

11/26/2009 Venice, California

On the Monday before Thanksgiving, approximately 15 SCCO students joined Dr. Barry Leonard along with other Optometrists and Opticians to take part in a VOSH vision screening in Venice, California. Though not an international trip, students were surprised to see how much of a need there was right in our own backyards - especially now that Medical no longer covered vision care. Lines had formed well before we arrived and patients were grateful to be provided with such an opportunity to get their eye checked and corrected. We saw 200 patients that day and provided all of those who needed with free glasses.

As a first year optometry school student with only a quarter of school underneath my belt and no experience with vision screenings, I didn't think that I had anything to contribute to the community. However, my volunteer experience with VOSH at a site in Venice, CA proved otherwise. I was able to take visual acuity measurements as well as use the autorefractor on the participants. What stuck out to me most was working in the optical dispensary area with the seasoned optician. Not only did the optician teach me a few techniques about taking measurements to fit glasses on patients properly and even about being a future optometrist, but I also got to take part in the excitement when men and women whom we were serving got a new pair of glasses! Through the generosity of doctors and donors, we were able to dispense brand new glasses for free! From lighting up a face through the giving of reading glasses to sharing a patient's thrill for choosing a desire frame that would be made into glasses that fit their prescription--it all gave me a glimpse of the effects such a vision screening event can have on the people it serves. So for the continued impact VOSH can have either in the local communities or beyond, I am excited to deepen my involvement in the future!

- Julia Lee
SCOO c/o 2013

I learned so much in that single day from the Optometrists, Opticians, and 3rd year students! It was a very rewarding experience and I came away with much more than I expected. We took visual acuities with charts and autorefractors. The second years performed refractions and the third years did pathology and special cases. We saw patients with severe glaucoma causing blindness who can no longer afford treatment and another with histoplasmosis. We were able to see these cases first hand through teaching mirrors and learn about the diagnosis, causes, and treatment. The third years also taught me how to use an ophthalmoscope and slit-lamp. After patients were measured for a prescription we helped them choose frames and learned how fit it to their pupillary distance. I'm glad I was able to help out in such a great cause and furthermore I'm sure that my classes will be a lot more applicable and fascinating after such a trip.

- Rebecca Delshad
SCOO c/o 2013

I was pleased to have had the chance to help out during the VOSH vision clinic in Venice, CA. It was rewarding to have been a part of the team that provided vision care to hundreds of people that would otherwise likely continue to go without. It was also a reminder that the lack of basic eye care services is not a problem that is limited to other parts of the world but also exists closer to home. The patients were genuinely grateful and happy to have us there and for me that was the best part of my experience. Knowing that I've had positive impact on people's lives is a great feeling and the reason that I will continue to be involved and volunteer with VOSH in the future.

- Ramon Merino
SCOO c/o 2012

The VOSH clinic at Venice beach was an unforgettable experience. This was the first time I was able to take part in a vision screening on such a large scale, and practically in our own backyard. It was truly rewarding to be able to help over 200 men, women, and children in the local community, to improve their daily lives by simply helping them with their vision needs.

- Danielle Roth
SCOO c/o 2013

