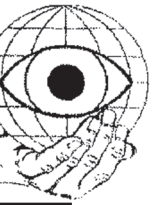


World Blindness Outreach, Inc.
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Lebanon, PA 17042

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IN Sights

A Newsletter For Friends of World Blindness Outreach, Inc.



Dear Friend of WBO,

Greetings friends and supporters of World Blindness Outreach! I hope this edition of our newsletter and annual report finds you well. I am pleased to inform you that WBO mission teams and our other regional outreach efforts have been very busy again this year. We accomplished a great deal of good work and are finalizing plans for the balance of 2009 and 2010.

Each year, when preparing this report, we attempt to find the right words to help each of you understand the importance of your continued support and the tremendous gratitude we experience when we help those in need. On a recent mission to the Dominican Republic, we had a challenging case and we wanted to share the details with you. It is a shining example of why we continue to do what we do.

Leonel Herrera is a 21-year-old who came to us almost completely blind. He had minimal light perception due to damaged corneas. Tragically, six years prior he was accosted by some teens attempting to rob him. The gang splashed an acid solution in his face to disable him, which burned the tissue in his eyes and he has been without sight since the attack at age 15.

Leonel has learned to adapt the best that he could, but he is basically helpless due to his lack of sight. He was very quiet and withdrawn and had to be led around by the hand just to get to the bathroom. It was obvious that he had little or no chance at a productive or normal life. With his disability, it was very unlikely that he would ever experience work, education, relationships or even the pleasure of a beautiful Dominican sunset.

Our team examined him and assessed his chance for success. Dr. Iftikhar Chaudhry, who practices ophthalmology in Philadelphia was a member of our team and had brought some recently harvested corneas with us on the mission.

In spite of the severe tissue damage to Leonel's eyes, we decided to attempt a corneal transplant. We were not very optimistic that his long-term prognosis was very positive, because of the severe tissue damage, but Dr Chaudhry decided to proceed because our patient had nothing to lose and so much potential, if the procedure was successful.

The post-op exam with Leonel went well, but our team remained skeptical about him regaining any sight due to the likelihood of infection and/or rejection. As we returned home and continued to pray for our young friend Leonel, we received the following e-mail from our contact in the Dominican Republic. His message, while lacking in grammar, summarizes what we are able to do through your continued support and we thank you.

Albert A. Alley, M.D.

Founder & President
World Blindness Outreach

E-Mail From The Dominican Republic

From: JOSE TABAR {josetabar@hotmail.com}
To: Iftikhar Chaudhry {ifmc@comcast.net}
Cc: Albert Alley {aalley@comcast.net}

Subject: Cornea Operation
Date: Sunday, December 7, 2008



Dr. Chaudhry,

I'm happy to announce you that the operation of the cornea transplant perform by you and other doctors in Nagua was a success. At the beginning I didn't know what to say cause the patient was shy and say he could barely open the eye but just a few minutes ago I receive a message that he was seeing quite well, I'm overwhelm is the best Christmas gift I've receive in my life. This young fellow was blind for six years and now thanks to you and your staff a life is been renew. There is no way we can ever repay the good deed you've done to the poor people. Also you gave hope to the other kid that needs cornea transplant but because of his allergy could not be perform. I'll work with the mother to take him to an allergy doctor and treat him for the allergy and maybe if you came next year you can perform the operation. Also I learn a lot with the doctor who check my other patient that also were candidate for transplant but he made it quite clear that transplant is the last resource for the eye and he recommended a special thick contact lens.

I am really glad you came this year and perform the cataracts operations on the elderly people that otherwise where doom to clouds for the rest of their life.

Tell your wife and kids about what you do abroad so when you came here they know is for a good cause. Hope one day you came for vacation and we can see the island.

Love to you all.
Might God always bless you.

Jose Tabar

Hershey Bears Score Again Big For WBO!

The Hershey Bears are champions both on the ice and off. Once again, this year the Bears organization has come through with great support in the form of a generous doantion of \$16,000 to World Blindness Outreach. Our special thanks to everyone in the Bears organization and our congratulations for their recent Calder Cup Championship!

Reminder! 2009 WBO Golf Tournament

20th Annual

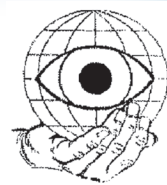
WBO Open

Monday, August 31

Hershey Country Club

The WBO Golf Tournament Committee, under the direction of Chairman Brooks Trefsgar has already begun the planning process for what we hope will be another successful and fun-filled event this year. Please mark your calendar for Monday, August 31. We will limit play to Hershey Country Club's beautiful West Course. Space is limited, so act now to register your foursome.

Visit Our Web Site...



We have established a web site so that all of our friends and supporters are able to find more information about our work - around the clock and around the globe!

www.worldblindnessoutreach.org

(717) 273-0662

June - 2009

Dominican Republic Vision Mission 15

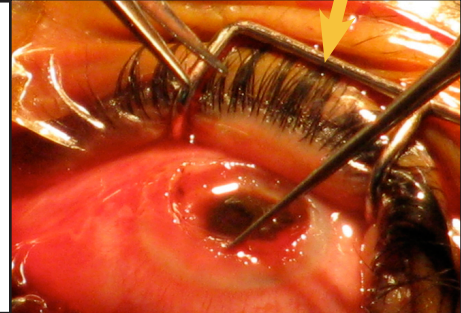
A WBO Mission team visited the Dominican Republic in December of 2008 for a WBO record 15th mission. Although the flight schedule was delayed, causing us to lose a day in the OR, the team was able to perform 70 cataracts, one strabismus and a corneal transplant procedure.

The Dominican Republic has become a frequent stop for WBO because of the huge need, but also because of the cooperation we receive from the people of the region. The team worked in Nagua, a small town near the northern coast of the island. While the conditions in their local hospital were not optimal, they were adequate and the local Rotarians were very gracious hosts to see that team members were well fed and safe. Before the WBO team left, they were feted at a special Christmas program, recognized by Nagua's Mayor and were the special guests of the Rotary Club of Nagua for dinner.



Leonel Herrera, waiting to be examined the morning after his corneal transplant surgery - still without his sight.

Team members included: Albert Alley, M.D., Iftakhar Chaudhry, M.D., Perry Umlauf, O.D., Eileen Geiss, RN, Monica Zinnser, RN, Laura Welch, RN, Madeline Martin, RN, Ed Price and Mike Kuhn and his son Adam, who participated as part of his senior graduation project.



Nagua Photo Story

This group of photos are snapshots of a typical mission. The names and faces change - but the story remains the same...tremendous need, dedicated medical professionals and volunteers, supported by many generous people behind the scenes.



The Result: Grateful patients!

Ecuador Vision Mission 9

Our most recent mission to Ecuador was the result of an invitation for WBO to participate in the grand opening of a new clinic in Quito. The clinic is situated on the top floor of a modern 8-story building and the goal was to organize a 3-part program to help those with sight deficiencies.

The first goal was to provide cataract surgeries and the team was able to perform 170 successful procedures. The second goal was to perform strabismus procedures and the team was able to help 30 patients. The third goal was to provide rehabilitation services to teach life skills to the blind and help them learn how to use canes effectively. Kay Masci and Chris Ament worked all week with 10 blind patients and made a huge impact on the lives. By all measures, the mission was successful in all regards. However, WBO team members returned home in better cardiovascular condition due to the lack of elevator service to the clinic. The city is located about 10,000 feet above sea level which made for a very physically taxing walk, up and down the stairs, which occurred several times each day.

The team included one medical student, Roni Avneri from Penn State College of Medicine. WBO missions have become a popular venue for medical students to gain some practical experience and these students have proven to be invaluable to our efforts. It has been a great opportunity for these young professionals to learn the value and importance of mission work and hone their skills.

Ecuador mission team members included: Albert Alley, M.D., Eduardo Romo-Miller, M.D., Merrill Stass-Isern, M.D., Miranda Bishara, M.D., Cindy Poucel, RN, Margaret Ann Black, RN, Linda Martin, RN, Sharon Yingst, COT, Ramon Jarquin, COT, Diane & Bill Ebinger, Roni Avneri, Doug Dohner and our rehab specialists Kay Macsi and Chris Ament from the Susquehanna Association for the Blind.

WBO Life Enhancement Awards

In 1999, the Life Enhancement Award was created by WBO to assist visually impaired individuals who live in Central Pennsylvania by purchasing a piece of equipment or aid to enhance their life. Over the past nine years we have supported many individuals with special computers and software, transportation assistance, closed circuit TV's to enlarge information, musical instruments and educational toys, to name a few. Each of these awards helped to enhance independence in their daily lives.

Our recipients for 2008 are Timothy Haynes, Open Book Reader and computer scanner, Joan Gentry, CCTV, Antonio Soto, computer and Jacqueline Hallett, dentures. These items will greatly enhance the day to day living for each of these individuals.

Members of the Life Enhancement Award Committee for 2008 are Bonnie Cascarino, Beth Sheffy, and Kay Macsi.

"MAKING A DIFFERENCE – MISSION CATARACT"

Mission Cataract Lebanon Valley is a community health outreach program celebrating its 13th year of providing free cataract surgery to those in need. This year, the month of June was designated and devoted to "the cause". Seven individuals benefited from this event. Since the onset of the program, there have been over 100 beneficial recipients.

Numerous individuals assist in the provisional processes of the program: local physicians Dr. Samuel Rashid and Dr. Robert Campbell provided free physicals; ALCON, the manufacturer of the lenses and many surgical supplies used in the cases provide free supplies; ophthalmologists Dr. Albert Alley and Dr. Ray DeMaio provided free eye exams and surgery; and, the Physicians Surgical Center provided the facility, staff and additional resources required. Thanks to everyone's support, Mission Cataract Lebanon Valley has developed into a program in which we can all take great pride.

Persons interested in being a candidate for the program next year should call the Physicians Surgical Center (PSC) at 717-272-0007. All potential candidates are screened for medical and financial eligibility. Questions can be directed to the Administrator of the PSC at 717-272-0007, Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Limited eyesight is a challenge faced by many members of the world today. Fortunately, thanks to technology, and to the efforts of many generous individuals, Mission Cataract Lebanon Valley continues to "make a difference" in the lives of many facing the challenge of sight.