

IN Sights

A Newsletter For Friends of World Blindness Outreach, Inc.



2013 Edition

Dear Friends of WBO,

Each summer we put together some notes and thoughts about our many accomplishments during the previous year - bringing light into the darkness for those less fortunate. When we think about the millions who are living without sight, it is sad to know that a great percentage of those cases were preventable or are curable through surgery. Unfortunately, many of those in need, lack access to the facilities and services that we often take for granted.

Those are the thoughts that keep us inspired and motivated. That's why we give of our time, talents and treasure to ensure that services are made available. Although we'll never be able to help everyone, we all need to celebrate the fact that we have been able to help thousands - with the help of a great team of providers, volunteers and supporters. This year marks a number of very significant milestones for WBO and we'd like to share the joy of these important milestones with each of you who have helped to make the WBO mission a reality.

In September of this year, WBO will visit Ecuador for our 15th mission. Diego Benitez, director of Vista Para Todos, will again help coordinate our mission. He has shared with us that some team members may be eligible for dual citizenship, an honor extended to those who have provided service to Ecuador and her citizens for so many years. That honor is a testament to the commitment of many who make WBO a sustainable force in fighting blindness. We've made a huge impact in this South American country over the years.



The man pictured at left in the black hat is Dominican Jose Tabor. WBO will celebrate a milestone this year during our 20th mission - the result of many dedicated people, but no one more giving than Jose. He is a constant force of goodwill and service to others - and a true inspiration to WBO teams and our mission. Thank you Jose, for many years of service to WBO!

Another approaching milestone will be our 20th annual visit to the Dominican Republic in December. Our friends and hosts from Nagua, Salcedo and La Pascuala are planning some special celebrations to mark the occasion. I wish we could take each of you with us to share in this important anniversary, but please know that these great accomplishments would not be possible without your involvement and support. We are truly blessed and we are honored to share those many blessings with the world.

Albert A. Alley, M.D.

Founder & President
World Blindness Outreach

Bringing Light Into Darkness For Over 20 Years

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

Looking Back: A Year In Review...

Ecuador Mission

9-9-12 to 9-15-12

Albert Alley, M.D.

Martha Howard, M.D.

Cindy Poucel, R.N.

Eileen Geiss, R.N.

Joan Yatsonsky, R.N.

Lara Rosenwasser

Kay Macsi

Chris Ament

Evelyn Wilson

William Cluley

Daniel Lepone

WBO's 14th mission to Ecuador occurred in September. We're pleased to report that this trip has become almost routine. Because of the support and coordination of Diego Benitz and Vista Para Todos, great operating efficiency has become a big part of that routine. In five days, we preformed 170 cataract procedures, helped 35 children suffering from strabismus and our reps from the Susquehanna Association of the Blind helped a record number of people with life skills training. For those who we cannot help to regain their sight, this assistance is invaluable in helping them to access life skills training that would otherwise force them to be dependant upon others.

We were pleased to have several medical students participate including a third-year student at Hershey, Laura Rosenwasser, and Daniel Lepone, an aspiring doctor now in his first year of medical school. We welcome these bright, young additions to our staff and are hopeful that they will continue the traditions we've established through WBO mission work for many years.

Dominican Republic

12-4-12 to 12-9-12

Albert Alley, M.D.

Iftikhar Chaudhry, M.D.

Roni Levin, M.D.

Nurit Bor

Cristina Salinas, R.N.

Shira Bor

Sharon Swonger

William Cluley

Ahmed Chaudhry

Another of those "routine" stops for the WBO team is one of several small towns in the Dominican Republic. This past December, we were in Nagua and enjoyed a form of family affair. Dr. Iftikhar Chaudhry has become a frequent visitor on the Dominican missions and brought his son, Ahmed. Ahmed was able to witness his father perform a record four corneal transplants during this trip. We were pleased to learn recently that Ahmed will be entering college in the fall and aspires to become a doctor following the tradition of his father. *Note:* Dr. Chaudhry also returned to the Dominican in May to perform 14 additional corneal transplants that were arranged by our friend, Jose Tabar.

In addition to the transplants, the team performed 70 cataract procedures during the December mission. In addition to Dr. Chaudhry and his son Ahmed, WBO team members included Nurit Bor a first year optometry student and Shira Bor a high school student. Also, Roni Levin, M.D., a 3rd year resident in ophthalmology at the University of Maryland joined Dr. Alley and Cristina Salinas, R.N., Sharon Swonger and William Cluley rounded out the team.



One of Dr. Chaudhry's many transplant surgeries, shown above and below

Ghana Mission

5-4-13 to 5-11-13

Albert Alley, M.D.

Mary Susan Carlson, M.D.

Abiye Mulugeta, M.D.

Cindy Poucel, R.N.

Sharon Yingst, C.O.T.

Rita Hendrickson, C.O.T.

William Cluley

Carolyn Peters

Jenna Archuleta

In spite of some credentialing issues and a few hurdles in the Ghana Customs process, our team was able to perform 90 cataract surgeries and 6 pterygiums surgeries, a procedure to remove a vascular membrane that grows over the eye. This was our first visit to Ghana and we partnered with the Rotary Clubs of Accra and Apam. We performed the surgeries at St. Luke's Hospital in Apam where we were in the very good hands of Sisters Veronica and Mary Magdeline.

Carolyn Peters had previously been part of a medical mission to Ghana and explained the tremendous need and help coordinate most of the mission details. She understated the need. We were blessed with an international surgical team that included Dr. Sue Carlson from Virginia, Dr. Abiye Mulugeta from Ethiopia, and Dr. Bo Wiafe from Ghana, who also joined Dr. Alley.



Mission Cataract: Lebanon Valley

Local physicians, nurses and technicians recently completed Mission Cataract: Lebanon Valley. This effort has provided free surgery for those who are in need locally for many years. Many of these candidates are working, but lack insurance coverage and the means to afford surgery.

Although this year's effort is not complete, our local coordinator Monica Ziegler reports that it is likely that we will serve as many as 11 surgical candidates this year. Special thanks to all those who donate their skills to coordinate this great local effort to care for our own.



Joining Drs. Alley and Carlson from the U.S., the Ghana team included surgeons Dr. Wiafe (center front) from Ghana and Dr. Mulugeta (far right) from Ethiopia.



This very productive Ecuador team includes Dr. Ruben Landazuri (left front), a native surgeon and our friend and supporter Diego Benitez (right front) from Vista Para Todos.



This photo, taken of our Dominican Team against a backdrop of a beautiful mural on the side of a building, is an example of how WBO has become part of the scenery. This group coordinated WBO's 19th mission to the Dominican Republic - and we look forward to our 20th anniversary mission this December!

Ghana Thanksgiving!



These post-op patients in Ghana, are singing a song of thanksgiving to the WBO team, while accompanied by a local drummer. This photo is typical of what we see and feel on every mission - people who are grateful, once again, for the gift of sight!

Family Affair!



These are five patients who live in the same remote village in Ghana, including three sisters and their brother! All were very happy to be able to see Dr. Carlson and Dr. Alley and the WBO team.

Thanks Again To The Bears!

A special thank you again to the Hershey Bears for the generous donation given to us from monies raised thru the annual charity jersey auction.



WBO Life Enhancement Awards

As we go to press with this edition of our newsletter, the Life Enhancement Award committee is processing applications and matching resources with identified needs in our community. The Life Enhancement Award was established approximately 10 years ago to provide assistance to some of our closest neighbors who are suffering from impaired vision or blindness.

To date, WBO has been able to help dozens of people and families throughout Central Pennsylvania. Kay Masci, chair of the committee is projecting as many as 8 recipients for some form of assistance. Those individuals will be invited to attend the dinner following our golf outing to share their stories and successes.

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2013 WBO Golf Tournament

Reminder!

Monday, August 26

Lebanon Country Club

Please Make Plans To Join Us!

The Tournament Committee 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 26. We hope you can be part of this important event to support WBO!

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