

IN Sights

A Newsletter For Friends of World Blindness Outreach, Inc.



2012 Edition

Dear Friends of WBO,

Greetings and thanks to each of you on behalf of the many we have been able to help again this year, through your generosity, your time and your talents to help those less fortunate – to bring light into darkness. As a matter of fact, as we go to press with this edition of our annual update, we can celebrate the fact that more than 400 people in our world have eyesight that they were not able to enjoy at this time last year.

What a tremendous gift – and we would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you! Over the past 20+ years, WBO teams have received many thanks and recognitions for what we do and it is very humbling. We have received countless certificates and awards, not for what any of us do as individuals, but rather, for what **WE** are able to accomplish as a team – and I thank you for being a part of our tremendous team!

Each mission we undertake is almost like a dream come true for me. WBO began as a vision or dream to be able to serve those who would otherwise live their lives in darkness. But it was clear from the beginning that this effort, if it were to be successful and sustained, would require a team effort. I am proud to have been able to serve with and be supported by so many talented and dedicated people who continue to share this vision. This past year, on our annual visit to the Dominican Republic, I was reminded of the importance of our team.

During our second day of surgery, we encountered a serious challenge. Our surgical team included three surgeons from the U.S. and two Dominican ophthalmologists. We were well prepared and equipped to serve a large number of patients. The OR was set-up for three tables, but one of our surgical microscopes failed. But the team kicked into action. Our staff was able to move the surgical tables and connect two lamps to a single power source.

This made things a little tight, but allowed us to continue our work as planned. Simultaneously, a local volunteer (Jose Tabar) jumped right in, took the damaged power source to a friend who made the necessary soldering repairs and had us back to normal the following day. All WBO missions seem to include a few hurdles, but very few that have stopped our work – thanks to the resourcefulness, talents and flexibility of our teams. We have been able to recruit some very special people to support WBO over the years and we continue to count each of you as blessings.

Thank you!

Albert A. Alley, M.D.

Founder & President
World Blindness Outreach



These Photos Tell The Story...

- (1) Drs. Alley and Chaudrey meet in the hall to discuss how to continue with only one functioning power source.
- (2) Dr. Alley explains to Jose the problem with the power source
- (3) The OR team finds a way.
- (4) Jose & Lilliam come to the rescue - and we're back in business!

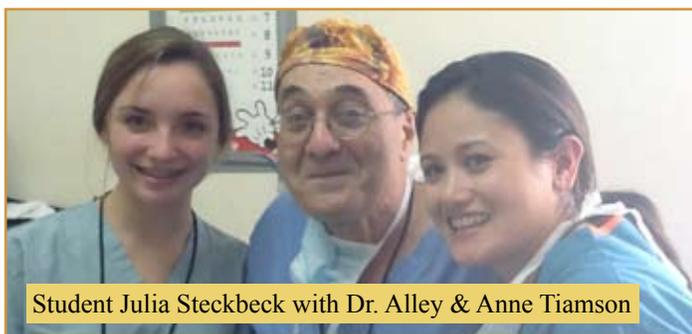
Bringing Light Into Darkness For Over 20 Years

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Ecuador: *Vision Mission XII*

Our team arrived in Quito City on September 16 with the goal of helping many with the help of our good friends from Vista Para Todos (Vision For All) We're pleased to report outstanding results. Our ophthalmology team performed over 160 cataract procedures, Dr. Nancy Morrison, a pediatric ophthalmologist performed 30 strabismus procedures to help young people and our blindness rehabilitation team assisted approximately 20 individuals.

Because of the tremendous efficiency of these missions, we are likely to return in the fall of this year with involvement from the Penn State College of Medicine's residency program. The 2011 team included: Albert Alley, M.D., Eduardo Romo-Miller, M.D., Nancy Morrison, M.D., Walter Able, Cindy Poucel, R.N., Eileen Geiss, R.N., William Cluley, Kay Macsi, Chris Ament, Dave Olson and Evelyn Wilson.



Student Julia Steckbeck with Dr. Alley & Anne Tiamson



Student Alex Kuhn observes Drs. Levin & Alley



A common scene on WBO missions...waiting patiently for follow-up care and the renewed gift of sight!

Dominican Republic: *Vision Mission XVIII*

Similarly, our trips to the Dominican Republic are well-organized and efficient, due to the support of local people and organizations. The Rotary Club of Salcedo was invaluable to the well-being of our team and our ability to help people. Club president, Lilliam Gonzales and several fellow Rotarians were with us every day from dawn until dusk – doing the things that allow us to focus on our patients and our work.

The December trip was special in that our team included several students, who we believe hold the keys to our future. Sukee Kesar, a medical student from Penn State's College of Medicine and two high school students, Julia Steckbeck and Alex Kuhn played key roles on our team. After dinner one night, the surgical team combined their teaching talents to provide a video presentation for these young students to help them understand the science and technology associated with our work. It is our

WBO Focus On Youth

Helping young people to see, such as this 23-year-old corneal transplant patient (at right), but also helping young people to see the value in service to others less fortunate through WBO.



Med. Student Sukee Kesar

...and Those Most in Need!

Below is a typical image of those less fortunate who benefit from the work of WBO. This scene exemplifies both the tremendous need and our incredible success!



23-yr.-old transplant pt.

hope that these young people will be inspired to carry on our vision of service to others less fortunate for many years to come.

The team performed nearly 100 procedures in less than 3 full surgical days, including three corneal transplants! Those joining Dr. Alley on this mission were: Iftikhar Chaudhry, M.D., Roni Levin, M.D., Dave Shelly, C.O.T., Janet Sauder, R.N., Anne Tiamson, C.O.T., Michael Kuhn, Alexander Kuhn, Jeffrey Steckbeck, Julia Steckbeck and Sukee Kesar.

Ethiopia *Vision Mission V*

Traveling to a distant destination such as Ethiopia is never easy, but always worth the trip. It is a long flight, followed by a long drive. We have been supported on each of our five trips by the Lancaster Sunrise Rotary Club, as well as local clubs in Ethiopia. We also have a good working relationship with Drs. Ashnake, Milke and Mulugeta, who are key members of the staff at Rasdesta Hospital.

The team was able to perform more than 150

“WBO Mission Ethiopia 2012 not only provided the immeasurable gift of sight to the patients we served, but also a sense of “Hope” to the patients, their families, hospital and clinic staff and the communities of Ethiopians we learned to love while there. I received many personal gifts from this amazing experience - most treasured are a deeper sensitivity and understanding of the lovely Ethiopian people and their culture and a profound sense humility for all that I have. Thank you Dr. Alley and to the caring, dedicated and talented WBO team! It is certainly not a cliché to say that this experience has changed my life forever.”

Marilyn Boogaard

cataract procedures working with the locals from Rasdesta. In addition to the good working relationships we have developed, each trip is an opportunity for us to renew our personal relationships with these friends and supporters. Our mission team included: Albert Alley, M.D., Ruben Landazuri, M.D., Christina Salina, R.N., Marilyn Boogaard, Sharon Yingst, Rita Hendrickson, C.O.T., Getachew Hirpo, Jim Kulp and William Cluley.

Mission Cataract: Lebanon Valley

Once again this year, WBO is coordinating a local initiative to serve those in our local area who might need care. Although the need is small compared to most developing nations, we have identified several individuals and are working with local providers and the Physicians Surgical Center to accommodate those patients. It is likely we will serve 8-9 patients this year.

Rather than dedicate a single day, we are able to work these candidates into our regular schedule, usually during the month of June. Many thanks to the efforts and coordination of those participating with Dr. Alley and WBO. They included Raymond DeMaio, MD; Robert Campbell, M.D. and the entire staff at PSC. Additionally, our friends at Alcon will supply lenses and supplies.

Thanks Again To The Bears!

Once again this year, the Hershey Bears Hockey organization continued their fine tradition of supporting World Blindness Outreach - to the tune of a \$15,000 gift. Our thanks to the entire Hershey Bears organization!



WBO Life Enhancement Awards

The Life Enhancement Committee met in July 2011 to review 10 applications. The requests varied from adaptive software to low vision devices. The recipients for 2011 were Michelle Hilton – portable CCTV, Leslie Pugh – laptop with adaptive software, Nancy Wagner – magnifier, David Conley – portable CCTV, and Renaldo Angelini – Zoomtext, an adaptive computer software program. Through these different pieces of equipment the individuals will be able to be more

independent whether reading labels at a store with the portable CCTV to using a computer with an auditory component to read what is being typed or displayed on the monitor.

The 2012 applications have been mailed and the deadline is June 30, 2012. The committee will review them in July. Committee members are Kay Macsi, Beth Sheffy, and David Olson.

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2012 WBO Golf Tournament

Reminder!

Monday, August 27
Lebanon Country Club
Please Make Plans To Join Us!

The Tournament Committee has 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 27. We hope you can be part of this important event to support WBO!

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In Memorium Eudes Cabral, M.D.

As we go to press, WBO has learned of the tragic loss of a key member of our team. Dr. Eudes Cabral, who was a young man in his mid-thirties, lost his life in a tragic traffic accident.

Dr. Cabral, who was mentored by his father, another ophthalmologist, volunteered to help every time that WBO ventured to the Dominican Republic. He would travel from his home to meet our team, assist with surgeries and provide all necessary follow-up care to our patients - for no charge!

He was a gifted surgeon and humanitarian, dedicated to WBO and helping others. We will miss him tremendously and we extend our thoughts and prayers to his family.

