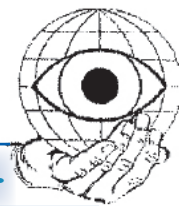


IN Sights

A Newsletter For Friends of World Blindness Outreach, Inc.



2021 - Special 31-Year Anniversary Edition

Dear Friends & Supporters of WBO,

We hope this edition of our newsletter finds you and your family well. For the first time in 31 years, we have no mission summaries to share and some might question the need to publish a newsletter. But as we reflect on this past year, we believe this may be the most important edition that we've ever published. We expanded our newsletter this year to include many photos that speak to the work we've accomplished over the past 31 years and the lives that we've been able to change for the better.

We founded WBO in 1990 primarily to alleviate preventable and treatable blindness around the world. We focused on cataract surgeries since 50 percent of blindness in the world today is due to cataracts. As we know, this is a relatively simple surgical procedure. Over the years, and with the help of many talented and generous volunteers, we have been able to help thousands and expand our services and our impact.

We also have performed strabismus (crossed eyes) procedures and corneal transplants. We've coordinated medical clinics, trained physicians and other clinicians and donated medical equipment and supplies. Several years ago, we developed a collaboration program with the Lebanon High School Rotary Interact Club to enable students to participate in missions and volunteer activities.

This edition of our newsletter is dedicated to the hundreds of donors, volunteers and supporters who have helped us make a difference in the lives of many less fortunate individuals around the world for 31 years! On behalf of those lives, we thank you for your generous and continued support.

A Picture Is Often Worth A Thousand Words...

This photo taken of a young boy in Ethiopia speaks volumes about WBO's mission and purpose. Fifteen year-old Usman was totally dependent on others due to his blindness from cataracts. Here he is after his right eye was surgically treated. After his left eye was surgically treated he is now fully-sighted and able to lead a productive and independent life.



Albert A. Alley, M.D.

Founder & President, WBO

Bringing Light Into Darkness For Over 30 Years!

www.worldblindnessoutreach.org • (717) 273-0662

Looking Back: 31 Incredible Years In Review...

As we reflect on the impact that we have made over the past 31 years, we are overcome with a variety of emotions. Those emotions include, among others, pride and joy, as well as sadness and humility.

Since our beginning, we have conducted nearly 100 missions in 26 countries around the world. During those missions, we were able to perform over 10,000 surgical procedures and provide other basic and essential services.

Collectively, our teams and our supporters should feel a tremendous sense of satisfaction for helping us change so many lives and to bring light into the darkness!

The feelings of sadness and humility result from the tremendous poverty and need that is evident on every mission. We are humbled to be in a position to provide help and we are honored to have established so many deep and warm relationships and friendships all over the world!

We thank all of you - all the physicians, nurses, technicians and other volunteer mission support staff. We thank our in-country volunteers and supporters, who help with food, transportation and anything we need. We could not have done it without you.

But our work is not finished and unfortunately, it will never be. But we remain committed to doing as much as we can, for as many as we can, for as long as we can.

We're blessed to be part of such a great team. You have our unending gratitude!



Nigeria 1990 – First World Blindness Outreach Mission. Governor of the state, General Coma, and the Minister of Health welcoming the World Blindness Outreach team and inspecting the facility at the beginning of the first mission in 1990.

Nigeria - The sparsely and inadequately equipped operating room in the leading public hospital where surgery was performed.



Nigeria - Nigerian mother with her baby following cataract surgery.



Vietnam - Vietnamese children with crossed eyes waiting for surgery.

Looking Back: 31 Incredible Years...



Ethiopia - WBO physician, Dr. Sue Carlson, doing an anesthesia numbing block prior to cataract surgery.



Ghana - Visiting a patient at her home, who had cataract surgery. Dr. Alley is with Sister Maria; she is the director of eye care at the hospital where the surgery was done.

Cambodia - Rita Hendrickson doing a lens implant measurement on a surgical candidate. Rita volunteered on many WBO missions throughout the world. She was a very special person and thought of highly by everyone. Sadly, we lost Rita to cancer recently, but she lives on in all our hearts to the present day. We miss you, Rita!



Ethiopia - Training Ethiopian doctor to perform small incision cataract surgery.



Ghana - Patients being evaluated for cataract surgery.

Looking Back...



India - Indian mother with child after surgery for bilateral cataracts.



Dominican Republic
A 5-year old girl with a pre-surgical diagnosis of esotropia (cross eye turning in).



First day after surgery.



Kenya - Kenyan doctor performing cataract surgery working with World Blindness Outreach doctors.

Ecuador - This WBO team from 2014, is one of many who traveled to Ecuador. For 20 consecutive years, we've been assisted by our good friends at Vista Para Todos.



Ecuador - Chris Ament of VisionCorp conducts white cane training for the blind in Ecuador.



Dominican Republic - WBO physician, Dr. Iftikhar Chaudhry, assisted by Hershey Medical student Roni Levin, who went on to become a pediatric ophthalmologist.



Dominican Republic - Above, Lebanon area high school students accompanying WBO team in January, 2015.

At right is a work project for the students at the Linda Alley Clinic that she helped establish when she was in the Peace Corp 1993-1995. This project was supported by both Rotary and WBO.



Mission Cataract: Lebanon Valley - Staff at Lebanon Outpatient Surgical Center where free surgery for uninsured and indigent patients was provided during Mission Cataract Week.

31 Incredible Years...

*Thanks for the memories to our teams!
Thanks for the support to our donors!
Thanks for all the new friendships!*

**Together, We Bring Light
Into Darkness for thousands!**

Looking Forward: Future Plans...

Although the pandemic created barriers for mission work in 2020, our teams are hopeful for two missions this year. We hope to visit our friends in Ecuador in December of 2021 and our friends in the Dominican Republic in January of 2022. Obviously, we will do so only if conditions allow. These developing nations do not have access to COVID vaccines like we do in the United States. Therefore, our plans will not be finalized until later this year, when we can ensure the safety of our team.

Life Enhancement Awards...

Feelings of isolation and lack of access to necessary resources have made life even more challenging and these awards were never more important, to provide equipment or aid to enhance/improve the quality of life for individuals with a vision impairment. WBO was able to provide low vision aides like portable and desktop video magnifiers, iPhones, access to specialty eye care, low vision aids that enhance daily living and more.

Technology's advancement, while it improves the quality of life, can be quite expensive and most insurances do not cover these items. This is where the Life Enhancement Award has had the biggest impact. Since 1999, WBO has helped many individuals gain more independence by providing needed items to deserving recipients.



Life Enhancement Award Winner Jeffery H. received a brand new iPhone this year from WBO. iPhones are essential to people with vision loss because they have built in features like voice-over, a screen reader technology that allows Jeff to utilize his device, as well as free apps like "Be my Eyes, Magnifier, and Seeing AI" that help him easily engage with the world around him.

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We're Back!!!

2021 WBO Golf Tournament - *Please Show Your Support!*

Although we were forced to forego our annual event in 2020, we are pleased to announce that COVID restrictions have eased and the WBO Golf Tournament Committee has been meeting and working on plans to get us back on track for 2021. The Committee is finalizing the event details to ensure a safe and enjoyable day at Lebanon Country Club for you and your guests!

Please join us:

2021 WBO Golf Tournament

Monday, August 23

Lebanon Country Club

10:30 Registration

Lunch

1:00 Shotgun Start

Reception/Prizes following Golf



Save the Date!

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