

Peruvian Patient Becomes Optometrist

By Heidi Schefferly

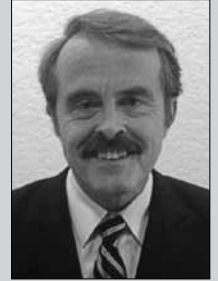
It is not possible to tell the story of Jimmy Mora Ramos without first telling a condensed story of the people who have made it possible for him to become the successful, driven person he is. Jimmy is the first ever optometrist on staff at the Kausay Wasi Clinic in Coya, Peru. This is a non-profit clinic founded by Sandy and Guido DelPrado. Guido grew up in Coya and met Sandy when she was stationed there during her Peace Corp assignment. They married, moved to the United States, had successful careers, raised their family and eventually retired to Peru. However, retirement isn't an accurate description. In 2005 they founded Kausay Wasi Clinica which is open 7 days a week. It offers full time primary care, a part-time dental clinic and part-time gynecological clinic as well as psychological counseling. They also host about 12 different missions throughout the year of all different medical modalities. Sandy and Guido can be found there any day of the week, working tirelessly to help the indigenous people in the Valley of the Incas as well as those that live hours up in the Andes Mountains.

(Continued on page 2)

Save the date!
VOSH/International
Annual Meeting

October 10, 2010
Las Vegas, Nevada

Letter from Greg Pearl, OD President of VOSH/International



After every VOSH mission abroad, we often experience a great sense of accomplishment and exhausted relief when it's finally over. We return home from our busy week of examining and dispensing eyeglasses to hundreds of patients and possibly a bit of R&R. On the long flight homeward, many of us decide to commit more of our lives to this rewarding cause but then that commitment fades as we spend the next week catching up on our e-mails, work and relationships.

I want to suggest several VOSH projects you can contribute to between your usual foreign VOSH missions. First, I encourage you to support your VOSH chapter by recruiting more optometrists to be members at the annual conferences held by your state optometric associations. Just ask your association for a free or discounted booth in the exhibit hall and VOSH/International will loan you an attractive VOSH booth display. Contact Natalie Venezia (ncvenezia@mac.com) to schedule one of these displays today.

Secondly, I recommend that you volunteer to examine needy patients here in the US. Join the VISION/USA project in your state and examine a few patients each month in your office, plan to volunteer at a RAM (ramusa.org) clinic in your state this year, volunteer at a free clinic or help your VOSH chapter organize a one day VOSH clinic in association with a homeless shelter.

Thirdly, plan to come to represent your VOSH or SVOSH chapter at the annual VOSH/International meeting at the Westin Hotel in Las Vegas this October 10, immediately following the Vision Expo West. VOSH members can register on the VOSH.org website or SVOSH representatives can contact Deborah Wright-DeMaderios at voshinternational@yahoo.com for two free registrations for each SVOSH chapter. It's a great day of VOSH fellowship, please come.

Finally, I would ask any interested VOSH volunteer to contact me (drgregpearl@yahoo.com) to discuss joining in to help the various VOSH/International Committees chaired by each VOSH/International Board member. We have project development committees, a donated equipment procurement committee and others to offer your interest and expertise. There are so many ways to stay involved with VOSH between your foreign missions. Commit yourself to stay involved with VOSH here at home.

Fellow of VOSH/International (FVI)

The fellowship program was implemented by a team led by Dr. Stuart Frank to encourage the acquisition of knowledge, skills and experience necessary to successfully advise on the global challenge of preventable blindness; to foster the 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 on issues related to the mission of VOSH/International.

Applications are now being accepted for the next exam to be held on Saturday, October 9, 2010 in Las Vegas, Nevada. See www.VOSH.org for more information and application.

Peruvian Patient Becomes Optometrist

(Continued from page 1)

Recently, the clinic has been able to add full time optometric services to the long list of services they provide. This is because of Dr. Jimmy Mora Ramos. Jimmy is the son of the caretaker/custodian at Kausay Wasi. In 2006, under the leadership of Dr. Heidi Schefferly, VOSH Michigan traveled to Coya for a mission at the clinic. This was the beginning of Jimmy's story. He was a young 16 year old who had just finished high school and had plans to join the Peruvian military later that year. During the summer he was volunteering at the clinic, working with his father and doing whatever odd jobs needed to be done. When he had an opportunity to work closely with the VOSH Michigan team he became enthralled with optometry.

Because of the unique, high cylinder prescriptions often discovered, it isn't possible to have recycled spectacles to fit everyone. Therefore, VOSH Michigan takes a hand edger and an inventory of blank lenses and frames to fabricate what they need. Dick Gross, an optician and manager of Twin City Optical laboratory in Traverse City, MI has assembled and donated a large inventory of blanks. Because of this system the team has only had to bring back an average of 12 "special RXs" to be filled in the states and mailed back. Dick and his fellow team members will typically edge about 85 pair in four days. It was this system that intrigued and "hooked" Jimmy. During that mission he assisted with the edging and assembly of the glasses and became convinced that a career in optometry was his calling.

VOSH Michigan put Jimmy in touch with Severo Sanchez, O.D. who is an instructor and SVOSH liason at the School of Optometry and Science Eurohispano in Lima, Peru. Jimmy took his entrance exams and was admitted into the next incoming class. After seeing Jimmy's dedication and determination, the DelPrado's began a fund for his education. Through donations from various members of VOSH Michigan, Jimmy's tuition and room and board were paid the first year. Each summer Jimmy returned to volunteer and made an impression upon many other people from other missions. They also donated to his education fund, along with the VOSH Michigan team.

In January 2009, through additional donations from various team members, Jimmy accompanied the VOSH Michigan team back to the United States for a 10-day visit. He was hosted by different team members throughout the state and toured several private practices, two optical laboratories and observed surgery. In addition he experienced his first snowball fight, ice fishing, hockey and tubing down the snowy hills.

VOSH Michigan has returned to Kausay Wasi Clinic every year since 2006 and has had the privilege of watching Jimmy grow and develop into a fine young man as well as a kind and compassionate optometrist. In July 2009 Jimmy graduated and received his degree of Optometry. He has returned to Coya, Peru and is currently working at the Kausay Wasi Clinic. He dispenses glasses that the VOSH teams have left behind from previous years. In the future, Jimmy would like to continue his education and go to medical school in Cuba. His new dream is to become an ophthalmologist and return to Kausay Wasi to provide surgical services to the people in addition to eyeglasses.

VOSH optometry school and student support created an unanticipated "synergistic" gain for the Peruvian government's humanitarian efforts. The government and other NGOs sponsor two programs dedicated to bringing good vision to all Peruvians. These programs are the VER A LEER (See to Read) adult literacy program and the VER A APRENDER (See to Learn) student vision screening program. Both programs depend on volunteer manpower in order to accomplish more than half a million vision screenings throughout Peru. Volunteer optometry students contribute thousands of hours participating in these screenings. However, a shortage of simple examination tools among the students prevented them from doing these screenings most effectively. VOSH donations to schools of basic exam equipment such as scopes and trial lens sets now enables brigades of students, to do screening exams with maximum efficiency.



Disaster Relief Update

By Jerry Vincent, OD, MPH, FAAO

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is in the process of preparing guidance and standards for appropriate eye care in Humanitarian emergencies for disaster and conflict affected populations. This is timely as the number of people affected by disasters is increasing and the number of eye agencies responding to emergencies are also increasing.

Historically, the provision of eye care in disasters and emergencies has either been absent or ad hoc, but with some of the recent high profile natural disasters, an increasing number of eye organizations and institutes have engaged in emergency responses.

There are well developed, internationally agreed upon standards for the provision of health care in disasters and emergencies, but these standards do not specifically mention eye care and few eye agencies are familiar with these standards.

Well-intended but ill-timed interventions by eye care agencies in disaster responses have a higher potential for hindering more critical interventions and costing lives.

The final product will be freely available and can be downloaded online. Full text available: http://www.worldoptometry.org/en/publications/index.cfm/wf_spring2010.

VOSH/International
www.vosh.org



This newsletter is brought to you by a grant from Vistakon.

R.A.M. and VOSH-CA Break Previous Vision Care Records in LA

By Deborah Wright DeMaderios

The Remote Area Medical (RAM) team along with VOSH-CA volunteers setup a seven-day free clinic in downtown L.A. at the Los Angeles Sports Arena from April 27 - May 3, 2010. For one week medical, dental and vision professionals provided free care to those in need, without cost to the patient, the taxpayer, or the government.

VOSH-CA volunteers, Don and Deborah Wright-DeMaderios, directed the clinic. They worked for months in advance to recruit vision professionals and to coordinate equipment and medical supplies for the vision operations of the RAM LA relief campaign. The Los Angeles vision volunteers comprised of 420 optometrists, ophthalmologists, ophthalmic techs, and 110 general volunteers. "Many of the patients we examined were working class people who were under-insured, have not had an eye exam in several years, and could not afford a new pair of glasses" said Vision Clinic Director Deborah Wright DeMaderios.

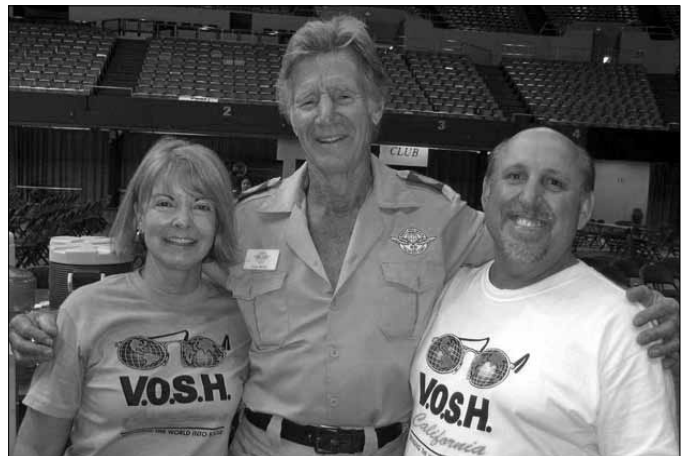
"The Remote Area Medical event in Los Angeles broke all RAM records for eye exams. Volunteer vision care professionals provided eye exams to 3,331 people, most of whom received prescription glasses. In one day alone, volunteers examined 572 eye patients. The total patient count was 6,587, so over half of the patient population came for vision care and received it from a host of dedicated volunteer providers." said Stan Brock, Founder and Director of Operations RAM USA.

Surfaced uncuts were donated by local labs Collard Rose Lab, Express Lens Lab and Orange Optical Lab. They helped by supplementing the supply of lenses that RAM brought.

"There is such a great need in LA for vision care. We were in short supply of high-cyl and bifocals lenses. It was comforting to have the backup support from the three outside optical labs so we could dispense prescription glasses to the patients" said Lou Kratzner, Dispensing Director for RAM USA. VSP and Complete Eye Care Centers of Los Angeles also helped with supplies by proving vouchers for a free eye exams and glasses. "This was very useful on our last day so we did not have to turn anyone away" said Lou.

VOSH/International President Greg Pearl, O.D. provided eye exams each day. Dr. Pearl said, "Most of the patients we examined had suffered from eyestrain and poor vision for months or years. Many were diagnosed with diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, or cataracts and will now receive treatment of these blinding eye diseases. It's a great feeling to help others in such real need."

Alcon, Allergan and Direct Relief International provided medical supplies. "Alcon provided enough Systane eye drops that I could give every patient a bottle," said John Weis, an



Remote Area Medical (RAM) in Los Angeles directors Deb Wright DeMaderios, Stan Brock, Don DeMaderios

ophthalmologic technician who managed the IOP station. "Los Angeles has a very dry climate, so it was great to provide the lubricating eye drops."

"The appreciation expressed by the patients makes seven 14-hour days of volunteering worth it all. We identified a tumor in one man's eye and referred him for further free care. A woman shared how we discovered a treatable disease that otherwise would have left her 7 year-old granddaughter blind by age 16. This was a great experience worth repeating," said Don DeMaderios.

VOSH/CA donated 20,000 frames to RAM and also actively participated in recruiting vision professionals. "We were able to examine many more patients than last year, thanks to VOSH/CA; Jules Stein Institute's Mobil Eye Care clinic; and the local optometry schools: Southern California College of Optometry and Western University College of Optometry. This is a perfect example of the amount of care that can be given when the professionals step-up and provide their services to those in need. W, RAM volunteer.

This year's event was about Los Angeles coming together as a community to help our own during this economic downturn. Over 60 organizations and community groups, large and small, have contributed all of the medical resources and volunteers to help make this year's RAM clinic a success.

AP: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/apr/27/la-clinic-begins-giving-free-care-to-thousands/>

NPR All Things Considered broadcast: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=126370212>

For more information about RAM go to www.ramusa.org

Youth Contribute to Improving Eye Care

In January, 2010, VOSH/Illinois under the direction of Natalie Venezia coordinated a VOSH clinic in Santa Cruz del la Sierra, Bolivia. It was a coordinated effort by VOSH, Santa Cruz Lions Clubs, the Cooperative Rural de Electrification, and the optometry school at Centro de Educacion Profesional Filadelfia in La Paz.

Annie Sager, 14 year-old daughter of Natalie Venezia, was one of the volunteers in January in a VOSH/Illinois clinic in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. Natalie coordinated effort with VOSH, Santa Cruz Lions Clubs, the Cooperative Rural de Electrification, and the optometry school at Centro de Educacion Profesional Filadelfia in La Paz. Annie then created a youtube video of the event. Her video can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1H3bHdHHp0>.

Annie and other youth who have contributed to improving eye care for those in need can be seen on the V/I website at <http://vosh.org/index.php/membership/youth-honor-roll>.



Annie Sager helps a Bolivian lady to see at near while her mother, Natalie Venezia, observes.



WORLD SIGHT DAY 2010

- 4% of the world's population is blind or vision impaired.
- 80% of blindness is avoidable.
- Eye exams and glasses could instantly transform the lives of 670 million people

All this is possible. The solutions are known and cost-effective.

World Sight Day 2010 will be celebrated on **October 14, 2010**. VISION 2020: The Right to Sight has seen considerable progress in 10 years, but there is a great deal left to do, and only 10 years remaining to do it!

WCO Fellowship Program

The World Council of Optometry is launching a new fellowship program sponsored by the World Optometry Foundation. Fellowships are granted to candidates with a commitment to service in both the public and private sectors, specifically in optometric education, patient care and community service, and organizational leadership. Fellowships can range from one month to two years in duration. Visit www.worldoptometry.org for more information.

Promote VOSH at Your Next Optometric Conference

VOSH/International would like to encourage all VOSH chapters to set up a booth at their local optometric meetings to recruit members and give VOSH more exposure. V/I has developed a "booth kit" which contains a VOSH logo tablecloth, a pop-up stand and hanging VOSH banner, small tabletop poster signs, newsletters, and miscellaneous supplies for an exhibition.

For more information or to borrow the materials contact Natalie Venezia at ncvenezia@mac.com.

VOSH/International Annual Conference

Las Vegas, 10-10-10

Registration Form

To register, complete this form and it along with your payment to:

VOSH/International

Charles Covington, Treasurer

111 Linda Lane

Lake Mary, FL 32746

Please make check payable to: VOSH International

Questions? Contact Deborah Wright DeMaderios: deborah@wrightmedia.com

Title: ___ Dr. ___ Mr. ___ Ms. ___ Other: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Accompanying Person's Name: _____

Chapter or Organization: _____

Position/Title: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Country: _____

Telephone: _____ FAX: _____

(Include country code if outside United States)

Email: _____

Single before Sept. 15 (\$95): _____

Single after Sept. 15 (\$100): _____

Student VOSH Chapters can send 2 students free of charge. Register with Bina Patel PatelB@neco.edu

Please make check payable to: VOSH International

VOSH International is an IRS 501 (c) (3) ID credentialed, Tax ID number is: 31-1093763

Rotarians Learn to Make Reading Glasses in India

By C. Ellis Potter, OD, FAAO, FVI

Everywhere we turned it was something new to us. Every moment saw us on sensory overload. The sights, the smells, the food, the people, the traffic were all to be remembered, but most of all were the friendship and cordiality of our hosts.

My fellow Rotarian Bob Hawk; Bob's grandson, Chase Vaughn, and I were invited to visit India to demonstrate how to make low cost reading spectacles. We call the project, Vision Quest International. The Iola, KS Rotary club started the Vision Quest International Foundation several years ago as an outgrowth and adjunct of our VOSH project to take donated glasses to third world countries. The Vision Quest International Foundation seeks to promote and educate about correction of Refractive Error Blindness and to distribute, world-wide, a kit containing the materials and equipment to make inexpensive reading glasses.

In the Calcutta area Rotary has established a multitude of eye hospitals. These eye hospitals serve as sustaining models of eye care and do so, with Rotary grants, at no charge to the patient. They are able to provide at a cost of \$25 US or less, cataract removal and implant surgery. The eye hospitals also provide the gamut of other eye diagnosis and procedures, as well as spectacle vendors who provide reading glasses.

The six eye hospitals that we visited, similar to others, supported by other Rotary districts and other Non-Governmental Organizations also provide outreach services: eye camps-where the staff travels to a distance village to screen patients. These camps screen tens of thousands of patients per year. Those with cataracts are provided with transportation to and from, as well as lodging at the hospitals, and as well, of course, the implant surgery. Post Cataract surgery follow-up is accomplished by the traveling volunteers. The incidence of cataracts in India is very high, especially in women.

However, if you are screened at one of the eye camps, do not have cataracts, but have refractive error conditions, there is no

treatment. It is unlikely that you can obtain glasses, as 40% of the population of India live on less than \$10/month. For those with any kind of need for close range vision, forget it! Refractive error blindness has grave social implications: 40% of the 1.2 billion people in India are presbyopes. Even if 10% of the 480 million presbyopes in India are unable to get glasses, you still have 48 million people without glasses correction from presbyopia alone.

Unlike many medical conditions, Refractive Error Blindness has a solution; it's a matter of getting the right materials to the right person at the right price.

Our Vision Quest project makes glasses out of a stainless

steel wire, looking much like a bicycle spoke. It contains a bending jig, made of a 2x4 with cutting grooves, bending nails; a needle nose pliers, and rudimentary hack saw and lenses. The frame and temples are constructed and assembled using the bending apparatus. The lenses are cut in two, sanded for edge smoothness, notched and mounted in the frame. The process takes about 15 minutes and can be learned rather quickly. They cost less than 50 cents US.



Dr. C. Ellis Potter, Iola, demonstrates how to make low-cost reading glasses while in India through the Vision Quest International Foundation.

Further, it contains a rudimentary testing device which can determine the correct power for the lens that should be inserted into the frame.

Our Indian Rotary colleagues intend to replicate this kit by obtaining the necessary materials and equipment in India. They see this project as a micro-credit loan job creator. Obtaining this kit, can enable, someone to earn or supplement an income as well as paying back the original loan and purchasing more equipment supplies.

Dozens of Rotary colleagues seized this project to augment already successful eye care projects and services. We hope that we have been able to extend to our Rotarian colleagues a practical way to fill some of the void of Refractive Error Blindness.

VOSH International Annual Meeting Highlights

Sunday October 10, 2010 • Westin Casuarina Las Vegas

Registration and Breakfast, *Casuarina Ballroom, 7:30-8:15 am*

Lunch and Networking, *11:45-1:15 pm*

Cocktail Reception & Networking, *4:00-6:00 pm*

Meeting Highlights:

- **Welcome And Call The Meeting To Order / Roll Call**
Dr. Greg Pearl, President, VOSH International
- **Presbyopia Study, Dr. Larry Hookway**
- **VOSH/NW Clinic In Samoa, Dr. Mike DeRosier**
- **VOSH/SE Projects In Peru, Max Bruss**
- **NOOR/IAM Afghanistan Project, Tom Little**
- **Update On The VOSH International Nicaragua Project, Dr. Greg Pearl**
- **VOSH PA Work in Haiti**
- **Humanitarian of the Year Award Presentation**
- **Student-VOSH & VOSH Chapter reports**
- **Update from the audience on their projects**
- **Committee Reports**
- **Technology Transfer Program**
- **Adopt-a-Student Program**
- **FVI Report & Awards**
- **Retiring VI Board Of Directors/Elections/Introduction Of New Officers**

Hotel Information:

WESTIN Casuarina

160 East Flamingo Road

Las Vegas, Nevada, 89109

Phone: 866-837-4215 Group Code: VOSH

Group rate of \$115 until Sept. 15, 2010. Please use group code: VOSH.

Walman Optical Continues Unparalleled Support of VOSH

Walman optical employees have volunteered their own time on Saturdays to fabricate over 2500 pair of prescription glasses from +3.00 to -18.00. Six branches participated in the effort: Milan, IL; Minneapolis, MN; Jackson, MI (Soderberg), Kent, WA; Bemidji, MN; and LaCrosse, WI (Soderberg). The lenses were delivered to Dr. Jim Hess (VOSH/MN). The Milan, IL location also edged 100 pair of plus bifocals to be utilized by VOSH/SE to see how well ready-made bifocals are accepted in a VOSH clinic setting.

Walman is the largest independent ophthalmic company in the United States. It has a long tradition of supporting VOSH by individual employees as well as by its regional laboratories. With Walman's support, the Pro-Vision Clinic has been established in Nicaragua. Now several additional vision care projects have been inspired as a result of this effort. The Autonomous University of Nicaragua in Managua (UNAN) is starting an optometric education program. The original V/I clinic project in Estali, Nicaragua has been adopted by Lions and VOSH/OH.

Additionally, OptometryGivingSight has sponsored a study on the incidence in presbyopia in Nicaragua which will be conducted in July 2010.

In Memory of Dr. Sol Roche

Dr. Sol Roche, founder of VOSH/ Illinois passed away on April 16, 2010 at the age of 90. He practiced optometry in Homewood, IL, participated in 26 VOSH missions, and served as mayor of Hazel Crest, IL for two terms.

Dr. Sol Tannebaum shares this remembrance: "It took place in a wide open, makeshift gymnasium. We separated examination lanes by paper thin curtains. Our patient each sat in his own chair, parallel to each other and separated by the thin paper curtain. You have to picture the commotion with each speaking loudly in English and Spanish. We each had our own interpreters. And incidentally, Dr. Roche and I are both a little hard of hearing.

So, which is clearer, 'uno or dos?,' Dr. Roche asked his patient. My patient answered 'dos'. I looked at my interpreter and at my patient. I hadn't asked him anything and he answered 'dos'. At this point I presented the choice of one or two to my own patient..and this time Dr. Roche's patient answered '2'. We separated the paper curtain between us and realized what took place. We both burst out laughing.

Whenever we would meet socially, we would always ask each other, 'which is clearer, one or two?'

World Congress on Refractive Error

*Vision Correction: Broadening
The Development Agenda*

20 - 22 Sept 2010
Durban, South Africa



The World Congress on Refractive Error will be held September 20-22, 2010 in Durban, South Africa.

This is an extraordinary opportunity to network with others who are working in the field of Uncorrected Refractive Error.

Leaders in optometric and development fields will meet to define global eye care priorities and build strategies to achieve sustainable, integrated solutions that transcend the boundaries of eye care and encompass social, political and economic solutions.

Registration materials can be found at www.icee2010.co.za.

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

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL accomplishes this goal by serving as a coordinating body for affiliated chapters. It provides administrative support of chapter activities. It also provides promotional opportunities to encourage the formation of new chapters and recruitment of new members.

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL is a non-sectarian and non-political organization. Currently there are 33 independent chapters and 24 university-affiliated chapters.

www.VOSH.org

VOSH/INTERNATIONAL
Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity



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