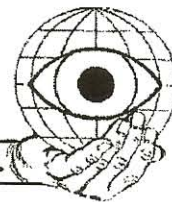


IN Sights

A Newsletter For Friends of World Blindness Outreach, Inc.



Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is time, once again, to provide what has become our organization's "annual report" to all those involved in World Blindness Outreach – and there are many. Our mailing list has grown to over 1,000 people who are involved to some degree in the success of our missions.

WBO gains new friends and supporters each time we embark upon one of our missions. Our volunteers and supporters understand the critical need in many parts of the world and rely on WBO to respond in an effective manner. The medical and surgical care we provide is often taken for granted in many places around the world. But in many third world nations, cataract and strabismus procedures literally change lives.

We have been blessed through the financial support of many over the years. We have also been blessed through the gift of countless volunteer hours. Many of our volunteers have joined us on multiple missions and our total list of volunteers numbers in the hundreds. Each mission's success is also heavily dependent upon the amount of help we receive when we arrive in country.

We have been assisted by Rotary Clubs and many other organizations and individuals around the globe. They become our family and our support system from the time we arrive until our departure. But perhaps the most heart-warming support we've ever received sometimes comes from our former patients. On a recent return trip to the Dominican Republic (#13), we were happy to see one of our former patients. He got word we were back in his area and



Some of the new faces and friends from the Cambodian Mission...

made the journey to see us and offer a gift of two fresh pineapples for the WBO Team.

Our physicians and surgical teams never receive paychecks on these missions, but the rewards are often priceless. We are humbled by the simple expressions of love and appreciation and we are inspired to continue this valuable work. These efforts are the result of your support and we thank you on behalf of many you will never meet.

Albert A. Alley, M.D.

Albert A. Alley, M.D.

Founder & President
World Blindness Outreach

June - 2007

Cambodia Mission

In January, a WBO team visited the nation of Cambodia for the first time. We were supported by four Cambodian physicians under the direction of Dr. Do Seiha, an ophthalmologist and Director of the Cambodian Blindness Prevention Program. The hospital in which we did our work is the center for ophthalmology care for Cambodia and we were able to perform 100 cataract and strabismus procedures.

We were able to use and then later donate a special digital video microscope and camera to the hospital, so that Dr. Seiha and his team could train other surgeons. The equipment allows surgeons to record delicate procedures in great detail, which is invaluable in the education process. We are pleased that the work we began in Cambodia will continue through the use of this valuable training technology.

The Cambodia Team included Albert Alley, M.D.; Mary Carlson, M.D.; Cindy Poucel, RN; Rita Colley Hendrickson, COT; Carolyn Peters, RN; Sharon Yingst, COT; Ted Hummel, Vandy Oum, Chhunly Oum, Sulyn Oum, Mark Kylick, Charles Henry and Jean Henry. We were greatly assisted by the Rotary Club of Pnom Penh under the direction of their club's president, Martin Lutterjohan.

The trip had very special meaning for the Oum family. Vandy and Chhunly, who now live in Lebanon, PA, were both natives of Cambodia. Both were forced to flee their homeland after communists took control of their country in the 1970's. When a mutual friend introduced them to Dr. Alley, the concept of them joining a WBO to return to their native land seemed like a good idea.

However, prior to their departure, concerns grew as the Oums considered the wisdom of a return to a country where they had witnessed so much violence. Both lost family and friends due to some of the harsh treatment of communist revolutionaries during the 70's. There were many painful memories and a great deal of fear for their own personal safety.

When they arrived in Cambodia, they were able to deal with their fear and emotion by focusing their attention on the mission at hand through WBO. They spoke to a woman who was the mother of 13 children, all of whom are dead. But they were inspired by the reaction of another elderly woman who was blind from severe cataracts. After her

procedure she was elated and couldn't wait to get home to take care of her grandkids.

The Oums are already talking to Dr. Alley about the possibility of a return trip in future years.

Dominican Republic Mission XIII

Because of our frequent visits to the Dominican Republic, we've begun to number each mission like Super Bowls. The good news is that we have been able to do a great deal of very important work helping many in the Dominican Republic. The bad news is that the biggest reason for our many visits is the tremendous need on this small island country. The Dominican Republic shares an island with the nation of Haiti, which is well-documented as the poorest per capita nation in the world.

The Dominican population has many Haitians who moved there to find relief from the poor conditions in the homeland. While life in the Dominican Republic can offer a slightly higher standard of living and employment opportunities for some, a huge percentage of their population lives in extreme poverty.

During this most recent trip, WBO was able to perform 75 cataract procedures and 5 strabismus surgical procedures in only four days. We are able to function very efficiently in the Dominican Republic because of the contacts and facilities we have established over the years. This trip was well-coordinated by the Rotary Club of Nagua and we did our work in the local hospital in Nagua.

The Mission Team included Albert Alley, MD; Eduardo Romo-Miller, MD; Albert J. Alley, DO; Ken Obremski, DDS; Doris Obremski, Shaneika Brinkley, ORT; Thomas Ellinger, Carolyn Peters, RN; Deborah Bollinger, LPN; Henry Funk, Megan Alley and Bob Hall.

Life Enhancement Award

In 1999, the WBO Life Enhancement Award was created to assist visually impaired people living in Southcentral Pennsylvannia with equipment or aid to enhance and improve the quality of their lives. Over the past seven years, WBO has purchased computers, software, closed circuit TV monitors,

musical instruments, educational toys and assisted with basic transportation needs. Each of these items or services have allowed us to help these individuals gain a little more independence in their lives and assistance in their daily living.

The recipients for this year are Jeana Angelina, Arthur Butterfield, Daniella Dochterman, June Mentzer and Livua Spohn. The list of items that were purchased by WBO include a computer with assistive technology, a large button phone, a Pocket PC and a clarinet. These items, while they may seem insignificant to many of us, have already made a difference in the lives our recipients and they appreciate your support.

Members of the Life Enhancement Award Committee for 2006 are Bonnie Cascarino, Thomas Ellinger and Kay Macsi.

Mission Cataract: Lebanon Valley

WBO volunteers conducted our 7th Mission Cataract Lebanon Valley on May 22 and were able to help five people in our community. WBO has been able to help many throughout the world suffering from curable blindness. This initiative was established to identify those living in our communities, who might not qualify for government assisted health care, but might not have the personal means to pay for cataract surgery.

The event was held at the Physicians Surgical Center, under the direction of Dr. Albert Alley and Dr. Raymond DeMaio. The surgical team was supported by Dr. Joseph Bering and Dr. Robert Campbell. Approximately 20 individuals from the surgical center contributed in some way to help make the event successful. Lebanon

Cardiology Associates assisted with EKG's, The Good Samaritan Hospital provided laboratory support and Alcon donated the lens implants for all the procedures. WBO is fortunate and truly grateful to enjoy such tremendous support from our local clinicians and health care organizations to help those less fortunate.



The patients pictured in some of these photos often travel a great distance and wait patiently for their cataract surgery. Although the conditions are not always "optimal" we are pleased to be able to assemble WBO Teams to respond to this very important need around the world.



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