluley.



## Mission Cataract: Lebanon Valley

Thirteen is not ordinarily considered a "lucky" number, but in this case we feel lucky to have the support of many local providers to be able to conclude our 13<sup>th</sup> edition of Mission Cataract: Lebanon Valley. This effort was first coordinated by Anita Fuhrman, who was director of the Lebanon Outpatient Surgery Center in 1995. Our goal was to identify and attend to anyone in our area that might have financial difficulty associated with a cataract surgery.

Over the years, we have been able to find and treat over 100 of our local neighbors in need. The 2008 effort was hosted by Monica Ziegler, manager of Physician's Surgical Center and was supported by countless local providers (too numerous to mention, but many are included in the photo at right.) Our thanks for their generous support and a job well done!

