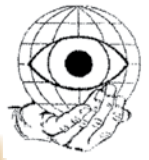


# IN Sights



A Newsletter For Friends of World Blindness Outreach, Inc.

2015 Edition

Dear Friends and Supporters of WBO,

Thank you for your continued support, the life-blood of our mission to bring light into the darkness all around the globe. It has been another busy year for WBO volunteers and we're happy to present this report and a preview of plans for the months ahead.

WBO mission volunteers often describe their experience as life-changing. These missions obviously allow us to help our patients to see more clearly. But often, the experience helps each of us to see more clearly. We view our own lives in a different perspective. Those who have participated in multiple missions often share that they see and learn something new on each trip. Our trip to the Dominican Republic in December was a great example. In addition to our typical surgical mission, we were involved in many other service projects and had an opportunity to visit places we had never seen.

Although it was our 21st visit, we all gained new perspective through the eyes of a wonderful group of student volunteers. We have often included one or two students in the past, but this trip included a record 10 – one ophthalmology resident and nine of the finest high school students I've ever had the pleasure to meet. Their enthusiasm, hard work and commitment to helping others was inspirational. These young people reassured all of us that our future is in good hands.

After three days assisting with surgeries, our student volunteers spent time with Dominican students, visited with government leaders and coordinated several service projects. Seven of the students attend Lebanon High, one was from ELCO and another, the daughter of my niece, from New York. They became fast friends and accomplished a great deal. They organized an effort to buy and distribute Christmas gifts to children in an orphanage, they helped to transform a muddy school yard into usable space, by spreading gravel and finally, completely repainted the Linda Alley Clinic in La Pasquala. These young people were great ambassadors for WBO, their schools our country and our society.

One evening, we planned a one-hour tutorial for the students including a power point presentation to explain the physiology of the eye and how we diagnose and perform cataract procedures, as well as a session on corneal diseases and corneal transplant surgery. The program lasted nearly two hours because of the intense interest of our student volunteers and the extra time needed to answer all of their questions. This experience reminded me of the many mentors that have influenced my life. It began with my parents, who were immigrants to America. They worked hard and were grateful for their opportunities. As I grew up and continued my education, I encountered many others of their generation who helped me and my generation to appreciate those same opportunities and to share them with others.



*The hotel's parking area served as our makeshift classroom for Dr. Alley to lead the educational session for our student volunteers.*

We all have a responsibility to mentor and encourage our young people. In doing so, we often reap rewards that are far greater than the effort we put forth. It is a special feeling to know that we were able to help these young people experience the joy of service to others and we look forward to finding more opportunities to do so. With your help and those young, capable hearts and hands, we will continue to make an impact through WBO as long as we are able to do so.

Albert A. Alley, M.D.

Founder & President, WBO

***Bringing Light Into Darkness For Over 20 Years***

**www.worldblindnessoutreach.org • (717) 273-0662**

## Looking Back: A Year In Review...

### Dominican Republic Mission

2014 Nov. 30 - Dec. 5

#### Surgical Team

Albert Alley, M.D.  
Iftikhar Chaudhry, M.D.  
Cindy Poucel, R.N.  
Sharon Yingst  
William Cluley  
Sharon Swanger  
Gabrielle Limardo  
Joanna Olson, M.D.

#### Adult/Student Volunteers

Marianne Bartley  
Kenny Montijo  
Paul Seyfert  
Jocelyn Stahl  
Michael Kuhn  
Christian Stahl  
Gian Fabian  
Shilesky Mantalvo-Cruz  
Erin Winters  
Ivonne Mbugua  
Veronic Morales  
Amelia Kuhn  
Haley Barto  
Tyler Gordon

This unique mission included three intense days of surgery in Salcedo, performing cataract and corneal transplants, courtesy of Dr. Iftikhar Chaudry. Our student volunteers assisted in every facet of the surgical mission, even observing and assisting in the operating room. Our team was very efficient, in spite of a slightly abbreviated surgical schedule, due to the other service commitments we had scheduled.

After their surgical experience, the student team departed in advance for Nagua to begin establishing ties with local Rotarians and formalize plans for their service work. Many on the surgical team followed a day later and joined their efforts, which included work at an orphanage, a local school and the Linda Alley clinic in LaPascuala.

We departed in the early morning hours for the journey to LaPascuala. When we arrived, the students received about 5 minutes of instruction and went to work. They cleared all the furnishings, prepped all the interior and exterior walls and completely re-painted the entire facility by about 4 pm. This clinic was established 20 years ago and was long overdue for a clean-up and paint. Our students did a fantastic job!

Through their work, they developed relationships with local students and Rotarians and have continued to communicate via social media. They worked during the day and engaged in a variety of social and



*Student volunteers, adult chaperones and WBO team members proudly pose in front of their recently completed masterpiece - the freshly painted Linda Alley Clinic in La Pascuala.*

cultural events every evening. We packed a great deal into each day and created some wonderful experiences for our students, but also for the adult chaperones.

I have been to the Dominican Republic every year for the past 21. I met people and visited places that we had never seen. Our goal was to involve and mentor a large group of young people on this mission, but we learned much through our experience with them. Their youthful enthusiasm and genuine compassion for others was exemplary – thanks to local Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, who helped sponsor them.

### Ecuador Mission

2014 Sept. 7 - 14

Albert Alley, M.D.  
Eduardo Romo-Miller, M.D.  
Nancy Morrison, M.D.  
Walter Able  
Cristina Salinas, R.N.  
Eileen Geiss, R.N.  
William Cluley  
Chris Ament  
Evelyn Wilson  
Steven Tucker  
Carmen Hommel

Our 17th trip to Ecuador went as usual – efficient, productive and very rewarding. Our team performed approximately 200 cataract procedures, 35 strabismus surgeries on children and taught life skills to 25 who were blind. Our excellent teammates and friends, Diego Benitez with Vista Para Todos and Dr. Rueben Landazuri's surgical skills were a great help to us.

Dr. Nancy Morrison, a pediatric ophthalmologist, handled all of the strabismus surgeries and the team from Vision Care coordinated the life skills training. Dr. Morrison brings a very specialized skill set to our team and helped a tremendous number of children. We can't say enough about the work of the Vision Care team. Their collective effort and dedication expands our ability to help others. They allow us to expand our surgical mission and enhance the lives of those who we are unable to help surgically. It is remarkable to see the improvement in the life skills of their clientele. They teach them to complete simple tasks of daily living that we take for granted. We are grateful for the support of these very talented professionals.

## St. Vincent Mission

2015 April 19 - April 25

**Albert Alley, M.D.**  
**Ruben Landazuri, M.D.**  
**Cindy Poucel, R.N.**  
**Rita Hendrickson, R.N.**  
**William Cluley**  
**Mark Jessen**

Our visit to St. Vincent, a Caribbean Island, was due to a late decision to cancel what would have been a return to Ghana. Due to circumstances in the region, we opted for this island, near Barbados, as they had been actively courting WBO for years.

Although travel was somewhat difficult, due to a lack of direct flights, we had to make special arrangements to ship our equipment and supplies

by boat and arrange for connecting flights on smaller propeller planes. In spite of these minor inconveniences for our team, we were pleased with the outcome and our local hosts helped us to be very productive while there.

While our team may have experienced travel inconveniences, we're reminded that we have the ability to travel and help those without the gift of sight. It is through these experiences that we are reminded of our many blessings and count each of you as one.



*Staff at Milton Cato Hospital receiving Certificates of Recognition for working with our World Blindness Outreach team.*

## WBO Life Enhancement Awards

As we go to press with this edition of our newsletter, the Life Enhancement Award committee is processing applications and matching resources with identified needs in our community. The Life Enhancement Award was established approximately 11 years ago to provide assistance to some of our closest neighbors who are suffering from impaired vision or blindness.

To date, WBO has been able to help dozens of people and families throughout Central Pennsylvania. Kay Masci, continues to chair the committee that will finalize the details. Those individuals will be invited to attend the dinner following our golf outing to share their stories and successes.

## Mission Cataract: Lebanon Valley

Local physicians, nurses and technicians coordinate Mission Cataract: Lebanon Valley on an on-going basis. Initially, the effort provided free surgery on a specific day each year for those who were in need. Patients are working, but lack insurance coverage and the means to afford surgery. We now coordinate the care as needed as part of our routine surgical schedule and office visits. Monica Ziegler coordinates the effort, which is supported by many local physicians and the surgical center.

## Future Mission Plans

WBO is busy planning our schedule for the end of this calendar year and the early part of 2016. In September, we'll return to Ecuador and follow in December with our annual visit to the Dominican Republic. These two trips have become almost automatic, simply because of the fantastic help we receive there. We are received well everywhere we have ever been - but our hosts in Ecuador and the Dominican Republic help coordinate the travel details and enable us to be very efficient.

In the first quarter of 2016, we are planning a return visit to Ghana - our second visit there.



*These patients in Ecuador await their post-op visit/exam on the day following their surgery. This is a typical scene on every mission - but note the sheer volume of people we were able to help in a single day - in large part due to the help of our partners at Vista Para Todos and a great team!*

World Blindness Outreach, Inc.  
1510 Cornwall Road  
Lebanon, PA 17042

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### ***Thanks Again To The Hershey Bears!***

Each year, the Hershey Bears generously supports WBO through their annual charity jersey auction. This has become a vital funding source for our mission and we are very grateful.

## **2015 WBO Golf Tournament**

***Reminder!***

**Monday, August 31  
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 25. We hope you can be part of this important event to support WBO!

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**(717) 273-0662**