

IN Sights

A Newsletter For Friends of World Blindness Outreach, Inc.



2017 Edition

Dear Friends & Supporters,

“You can’t take it with you.” We’ve all heard these words of wisdom many times—and who would argue? All the cars, the jewelry, our homes, boats and vacation homes—all of it will remain here on earth when we’re gone. But there is one thing that we can take with us: the quiet satisfaction that comes from sharing our knowledge, skills, abilities and the precious gifts of our time, energy and resources.

The countless volunteers who have been involved in WBO over the years have had the privilege to participate in opportunities to share their gifts with others. Some do so through their sponsorship of our golf tournament (scheduled for August 28). Some of these generous supporters have never met one of our patients. They’ve never seen the beautiful smiles that we see the morning after surgery when we remove their surgical patch and return the gift of sight to them.

It’s hard to find words to describe this feeling, but everyone who has joined a mission knows it in their heart.

Our clinicians have opportunities to share their clinical skills, as well as their compassion—and these are all skills that were passed on to us as a result of someone who inspired them in their lives.

Those are the most precious gifts that we can share—and leave behind. In recent years, we have been able to have many young people join us. We’ve hosted medical students and even high school students who are now learning the important work and the joy that comes from our service to others. When we traveled to Ghana in June, one of the surgeons who joined us was Doug Wisner. Doug first joined WBO as a medical student five years ago and now wants to continue to serve.



A big part of our Dominican Team in January included many young people who experienced the rewards of service to others through WBO. In addition to some school advisors, our group included 11 students from Lebanon High School and a few others related to our mission team. These young people worked very hard. They are great ambassadors for our schools and our country. These energetic and bright faces represent our future and we are pleased to be able to share some of what we’ve learned through our work.

We’re not sure where WBO will be 10 or 20 years from now, but we can all feel great satisfaction in the work that we’ve done to help others and the lessons that we have passed on to others. Lessons that we learned many years ago and are far too valuable to take with us! Thank you to everyone who is helping us bring light into the darkness!

Albert A. Alley, M.D.

Founder & President, WBO

Bringing Light Into Darkness For Over 25 Years

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

Looking Back: A Year In Review...

Ghana Mission

June 3-11

Albert A. Alley, M.D.
Douglas Wisner, M.D.
Albert J. Alley, D.O.
Ronald Boogard, M.D.
Marilyn Boogard
Cindy Poucel, R.N.
Carolyn Peters

Ghana Team:

Dr. Frank Odame
Hospital Director
Dr. Boateng Wiafe, M.D.

Although WBO teams are very accustomed to working and sometimes sleeping in less than optimal conditions, we always seem to adapt and make the most of our opportunities to help. Our second trip to Ghana helped remind us of many things we take for granted. We experience heat and humidity in most of the developing nations we visit, but most facilities have some A/C in the operating rooms to allow the staff and patients to be more comfortable.

However, the system in Ghana was not functioning and we slept under nets to avoid the mosquitos. In spite of the steamy hot conditions, our team performed well. We were all inspired by Dr. Bo, a very talented and dedicated local ophthalmologist. In spite of limited clinical training and technical support, he is very effective with patients. He is an incredibly generous volunteer who offers one day every week to those less fortunate.

It was nice to have the clinical skills of Ron and Marilyn Boogard, both veterans of our cause and our team included Dr. Doug Wisner, an ophthalmologist who participated in a mission about five years ago during his residency. We were very pleased to have him rejoin our team and learn that he would like to continue to serve internationally. Dr. Odame, the local director who helped coordinate the mission was very helpful and appreciative.

Many Faces Tell Our Story...

The faces of those we serve, tells our story much better than words could ever express - like the young lady to the right, whose eyes were corrected after years of the many challenges associated with strabismus.

We're honored that people travel great distances to seek our help and entrust us with their care. Then we get to remove their bandages, bring light into darkness and create dear friends for life.

All of this is possible through the selfless acts of many who contribute, volunteer and support the mission work of WBO. Thanks for caring and thanks for sharing. It's a great gift for us to leave behind!



Ecuador Mission

September 11-17

Albert A. Alley, M.D.
Nancy Morrison, M.D.
John Pratt, M.D.
Cindy Poucel, R.N.
William Cluley
Walter Able
Liz Montijo

After 18 consecutive years visiting Ecuador, we feel like family to our friends at Vista Para Todos and their leader, Diego Benitz. We also made the trip a family affair as Dr. Nancy Morrison, a pediatric ophthalmologist invited her brother, Walter Able from Indiana.

Dr. Morrison performed 30 strabismus procedures and the team corrected over 200 cataracts, with the help of Dr. John Pratt from Mechanicsburg. The entire OR team was a veteran crew of WBO mission work, which contributed immensely to our effectiveness. With this kind of result, we'll likely return again in 2018!

Dominican Republic Mission

January 1- 6

Medical/Surgical Team:

Albert A. Alley, M.D.
Cynthia Alley, M.D.
Iftikhar Chaudhry, M.D.
John Flatter, M.D.
Holly Pofi
Emily Simone
Heather Auman
William Cluley
Roberto Ramirez
Oliver Herndon
Sharon Swanger
Mueed Quershi
Harith Siddiqui
Ahmed Chaudhry

Rotary & Interact Team:

Paul Seyfert
Benjamin Seyfert
Luke Seyfert
Glenda Peiffer
Francesca Padillas
Collin Mentzer
Noah Milgate
Timothy Spangler
Karimar Quintana
Kaitlyn Bartal
Laura Gilbert
Kelly Cooper
Yasly Cabrera
Anna Rodkey
Jeffrey Steckbeck
Kathleen Steckbeck
David Warner
Kenny Montijo

Life Enhancement Awards

Although we do not have the names of the recipients of the Life Enhancement Awards as we publish this report, we are grateful for the efforts of our committee and look forward to those announcements, which will be made at the annual golf tournament dinner on August 28.

Our friends in the Dominican know us even better than those in Ecuador, as this was our 23rd consecutive visit to their country. On our Dominican trips, in addition to the medical/surgical work we do, we have often engaged many students – medical students and high school students. This one was not an exception, as we included 14 students.

In addition to 75 cataract and 30 strabismus procedures, Dr. Chaudhry (a regular to DR) performed seven corneal transplants. The students assisted in every facet of our work and in their spare time, we arranged for a lecture on eye care/physiology, visited an orphanage in Nagua and worked with local villagers to clean a home in La Pascuala.

The homeowner, Lupita, is severely crippled and has been confined to her bed for some time. She was incredibly grateful for the help of these students and it was a wonderful opportunity for us to return her gracious support of Linda Alley, over 25 years ago when she served as a Peace Corps volunteer.

At the conclusion of our clean-up project, we also provided a motorized wheelchair for Lupita to allow her to leave her home. Dr. Alley was pleased to have both his daughter, Cynthia and his grandson, Ollie Hernden, on the trip. Cynthia is a pediatric ophthalmologist and performed 30 strabismus procedures.

Future Missions Tanzania / July 7-15

Combined mission with Missions for Humanity

As we go to press with this newsletter, we're also preparing to depart for Tanzania in July. This is our first trip to Tanzania and are excited to work with some new friends from Missions for Humanity who are affiliated with the Catholic Archdiocese of Boston. This joint effort will combine the resources of 17 people from our partner in Boston with WBO's team to complement our surgical services with medical care for those in Tanzania.

Tanzania Team

Albert A. Alley, M.D.
Dominic Izzo, M.D.
Albert J. Alley, D.O.
Zach Landis, M.D.
Michael Izzo
William Cluley
Denise Hileman

We're also please that Zach Landis, a second-year resident from Hershey will join us. Zach received his first experience with us several years ago and he's back for more! We're very pleased to see these young people develop their skills and dedicate their time to serving others.

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2017 WBO Golf Tournament

Reminder! **Monday, August 28**
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 28. We hope you can be part of this important event to support WBO. Contact us to register and participate!

www.worldblindnessoutreach.org

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