

## VOSH Netherlands Annual Report

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This year brought exciting new changes to the VOSH-Netherlands chapter. In September 2009, several new members joined the Board, bring a variety of experience and enthusiasm to the chapter.

During the past year, VOSH-Netherlands has continued to collaborate with our partner chapters in the United States. In February 2009, three Dutch optometry students participated in a mission with Dr. Bob Helland and VOSH-Arizona to Sonora, Mexico. In June, eight students and two recent graduates accompanied Dr. Ed Tuhy, Jr., to the Hanga region in Tanzania. This has been a great experience for the students, and has helped to build up a greater interest in the organization, not only from other Dutch students, but also from practitioners and the community at large.

In the upcoming year, VOSH-Netherlands plans on expanding its eye care service delivery activities. The chapter is in the process of boosting membership and increasing the exposure of the VOSH-Netherlands both inside and outside Holland. One of the goals is to increase the number of students and optometrists participating with partner chapters on missions. Another goal is to increase the level of funding to support both short-term and long-term interventions. In addition, the chapter is looking into collaborating with health and service-delivery organizations in order to create and support long-term sustainable eye care projects at the community level.