



VOSH in Latin America

Nelson Rivera, OD, is a native of Puerto Rico and speaks fluent Spanish. Since being elected to the V/I Board, he has played an increasingly important role in translating the growing number of Spanish texts, correspondence and other materials that have bearing on VOSH efforts in Central and South America.

Most recently, Dr. Rivera has compiled an invaluable survey of the basic demographics and economic conditions of the more than 20 countries involved and he's outlined the state of eyecare programs that are presently available. Dr. Rivera includes a listing of any VOSH trips where VOSH is holding or has plans to hold clinics; he's even illustrated his survey with a map of Central and South America, showing graphically where VOSH has or will be holding clinics.

Dr. Rivera compiled the survey as background material for a talk about VOSH that he was invited to present before the XII Congress Latinoamericano de Optica y Optometria (CLOO), in Lima, Peru.

In view of the growing demand for VOSH services in Central and

South America, Dr. Rivera's document is an invaluable resource for all VOSHers looking for a site. It will help them identify places of greatest need and it will enable teams to coordinate their efforts with other Chapters who may also be working in the same region.

According to Dr. Rivera's survey, which he continues to update as more information becomes available, Honduras and Nicaragua have the greatest need. (Haiti is considered to be part of the Caribbean.) Honduras has a population of 6.7 million people. Per capita income is just \$1,191 and there are currently only 100 optometrists and opticians in the country. Of those, only 30 have university training.

In Nicaragua, current population is 5.2 million. Per capita income is \$900. There are currently 115 ODs and opticians for the entire country, only 15 of whom have university training. Sixty-five have attended technical schools (opticians). There is no optometry school in the country at this time.

The complete text and map of Dr. Rivera's Survey of VOSH in Central and South America is on our website, www.VOSH.org



Nelson Rivera, OD

Three new Chapters accepted

At the annual meeting in Sanford, FL in October, members voted to approve three new Chapters, bringing our total to 40 Chapters and 17 active student Chapters affiliated with American Schools of Optometry.

Our newest Chapters include VOSH Santa Cruz (Quebec), headed by Fr. Pierre Labine (pierre.labine@sympatico.ca); VOSH-Guayaquil (Ecuador), headed by Daniel Valverde, OD, of Lima, Peru, (davaso80@yahoo.com.ar); and VOSH South Carolina, headed by Lt. Benjamin Whittredge, OD, (bwhittredge@CHARLESTON.MED.NAVY.MIL). Welcome, all!



First FELLOWS inducted

PAST PRESIDENTIAL MOMENT: A historic moment was recorded at the VOSH/INTERNATIONAL Retreat/Annual Meeting when seven of the 11 living individuals who have led our organization since its founding in 1972, were on hand to receive honorary Fellows of VOSH/INTERNATIONAL (FVI) designation. ABOVE, L-r: Dale Cole, OD; Harry Zeltzer, OD; Steve Rose, OD; Jim Hess, OD; Bud Frankenhein, OD; Jeff Marshall, OD; and Tom Henley, OD. Past presidents missing from photo: Charles Gray, OD, Wayne Vander Leest, OD, Michael Listenberger, OD, and Phil Hottel, OD.



PASSED WITH FLYING COLORS: Bob Merriam, of Kentucky and Ellis Potter, OD, of Kansas, congratulate each other on achieving the FVI honor. The two men mark a page in the VOSH history book as they are the first VOSHers to pass the required oral and written FVI examinations.

A MOVING MOMENT: Stuart Frank, OD, of VOSH-Northwest, couldn't hold back his emotions as V/I president Ruth McAndrews surprised him with an honorary FVI designation in recognition of his selfless leadership in nurturing and implementing this program. Dr. Frank wrote the FVI manual and oversaw creation of study materials and test questions. Opportunity to earn the designation is open to individuals with demonstrated knowledge, skills and experience necessary to successfully meet the challenges of preventable blindness. The purpose of the designation is to foster development of future leaders prepared to meet the challenge and to prepare individuals who may be asked to consult with governmental agencies, educational, private or public institutions and the media related to the mission of VOSH/INTERNATIONAL. Requirements, sample questions and application material can be found on our website, www.VOSH.org For further information on earning a FVI, contact Stuart Frank, OD, @ frank.s@ghc.org



Focus on fellowship and diversity

by Ruth McAndrews, OD, VOSH-IA
VOSH/INTERNATIONAL President

Fellowship was truly the theme of our fall retreat for the annual meeting in Sanford, Florida. We wish you all could have been there.

First of all, there was the administration of the first examination for the Fellowship of VOSH/INTERNATIONAL (FVI). Especially notable was the award to Bob Merriam, a non-optometric VOSH'er who has participated in over sixty missions. Secondly, we were honored with the attendance of most of the living past presidents of VOSH/INTERNATIONAL. It was a tremendous opportunity to appreciate the contributions of those who have led us to becoming our current organization.



Ruth McAndrews, OD

Diversity of speakers

Dr. Jerry Vincent shared his work and perspective from developing sustainable vision care projects in Thai refugee camps. Dr. Doug Vilella, speaking on behalf of VOSH-PA, discussed his Chapter's development of a hospital in Guatemala. In recognition of this outstanding accomplishment, VOSH/INTERNATIONAL awarded them the 2006 humanitarian award.

As there are always more opportunities than teams, Dr. Nelson Rivera looked at where in Latin America we could provide the greatest benefit. Dr. Patti Fuhr provided the results of the VERAS project in Grenada, Nicaragua, one of the poorest countries in Central America. Dr. Ellis Potter, one of the recipients of the FVI award, explored potential collaboration with Rotary International.

Diversity as our greatest asset

Diversity is one of VOSH's greatest assets. One room brought together years of experiences, a variety of philosophies, and a wide range of personalities. When we can focus on a common goal and set aside personal differences in order to listen to each other's lessons and successes, doors are opened for change and progress.

I can't over-emphasize the connections that are created via the website. Mission opportunities are endless. However, through the website, VOSH leaders can not only inspire volunteers from around the world, but they can easily collaborate with others working in the same area to share common problems and solutions.



ABOVE: Alden Haffner, OD, President of the State University of New York School of Optometry; Hector Santiago, OD, President of Interamerican U. of Puerto Rico School of Optometry and current head of ASCO (Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry); Laura Brusi, OD, professor at the Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina, and ALDOO Coordinator for her region of South America; and Nelson Rivera, OD, representing VOSH/INTERNATIONAL were among the more than 300 attendees at CLOO (Congress Latinoamericano de Optica y Optometria), held in Lima, Peru, in October.

Need for documentation

We all have our favorite heart-warming VOSH experience that we love to share. However, the reality is that for more recognition, publications, and funding, we need to be collecting specific, consistent data to properly document our results. Dr. Timothy Wingert of UMSL is developing a plan to achieve this goal.

National/international representation

This past year has been a busy one as VOSH officers, in addition to participating in VOSH trips, represented our organization around the country and beyond.

We set up a booth at the SECO Conference in Atlanta, where nearly 8,000 visitors passed through the exhibit hall. Dr. Harry Zeltzer attended the World Council of Optometry Meeting in Milan, Italy. We set up and staffed another booth during the AOA meeting in Las Vegas where 7,700 individuals passed through the doors of the exhibit hall. During that week, I had the added pleasure of being the guest speaker at the ASCO luncheon. In September, we represented you again with a booth at Vision Expo West in Las Vegas. Then, just after our Florida gathering, Dr. Nelson Rivera and I attended the CLOO Congress in Lima, Peru. To Latin America, this event is comparable to our AOA Congress.

Once again, your VOSH/INTERNATIONAL representatives plan to be at regional meetings around the country; please stop by, introduce yourself, ask questions, and share your ideas. We hope to see you soon!

Ruth McAndrews, OD

Thank you again to our sponsors and donors

While Chapters pay dues to V/I, VOSH INTERNATIONAL must raise funds independently to pay for its many projects and programs, including our website (www.VOSH.org) and our newsletter, both of which have been wildly successful in bringing about connections and making an impact on eyecare delivery to needy people around the globe.

We are especially indebted to our major Corporate sponsor, **VISTAKON**, which, once again has provided a grant of \$20,000.

Spectera Vision has also renewed its cash pledge of \$5,000.

Also, Essilor has generously provided airline tickets enabling Ruth McAndrews, OD, and Harry Zeltzer, OD, to attend Vision 2020 meetings in Dallas, and enabling Dr. Zeltzer to attend the WCO meeting in Milan in May. Participation in these meetings has provided us visibility, and enabled us to grow and learn from other NGOs involved in healthcare delivery to needy people around the globe. Essilor again provided an airline ticket in October, to enable Jerry Vincent, OD, to travel from Bangkok, Thailand, to the V/I Retreat in Sanford, Florida, where he served both as a speaker and discussion moderator.

Along with our major contributors, we'd like to single out a few of our less-heralded donations, which are also so vital to our ongoing efforts. Thank you one and all.

■ Carol Teutsch's donation doubled in value through her employer's (Merck) Partnership for Giving program.

■ The MOMS Chapter of Thousand-Oaks, Lang Rang Ranch, recently sent in a donation.

■ On the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah earlier this year, thirteen-year-old Benjamin Feifke, whose dad is vice-president of VOSH-NECO, asked his friends to send a donation to VOSH/INTERNATIONAL in lieu of a gift.

■ On the occasion of their marriage, a young couple asked guests to make a donation to VOSH/INTERNATIONAL in lieu of a gift.



*CLINIC SCENES:
(L.) Waiting patiently
in line (
(Below, center) screen-
ing patients*

VOSH-NW to Malawi, Africa, July, 2006

By Joe Dolezal, OD, VOSH-NW, team leader

Our team of 18 optometrists and support personnel traveled to Malawi, Africa, for two weeks in July, 2006. We went there at the request of former Centralia College (Washington) president Hank Kirk, who has played a major role in the revitalization of the University of Livingstonia in this southern African country. Dr. Kirk has mobilized both Malawans and Americans to establish a College of Education, Nursing and Ministry, along with an industrial technology program to provide locals the skills they will need to advance their country economically.



The trip took us to one of the poorest countries in the world, with almost no vision care services. Despite being a country of 7 million, Malawi had only 6 ophthalmologists as of 2005; access to eye care is severely limited. And, with a pair of glasses costing around \$60 US and the average income of an adult being around \$1 per day, eyewear is not only hard to find but also impossible to afford.

The team visited two clinic sites in the country, one at a girl's boarding school near the shores of Lake Malawi and the second up on the high plateau at Livingstonia in the northern region. These locations were far from the cities so the populations were rural village inhabitants with minimal education. Livingstonia is the home of a university that is trying to improve the education of the people in the region. Eyewear will become even more important for the prospective students and faculty.

Their hope is that through learning, the economic condition of the country can move into the 20th century level, a factor that will enable better coordination with western world economies.

The team saw 1,132 people over 3 days and dispensed over 1,600 pair of prescription lens-

es, readers and plano sunglasses. Glaucoma, dry eye, allergy and anti-infective agents were also dispensed. No surgical options were available on this trip.

The people were delightful, with a musical quality to their voices and very colorful attire. The HIV epidemic has affected 15-20% of their population, yet they are resilient and positive in their approach to life. The Malawans welcomed our efforts to improve their visual abilities with sincerity and, at times, enthusiasm. Our team enjoyed the country and its people very much and we were sorry to see our brief visit end so soon. It was a wonderful trip and we would encourage other VOSHers to serve there as well

One canister, Two canisters

Donate your old equipment

Despite delays and financial problems, as we went to press, the container of equipment VOSH/INTERNATIONAL collaborated in filling with World Medical Relief was set to leave for Ghana. (Watch for fuller coverage in the next issue.)

Even as this exciting news was announced, we have already begun requesting donations of used (in good condition, only, please) and new equipment, text books, hand instruments, bulbs, etc., for use in other third-world Optometry Schools and clinics where there is an acute shortage. Such donations are tax-deductible as V/I is a 501 (c) 3 organization.

For further information, contact project chairman Jeff Forrey, OD, jforrey@com-cast.net.



Candy's story

By Joanne Hendrick, OD, VOSH-CO

During our VOSH trip to Colima, Mexico, in April, 2006, Candy was brought into our clinic by her grandmother. She was ten years old, had never worn a pair of glasses and had actually been told that glasses would hurt her eyes!

I examined Candy and determined that her prescription was -19.00 D in both eyes. Needless to say, we did not have glasses with us that were strong enough. I left her with a pair that was -10.00 D and promised to send her a pair from the United States as soon as possible.

Upon returning home, I made two pairs of glasses and proceeded to try to deliver them to Candy. First of all, because of import regulations, the frames could not be manufactured in China, nor the cases, so I chose Italian frames. PECH Optical lab fabricated Candy attractive, thin lenses. I used FedEx to mail the glasses to one of the women in Colima who had helped us with translation. I was unaware that taxes had to be paid upon receipt, so our translator Lucy and DIF paid the taxes. At that point, it turned out that Candy's grandmother had not provided a complete address, so Lucy, our translator worked diligently to find Candy. DIF finally located her after two weeks of searching and Lucy and her daughter went to deliver the glasses. As you can see above, Candy, her mother and grandmother are thrilled.

In the US, we take for granted our access to health care. I was thrilled to play a role in transforming Candy's life and to participate in a little bit of international diplomacy as well. Lucy will check in with Candy every year and I will continue to provide her with eyewear as needed.

VOSH Annual Meeting highlights, October, 2006

Veras pilot screening project in Nicaragua completed

Following is a synopsis of the report Dr. Patti Fuhr presented on the VERAS project at the VOSH Retreat/Annual Meeting in Florida.

by Patti Fuhr, OD, PhD, VOSH-Alabama

In the Spring edition of this newsletter we presented an introduction to VERAS (You will see!). VERAS is the first VOSH/INTERNATIONAL cooperative project with the UNESCO Chair in Visual Health and Development. The goals of the pilot phase of the VERAS project are:

- 1) to detect, diagnose and treat vision problems in preschool and first grade children,
- 2) to increase awareness of children's vision problems among health care providers, teachers and parents, and
- 3) to design a feasible system that is culturally appropriate and sustainable in the community.

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL members provided expertise in screening and examination

protocols for the project, as well as contacts and logistics in Nicaragua. The VERAS program targets pre-school and first grade children in selected areas of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. Local physicians, optometrists, supervisors, nurses, health educators and teachers in those countries participated, as well as the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education in each country. VOSH volunteers also provided eye examinations and eyeglasses to kids in Nicaragua.

Good-Lite Co. created the VERAS charts requested for the project and generously donated a large supply. The project started in Granada, Nicaragua, in March 2006, with 20 teachers and 5 nurses trained to perform the vision screenings. Between March and August they, in turn, screened 5,694 children. That was an amazing task, considering that in February the Nicaraguan Ministry of Education did not even know how many children were enrolled in



Two young Granadans with their new glasses

the 178 schools in the province of Granada. VOSH doctors performed complete eye examinations on 180 children who failed the screening and 214 who passed.

Preliminary statistical analysis of the sensitivity, specificity, and positive predictive value of the VERAS screening protocol is promising. The test is easy to use and easily understood by young children. However, in this pilot phase, there was a tendency for children to be over-referred. This may indicate that some of the screeners did not fully understand the screening procedure or did not have enough time to test the children. A next step will be to implement a second screening prior to sending on to the doctor for eye examination to see if this improves the predictive value of the screening test.

VOSH has an agreement to pay a local ophthalmologist to complete the eye examinations on the remainder of children who failed the screening test, as well as to provide eyeglasses for all the children who need them. We have prescribed 105 eyeglasses and had them fabricated in a local lab in Nicaragua. Each child got to pick his/her own new frame from a collection generously donated by A&A Optical of Carrollton, TX.

As we analyze the data we will also get a better idea of the prevalence and type of childhood vision problems in Nicaragua. The relationship with the UNESCO Chair has been rewarding and the Chair has asked that VOSH/INTERNATIONAL remain active in the project, providing assistance with technical support, programmatic details and program evaluations as VERAS is presented to other areas in Central and South America.

However, the most rewarding part of the project has been the interaction with the teachers and the children. The teachers are very dedicated to the children and commented that they were very happy to learn how to screen the children and very proud that they were able to assist in the children receiving examinations and necessary glasses.

VOSH Photography Contest Winners



KUDOS AND APPRECIATION to all of you who participated in V/I's first ever photography contest. The exhibition was a stunning component of our Fall Retreat and it served as a reminder of what we are all about. Winning photos were selected in three categories, including clockwise from above left: CULTURE: "Kitchen in a small village in Peten, Guatemala," by Michael Sparks, OD, of Erie, PA; PEOPLE: "African Dancer" taken in Malawi, Africa by Gene Frogge, OD; CLINIC: "Hair growing from a Dermoid," by Bob Foote, OD, of Michigan, taken at a clinic in Coya, Peru, January, 2006. It was a difficult decision for judges, but after considerable discussion, the above photographs earned their makers an attractive wall clock made by the visually impaired at the Chicago Lighthouse. Obviously there are a lot of camera buffs out there. We look forward to the next contest and hope you will consider submitting your work.

VOSH Annual Meeting highlights, October, 2006

CAN WE DELIVER?

Ellis Potter, OD, of Kansas, an active VOSHer and Rotarian, challenged those present to provide 50 new teams (or more) in the next year. "Can we deliver?" he asked. "We need to recruit, re-educate and reinspire VOSHers, he said.. With further growth and development, he envisions a closer relationship with Rotary International which already has an action group for avoidable blindness in place. Currently, emphasis is on cataract surgery, but Dr. Potter would like to see Rotary support V/I's efforts to eliminate refractive error blindness as well.



VOSH-PA RECEIVES V/I HUMANITARIAN-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD: *Doug Vilella, OD, one of the driving forces behind the three permanent, full eyecare facilities in Guatemala, accepted the award on behalf of his Chapter. In his comments, Dr. Vilella spoke about more recent developments in this project. VOSH-PA has initiated a \$2.5 million fund drive to create an endowment that will enable the program to be completely self-sustaining. Once the funds are in place, VOSH-PA hopes to move on to Haiti to replicate the model developed here. What VOSH-PA has achieved in Guatemala is inspiring. The three clinics are the sole source of eye care services for more than two million people. They are staffed full-time by 50 Guatemalans, including four ophthalmologists and two optometrists. (Further details about their project can be found in the V/I newsletter, Fall/Winter 2005-2006 which is posted on our website, www.VOSH.org or by clicking on VOSH-PA's website which is linked under the section on Chapters.*



HELPFUL HOSTS: *Our appreciation goes out to VOSH-FL for its assistance in planning the retreat and in serving as hosts for the weekend. Above L-r: Florida VOSHers Max Bruss, Suzy Bamberg and Willie Martinez. Many VOSHers took advantage of the inexpensive (\$60) abbreviated trial lens sets the Chapter is selling as a fundraiser. They are also selling polo shirts (\$15) and sturdy denim shirts with the VOSH emblem embroidered on them (\$30). For further details, e-mail maxobrusso23@msn.com.*



MEMORABLE MOMENTS: *Bud Falkenhein, OD, of VOSH-MO, discusses photographs he brought along to display. Later, he was tapped to conduct the swearing-in ceremony for V/I officers.*



COLLECT DATA, EVALUATE YOUR RESULTS AND AIM TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY: *So spoke Jerry Vincent, OD, Blindness Prevention Consultant for the International Rescue Committee and Consultant to VOSH/INTERNATIONAL. Dr. Vincent feels that traditional VOSH trips are not efficient enough to meet the enormous demand for eye-*

care services to the needy around the globe. He urged VOSHers to move from an in-and-out approach to clinics, to more long-term, sustainable projects with built-in mechanisms to evaluate quality of delivery, starting with standardization of exam forms. He suggests that VOSHers provide ongoing training of local health care workers to enable them to do basic screenings.



COLLECT DATA AND MEASURE RESULTS: *Matthew Pearce, OD, who recently earned a MPH from Emory University's Department of Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health, spoke briefly about his thesis project in which he evaluates several non-profit eyecare models including VOSH. In his brief remarks, Dr. Pearce strongly urged VOSHers to evaluate data collected on VOSH trips and to make those results available to others through the V/I website. Matthew Pearce's e-mail: xmattodx@gmail.com.*

SVOSH/IUSO/DIF project in Guanajuato, Mexico blossoms into permanent, full eyecare clinic

by Doug Horner, OD PhD.,
SVOSH-IUSO Faculty Advisor

In early 2,000, building on its successful faculty-led SVOSH trips for optometry students, the Indiana University School of Optometry (IUSO) took a bold step and established a small teaching clinic in Guanajuato, Mexico.

At the time, the clinic was based in 4 rooms within the General Hospital of Guanajuato. To oversee the project, a faculty member was assigned to Guanajuato. Since then, four fourth-year optometry students have been rotated here every three months.

Now, six years later, the program is housed in a new, free-standing eye clinic outside of Guanajuato, and it includes sterile surgical areas for cataract and other surgeries. The facility is known as the Centro de Rehabilitacion Visual.

The development of the clinic occurred as a result of a longstanding, successful partnership between the IUSO VOSH organization and the state of Guanajuato's DIF (Development of the Family) department. DIF raised all the money to build the new clinic.

With the new facility, IUSO leaders feel that finally there can be adequate access to surgical care for the poor; both local and volunteer surgeons from other countries will be more apt to volunteer.

Dr. Jennifer Page, who joined the project in 2003, continues to supervise students and is director of the IUSO portion of the clinic; a resident will be added to the staff. IUSO will also continue to provide student interns to help meet the needs of the local population. DIF has moved its eyecare personnel and activity here. There are both Mexican optometrists and ophthalmologists working here as well.

It is somewhat amazing that IUSO has sustained the program because the clinic does not produce any income. We just feel it is the right thing to do to pay a faculty salary and to have the program for helping the poor in Guanajuato, as well as providing our students a rich experience.

To date, IUSO has provided eight lanes of equipment, most of a lab to fabricate spectacles and a few higher end instruments.

Annual VOSH clinics continue

Along with rotating interns in and out, the IUSO-VOSH Chapter continues to hold annual clinics for residents of Guanajuato City and



Exterior and interior views of Guanajuato's brand new Centro de Rehabilitacion.

surrounding communities.

This year, fourteen professionals and 37 optometry students from IUSO saw a total of approximately 3,000 individuals in need of eye care. Among the professionals were many former VOSH students who have since graduated and who traveled from all over America to take part.

Common findings included uncorrected refractive errors, advanced cataracts, uncontrolled diabetes with associated retinopathy, large refractive errors in children and hypertension in adults.

Patients were referred to on site ophthalmology and general medical services as appropriate. Additionally, patients needing further eye care were referred to Dr. Page's Guanajuato clinic.

Pediatric clinic added this year

New this year, a separate clinic was set up to cater to the needs of children between the age of birth to 12.

During the course of the week, 368 children had their visual acuity, motility, alignment, refractive error and ocular health examined. Patients were dilated as necessary for cyclopeic refractions and fundus



examination. 174 spectacles were dispensed; 74 return appointments were scheduled with the Guanajuato clinic for conjunctivitis, vision therapy or amblyopia follow-ups. Since 2002, over 10,000 people have been helped through the annual, weeklong SVOSH-IUSO clinics.

For further information, contact hornerdg@exchange.iu.edu.

SVOSH-SCO serves 7 sites in one month

by Emily Seberger,
SVOSH-SCO president

In one month alone, June, 2006, SVOSH-SCO (Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN) nearly 80 students, professionals and others, held 7 clinics in 4 countries. Two groups traveled to Azua and Santiago, Dominican Republic; three groups traveled to May Pen, Jam, Puerto Penasco and Merida, Mexico; one group went to Jamaica and another to El Salvador.

Total number of patients seen during the 7 trips was 5,101; approximately 6,150 pairs of eyeglasses were prescribed.

In one clinic alone (Santiago, Dominican Republic) 67 referrals were for cataracts; 11 for pterygia, 16 for glaucoma and 5 for other circumstances.



R-I: SVOSH-SCO members Megan McDonald, Sean Skierczynski and Christy Neely use skiascopy racks to do retinoscopy in Santiago, DR.

VOSH Newsnotes

IN MEMORIAM:

George Victor Nesheim, 80, of Richland, WA

When Dr. George Nesheim, of VOSH-NW, retired in 1996, it provided him the time to become an active VOSH volunteer. He often participated in two trips annually, mostly to Central and South America. Wishing to converse with patients in their own language, he enrolled in Spanish classes through his local recreation program. While he never became as proficient as he would have liked, Dr. Nesheim enjoyed the challenge. His interest in Spanish led him to participate in and support the fledgling Iglesia Episcopal de Nuestro Salvador in Pasco, WA.

COURSE OFFERED ON "VISUAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT:"

Janet Leasher, OD, MPH, of Nova Southeastern University, will be teaching this free, on-line course to train trainers to convey content of course materials to their members. The 10-week, ten-module session will begin on February 5, 2007.

Class registration will be limited to 20. For further details or to register, send your name, email address, phone number and VOSH Chapter affiliation to Dr. Leasher at leasher@nsu.nova.edu.



SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF VISUAL HEALTH IN THE WORLD, MAY 11-12, 2007:

Sponsored by the UNESCO Chair in Visual Health and Development, the purpose of this congress is to raise awareness and exchange experiences in visual health and development. For further information or to register, contact: unesco.vision@upc.edu.

INVENTORY DATABASE PROGRAM COMPLEMENTS REIMS RECYCLED EYEGLASS SELECTION PROGRAM:

Using VOSH sorting guidelines from the V/I website, Jonathan Christman of the Norwalk, Ohio, Lions Club has written a program that prints a label with the SKU number, size, sex and prescription, then inputs the data into a database. The database can be manipulated for selecting a library of glasses to take on a trip. Data can then be imported to the REIMS software. For further information, contact

jonathan@christman.net or
hjcharles@post.harvard.edu.

VOSH-SD FRIENDSHIP QUILT

To mark their thirtieth year of holding annual eyecare clinics in Gomez, Palacio, Mexico, Royce Grimrud, OD, of VOSH-SD, asked his wife Lunette to create a memory quilt with photographs taken through the years. The team presented the quilt to their hosts which is now hanging proudly in the Lions Club at Gomez Palacio.

HUSBAND -WIFE ODs IN MEXICO SEEKING VOSH TEAM:

Salvador Gonzalez, OD, and his wife, Elsa Maria Villalobos, OD, of Chihuahua, Mexico, are seeking a VOSH team to work with them in serving the needy people of Chihuahua. Dr. Gonzalez became aware of VOSH when, as a student he worked with VOSH-South Dakota in the city of Gomez, Palacio in Durango, Mexico. Dr. Gomez recently served as president of the Optometric Association for the state of Chihuahua and is currently serving as treasurer. Dr. Villalobos is Regional Directress of the Opening Eyes of Special Olympics. Interested? Contact them at salgnz1@hotmail.com.

REQUEST TEAM FOR BOGOTA, COLOMBIA:

Richard Sanderson, Projects Director for a children's home called Children's Vision, in Bogota, Colombia (See www.childrevisions.org), is seeking a VOSH team to do some work with his organization's outreach program for mountain people around Bogota. Mr. Sanderson learned about VOSH's efforts through a friend in England who has worked with a VOSH team in the past. Contact him at richardvii@aol.com.

Via our website, we continue to receive many, many other requests from all over the globe for VOSH teams. As awareness increases, the demand increases. Check our message board at www.VOSH.org.

WORLD'S LARGEST EYEGLASS RECYCLING MARATHON IN FL: JULY 30, 2007 - AUGUST 4, 2007

Next summer, during a national gathering of Lutheran youth, VOSH-FL will team up with the First Lutheran Church of Gainesville, FL to hold a giant eyeglass recycling marathon at the Orlando, FL, Convention Center. It is anticipated

that approximately 10,000 attendees will spend a minimum of one hour helping recycle donated eye glasses. All of the churches involved will be collecting glasses in advance of the event. The Ocala Lions Club Recycling Center has agreed to receive any pre-shipped glasses and after the recycling marathon, they will store the recycled glasses for use on VOSH trips. The operational logistics of carrying out such a recycling project on this large a scale are huge, so volunteers are needed. Contact Suzy Bamberg at suzybamberg@vosh-florida.org.

SIMPLY, ELOQUENTLY STATED:

Joe Pruitt, a volunteer on Charlie Covington's mission to Jiga Jiga, Ethiopia, earlier this year, e-mailed him his reaction to the experience. "I expected to see the 'have nots,' and I saw the 'have nothings.' I expected to help the visually impaired and ended up just hoping I comforted the blind. I went on the trip expecting a little break from my monotonous life and returned with exceeding joy for every mundane aspect, now knowing firsthand what my life could be like." Charlie notes that the life span in Ethiopia is 40 and one in 3 people have AIDS. One of the clinic sites was a refugee camp on the Somali border where people lived in paper and cardboard huts with no running water and sewage in the streets.

EYECARE, EQUIPMENT AND FUNDS:

As a result of seeing how little equipment was available to optometry students in the fledgling optometry school while on a VOSH trip to Tanzania in 2005, Wayne Collier, OD, of VOSH-OH organized a drive to gather equipment and ship it there. Donated equipment was totally reconditioned by Latham & Phillips. It included 3 phoropters and near point cards, 2 keratometers, projectors, a number of slit lamps, a pupilometer, 2 lensometers, a field screener, low vision aids, books and extra bulbs. In addition, through the generosity of an anonymous donor, Ohio VOSHers sent significant funds to enable the purchase of an ambulance for the Al-Hilal Charitable Hospital in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

VOSH-NORTHEAST HONORED-

In May, the House of Representatives of the Rhode Island Legislature paid tribute to VOSH-Northeast, for its many years of dedicated effort in providing healthcare service to those in need in Nicaragua. The VOSH-Northeast team, which sometimes numbers as many as 65, includes medical, eyecare, dental care, hearing, physical therapy and wheelchair components.

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL is a voluntary non-profit organization whose primary goal is to facilitate the provision of vision care worldwide to people who can neither afford nor obtain such care.

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL accomplishes this goal by service as a coordinating body for affiliated Chapters, by administratively supporting activities of Chapters and members, and by actively promoting the formation of new Chapters and new members.

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL is a non-sectarian and non-political organization. Currently there are 40 VOSH Chapters. In addition, there are 17 active student Chapters affiliated with American schools of Optometry.

Visit ***www.VOSH.org***

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL

Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity



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In addition, there are 17 active student VOSH Chapters affiliated with American Schools of Optometry including: Illinois College of Optometry, Indiana U. School of Optometry, Inter-American U. of Puerto Rico School of Optometry, Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State U., New England College of Optometry, Northeastern State U. College of Optometry, NOVA Southeastern U. College of Optometry, Ohio State U. College of Optometry, Pacific U. College of Optometry, Pennsylvania College of Optometry, Southern CA College of Optometry, Southern College of Optometry, State U. of New York State College of Optometry, U. of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry, U. of CA, Berkely School of Optometry, U. of Missouri-St. Louis School of Optometry, U. of Houston, College of Optometry.

Upcoming VOSH trips



VOSH-SOS GOES TO MANCHAY, PERU: Following the Lima, Peru, Congress, Dr. Nelson Rivera presented a workshop at the Instituto SOS Eurohispano, then accompanied Dr. Severo Sanchez's VOSH-SOS team in holding a 3-day eyecare clinic in this hill settlement south of Lima.

We hope this listing will inspire you to join a VOSH trip. Upcoming trips are listed in order by nearest date. Contact trip leader for more information and be sure to check www.VOSH.org, where the list of upcoming trips is updated as information comes in. Several Chapters also have their own website. When visiting www.VOSH.org, click on individual Chapters for Chapter links as well as a portfolio of photos from a number of completed trips.

■ JALPATAGUA, GUATEMALA, Nov. 10-19, 2006, VOSH-Ontario, gsears.c.davis@rogers.com

■ SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR, Nov. 18-26, 2006, VOSH-California, Greg Pearl, OD, drgregpearl@yahoo.com

■ TANZANIA, November, 2006, TWECS, BC, Marina Roma March, OD, eyecare@twecs.ca

■ SANTA MARIA DEL ORO, MEXICO, Nov. 16-Dec. 3, 2006, VOSH-Santa Cruz (Quebec), Fr. Pierre Labine, pierre.labine@sympatico.ca

■ RIVAS, NICARAGUA, Dec. 9-17, 2006, VOSH-KY, Greg Hagedorn, OD, idox@lightpower.net

■ BINH DUONG PROVINCE, VIETNAM, Dec. 15-22, 2006, VOSH-Mn, xuan-mai.ta@gmail.com

■ BUNGOMA, KENYA, Dec. 25, 2006-Jan. 7, 2007, VOSH-Iowa, Ralph deHaan, OD, rdehaan@iowatelecom.net

■ CAP HATIEN, HAITI, Jan. 7-13, 2007, VOSH-PA, Drmcpod@aol.com

■ SAN JUAN DEL SUR, NICARAGUA, Jan. 7-14, 2007, VOSH-CT, Matt Blondin, OD, mblond2@aol.com

■ PEARL LAGOON, NICARAGUA, Jan. 10-20, 2007, VOSH-NECO and Williams College students, Irving Tanzman, OD, tanzman@adelphia.net

■ MONIMBO, NICARAGUA, Jan. 13-21, 2007, VOSH-Northeast, Carl Sakovits, OD, islandDoc5@aol.com

■ RIO SAN JUAN, NICARAGUA, Jan. 14-21, 2007, VOSH-NECO, Joseph A. D'Amico, OD, eyeclam@aol.com

■ TALTIMICHE, CHICAJALAJ, TUICHILUPE, LA REFORMA, AND IXMOCO, GUATEMALA, Jan. 13-22, 2007, VOSH-Ohio, Larry Hookway, OD, larry@hookwayeyecare.com

■ COYA, PERU, Jan. 19-31, 2007, VOSH-MI, Heidi Schefferley, OD, scheffod@tds.net

■ SAN JUAN DEL SUR, NICARAGUA, & ENVIRONS, Jan. 20-26, 2007, VOSH-NECO, Chris Fields, OD, chris.r.fields@hitchcock.org

■ SAN MIGUEL, SANTA ANA, EL SALVADOR, Jan. 26-Feb. 3, 2007, VOSH-NECO/ASAPROSAR, Harry Zeltzer, OD, harryzeltzer@comcast.net

■ SAN JUAN DE LA MAGUANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Jan. 27-Feb. 3, 2007, VOSH-WI, jansoptical@powerweb.net

■ PANAMA, Jan. 27-Feb. 4, 2007, VOSH-IL, nevnezia@yahoo.com

■ OCOTAL, NICARAGUA, Jan. 27-Feb. 4, 2007, VOSH-FL, Suzy Bamberg, suzybamberg@vosh-florida.org

■ SENEGAL, Jan., 2007, VOSH-Santa Cruz (Quebec), Fr. Pierre Labine, pierre.labine@sympatico.ca

■ GOMEZ, PALACIO, MEXICO, February 2-9, 2007, VOSH-South Dakota, Danrabbit@iw.net

■ MANZANILLO, MEXICO, Feb. 5-9, 2007, VOSH-CO, Ernest Sandoval, Mcsando@aol.com

■ SAN CARLOS, MEXICO, Feb. 16-24, 2007, VOSH-MI, cofamily@chartermi.net

■ PUERTO CORTES, HONDURAS, Feb. 21-28, 2007, VOSH-Indiana, Jeff Marshall, OD, drjcm@att.net

■ CAMPECHE, MEXICO, Feb. 24-March 4, 2007, VOSH-Iowa, Ruth McAndrews, OD, ruthmca@msn.com

■ BUENOS ARIES, ARGENTINA, March 2-12, 2007, VOSH-KY, beto@omuline.net

■ NAAFTA, TUNISIA, March 3-11, 2007, VOSH-Santa Cruz (Quebec), Fr. Pierre Labine, pierre.labine@sympatico.ca

■ LA ESPERANZA, HONDURAS, Mar. 9-19, 2007, VOSH-MI, Robert Boone, OD, boone@chartermi.net

■ YE'CORÁ, MEXICO, Mar. 17-24, 2007, VOSH-Colorado, rvhellend@msn.com

■ DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, March, 2007, SVOSH-NECO, Bina Patel, OD, patelb@neco.edu

■ ROMANIA, April 28-May 14, 2007, VOSH-Santa Cruz (Quebec), Fr. Pierre Labine, pierre.labine@sympatico.ca

■ PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO, May, 2007, VOSH-NW, edward.rich@verizon.net

■ COYA, PERU, June, 2007, VOSH-NECO, Janice Ewing, OD, eyedocewing@yahoo.com

■ GUAYAQUIL, MENTANA, ECUADOR, July 14-27, 2007, VOSH--Santa Cruz (Quebec), Fr. Pierre Labine, pierre.labine@sympatico.ca

■ WISE, VIRGINIA, July 20-22, 2007, VOSH-Virginia, Vicki Weiss, OD, DVCClear@aol.com

■ YEREVAN, ARMENIA, October 3-13, 2007, VOSH-NECO, Linda Bennett, OD, lbennettod@earthlink.net or eyeclam@aol.com

■ NAIROBI, KENYA, Nov. 17-28, 2007, VOSH-Indiana, Jeff Marshall, OD, drjcm@att.net

■ SUCHITOTO, APOPA, EL SALVADOR, Nov., 2007, VOSH-NECO, Jenifer Ambler, OD, amblerj@sover.net

■ MEXICO, Nov., 2007, VOSH-Santa Cruz (Quebec), Fr. Pierre Labine, pierre.labine@sympatico.ca

Clear Vision

is not so simple
where the cost is prohibitive.



Your contribution to **VOSH/INTERNATIONAL**
will enable us to make clear eyesight a reality
for needy people around the globe.

VOSH leaders pay their individual expenses, but there are many other associated costs in running this organization. Did you know, for example, that

- \$25 provides near-point glasses for up to 50 artisans who are supporting families.
- \$50 pays lab costs for five pair of glasses for children with high prescriptions.
- \$75 pays for mailing 192 newsletters.
- \$100 keeps the web-site on-line for one month.
- \$300 pays baggage costs to transport 1,500 pairs of glasses to Nicaragua.
- \$575 will provide a set of diagnostic scopes for an optometry student in a developing nation.
- \$1,000 allows VOSH/INTERNATIONAL to represent you at a regional optometric meeting.

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL



Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity

Yes, I would like to partner with **VOSH/INTERNATIONAL** to provide **clear vision** for needy people around the globe. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of

___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ \$500 ___ Other

Please mail your tax deductible contribution with this form to:

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Lake Mary, FL 32746

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL is a
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I'd be interested in participating in a VOSH trip. Please contact me.

I'd be interested in including VOSH/INTERNATIONAL in my estate plans. Please contact me.

Name _____

Address _____

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Telephone _____

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