World Blindness Outreach, Inc. 1510 Cornwall Road Lebanon, PA 17042

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Reminder! 2010 WBO Golf Tournament

20th Annual **WBO** Open Monday, August 30 **Lebanon Country Club**

The WBO Golf Tournament Committee, under the direction of Chairman Brooks Trefsgar, has 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 30. We will be returning to the Lebanon Country Club and hope that all of our friends and supporters will be able to participate iin this very special 20th anniversary celebration!

Please Make Plans To Join Us!



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



A Newsletter For Friends of World Blindness Outreach, Inc.

20th Anniversay Edition

Dear Friend of WBO.

With this edition of our annual newsletter, we are pleased to note a special milestone for World Blindness Outreach and everyone associated with our missions, projects and all those who support our cause. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of WBO and our charity golf outing.

During those 20 years, we have been able to help countless individuals, train nurses and physicians, correct vision impairment in 25 foreign countries. We've also been able to help many people right in our own back yard – throughout Central Pennsylvania, through Mission Cataract: Lebanon Valley and our WBO Life Enhancement Award program. Your involvement and support has truly made a difference in our community and throughout the world. Together, we have been able to 'bring light into the darkness' for over 6,000 people

Each mission begins with a group who plans, organizes and packs everything we need to accomplish our work. The next step requires a reliable host organization to meet us and help organize the local effort. It is often a Rotary Club, local clinic or individuals who help to screen and transport patients. They assist with meals, lodging and any logistical challenges that arise and they are vital to our success.

We have been blessed with generous support in the form of financial donations, supplies, equipment and tremendous support of our golf outing. Most of our golf committee members have been involved since our first event and we are planning another for August 30. Many of our volunteers return for multiple missions because they've experienced first hand, some of the incredible work we've been able to accomplish.

We hope to see all of you at the golf outing this year to help share in the joy of this special anniversary and celebrate our many accomplishments. Our growth and expansion of services is a source of great pride. Our most recent trip to Ecuador was a shining example of this growth, as the team focused on three different priorities. We performed cataract procedures,



The faces of these patients show little emotion as they await the removal of their surgical bandages on the morning after surgery. Moments later, smiles of appreciation will be visible when they experience normal vision once again after the bandages are removed by WBO team members.

treated kids with strabismus and provided life skills training with the help of professionals from the Susquehanna Association for the Visually Impaired (SAVI).

This multi-faceted mission tells the 20-year story of WBO. We bring this light into the darkness for many who are less fortunate – and we do so through the talents, the dedication and the support of countless who share our passion and our vision. Happy anniversary and congratulations to each of you!

Albert A. Alley, M.D.

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Founder & President World Blindness Outreach



Ecuador Vision Mission 10

Sept. 19, 2009 - Sept. 27, 2009

During our recent mission to Ecuador, the team performed over 175 cataract and eye procedures, 50 strabismus procedures for children and helped another 20 through life training skills. The life skills training was a cooperative effort between WBO and Susquehanna Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SABVI). These SABVI volunteers, Kay Macsi, Chris Ament and interpreter Esmeralda Rodriguez helped people learn basic life skills such as eating and cutting food, counting money and using a cane – all of which enable them to live more independently.

We were fortunate to partner once again with Vista Para Todos, a local charity that coordinated our schedule, patient transportation and follow-up care with local physicians. The team worked from a clinic in Santo Domingo de los Colorados, one of 9 clinics supported through the Vista organization.

Team members included: Albert Alley, MD; Eduardo Romo-Miller, MD; Merill Stass-Isern, MD; Margaret Ann Black, RN; Linda Martin, RN; Cindy Poucel, RN; Sharon Yingst, COT; Kay Macsi and Chris Ament from SAVI; Beckie Dreibelbis, Esmeralda Rodriquez, Sandra Ney, Courtney Rostad and Ardalan Aminlari, a medical student at Hershey Medical School and future ophthalmologist.

The mission was a huge success, both in terms of the number of people we helped, but also the breadth of services that we were able to provide.



The faces of these ladies speak volumes for the work performed by WBO teams - they are all smiles because of their mother's ability to see clearly.



Dominican Republic Vision Mission 17

Dec. 1, 2009 - Dec. 6, 2009

The Dominican Republic has served as WBO's temporary home for many years. WBO teams alternate each year between the towns of Salcedo and Nagua. We have established many special relationships and done a great deal to help many in this impoverished land.

This most recent mission included Albert Alley, MD; Iftikhar Chaudry, MD; Albert Alley, DO; Eileen Geiss, RN; Monica Zinsser, RN; Madeline Martin, RN; Michael Walsh; Sherry Courtney and Shawn Kavousi(medical student attending Baylor U.Medical School). In addition to 70 cataract procedures, the team successfully performed two corneal transplants. The mission was made possible through support from the Lebanon and Annville Rotary Clubs and we were hosted by the gracious Rotarians from Salcedo.

WBO is planning a record 18th visit to the Dominican Republic in December of this year.

Ethiopia Vision Mission 4

April 14, 2010 – April 26, 2010

"I didn't have vision when I came here. With the help of God I recovered my vision. It is unbelievable." These words are a direct quote published in a local newspaper in Ethiopia, after the recent WBO mission. These words capture the sentiment of people all around the world who

have been helped through WBO mission work.

patients we served in Ecuador.

team returns home.

At bottom, are two Ethiopian providers, a

surgeon and nurse trained by WBO team members to continue our work after the

This fourth trip to Ethiopia resulted in nearly 200 cataract procedures performed by team members: Albert Alley, MD; Ruben Landazuri, MD; William Cluley; Getachew Hirpo, Cindy Poucel, RN; Eileen Geiss, RN; Rita Hendrickson, COT; Sona Chaudry and Jonathan Cordova, both medical students.

The team returned to Ras Desta Hospital to perform their work. Upon arrival they found a surgical microscope that had been left behind on a previous mission was not in working order. Fortunately the team's technician was able to make the necessary repairs and improved efficiency, enabling us to perform approximately 30 procedures each day.

WBO team members hope to continue our tradition of returning to this area every two years. The need is certainly evident and the patients are extremely grateful.

Congratulations & Thanks To The Bears!

World Blindness Outreach would like to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone associated with the Hershey Bears organization for their historic season and second consecutive Calder Cup championship. We'd also like to recognize them for their continued commitment to WBO's mission. The Bears presented WBO with a gift of \$15,000 through the sale of game jerseys after each home game for the sixth consecutive year. We greatly appreciate your support and we're proud to be associated with such a first class organization!

Mission Cataract:

Lebanon Valley

After a long history of serving the cataract surgical needs of those in our own back yard, our local effort has moved to a new model of care. Rather than dedicate a single day annually for surgical procedures, we have tried to identify uninsured individuals who otherwise could not afford care and we have been able to blend them with our routine surgical schedule.

The clinical support, supplies and facilities are a cooperative effort put forth by the Physicians Surgical Center and Alcon Laboratories. To date, we have completed two procedures and have several others scheduled in the coming months. Monica Ziegler, Director of the surgical center is the program coordinator and the physicians involved in providing support to our program are Albert Alley, MD; Raymond DeMaio, MD and Robert Campbell, MD.

WBO Life Enhancement



For the past 10 years, WBO has been helping those with visual impairment throughout Central Pennsylvania through our Life Enhancement Awards. Members of the committee overseeing the process are: Bonnie Cascarino, Beth Sheffy and Kay Macsi.

This year's award recipients received assistance in the form of an Amigo, portable CCTV, funding for toys and tickets to amusement parks and a community pool, special needs software and scholarship funding.

Future Missions

As we go to "press" WBO is making arrangements for mission work next year. We are planning trips to Ecuador in September, the Dominican Republic in December and Egypt in February of 2011.

Please contact us if you or someone you know would like to support one of these missions.