

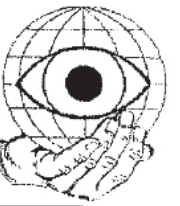
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IN Sights

A Newsletter For Friends of World Blindness Outreach, Inc.



2018 Edition

Greetings Friends and Supporters,

Noted author and anthropologist Margaret Mead once stated: “Never believe that a few caring people can’t change the world. For, indeed, that’s all who ever have.”

Although Ms. Mead passed away in 1978, more than a decade before we launched World Blindness Outreach (WBO), her words are a perfect summary of our mission and our impact on the world. However, our team now includes many more than just a few and we truly have and continue to change the world for the better. Our typical mission roster includes approximately 10, but there are many, many more who contribute to our success. Since 1990, we’ve been blessed by literally hundreds of volunteers and supporters. Your collective impact has changed the world for thousands of lives through the gift of sight to those who live in darkness.

In many ways, the story of our success and impact can be traced to our golf committee. This relatively few individuals, chaired by my good friend, Brooks Trefsgar, has raised several hundred thousand dollars since the tournament’s inception. This financial support has been the life blood of WBO. Brooks has stepped down as chair, but agreed to continue to serve and support us on the committee. Thank you Brooks and our entire committee, for your great effort! Although each volunteer surgeon pays their own travel expenses and some supplies are donated, the funds donated by our golf sponsors provide additional resources for equipment and supplies that are vital to our work – another example of few caring people changing the world.

The most efficient and successful missions are often the result of additional dedicated volunteers. We have friends from literally every corner of the globe. Local volunteer groups often help us with things like transportation, meals and assisting patients. We also receive help from many medical providers who volunteer their services to perform surgeries or other patient care services. Their commitment and contributions are immeasurable!

Then, there are the many students who have been involved in our work. We’ve included high school students, college students, medical students and ophthalmology residents. They have performed services projects, assisted with patient care – even in the OR. They represent our hope for the future.

The concept behind WBO is not new. It’s just an opportunity for us to work together and serve others who are truly in need. We’ve learned the importance and value of this work from many generations before us – a few caring people, working together to make a difference. WBO has been a vehicle to bring out the best in many and we are grateful for those countless “few” individuals who have and continue to change the world with us, by bringing light into the darkness.

Albert A. Alley, M.D.

Albert A. Alley, M.D.

Founder & President, WBO



This was our team picture from Tanzania. We try to get a team photo from every mission, wearing our t-shirts. The color of the shirts changes and some of the faces change slightly, but we’re blessed with so many wonderful and giving volunteers.

2018 WBO Golf Tournament

Reminder! Monday, August 27
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 27. We hope you can be part of this important event to support WBO. Contact us to register and participate!

www.worldblindnessoutreach.org

(717) 273-0662

Bringing Light Into Darkness For Over 25 Years

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Looking Back: A Year In Review...

Our trip to Tanzania was made possible through a partnership with Missions For Humanity. Because of their ties to the Catholic Diocese of Boston and their existing facilities, it created a perfect marriage for a joint mission. WBO is very appreciative of Missions For Humanity founder, Kathy Crosson, for her leadership and inspiration leading teams to many locations around the world. Their teams usually focus on primary care, but invited us to be the first ever ophthalmology team to join their effort. Each day, the primary care teams loaded their vans to visit rural villages and our team worked in the local Police Hospital.



We often feature photos of our teams and the patients we serve, but the wildlife we saw during our brief Safari in Tanzania, was unique and breath-taking!

Tanzania Mission

July 7-15, 2017

- Albert A. Alley, M.D.
- Dominic Izzo, Jr., M.D.
- Albert J. Alley, D.O.
- Zach Landis, M.D.
- Michael Izzo
- William Cluley
- Denise Hileman, R.N.
- Virginia Alley
- Linda Izzo, R.N.

- Kathy Crosson – Missions for Humanity
- Patrick Kabangutse – Medical Director
- Christian Shembilu – Dar es Salaam Archdiocese

We performed approximately 100 cataract surgeries in five days. Our surgical team included Dr. Kabangutse, a local ophthalmologist and Dr. Dominic Izzo and his son, Michael, (a medical student at Temple) from Reading, PA. Dr. Zach Landis, a resident from Hershey was another key member of our surgical team. We were hosted by the Catholic Mission site, which provided comfortable housing, all our meals and even arranged a brief safari, prior to our departure.

We were very fortunate to be able to work with this organization. Our surgical team allowed them to expand their scope of services and impact a greater need. Overall, it was a very efficient and successful mission, made very enjoyable through the interactions with many new friends and partners.

Ecuador Mission

October 8-14, 2017

- Albert A. Alley, M.D.
- Nancy Morrison, M.D.
- Eduardo Romo
- de Vivar Miller, M.D.
- Cindy Poucel, R.N.
- Eileen Geiss, R.N.
- Christopher Hill
- (Medical Student)
- Samuel Beckstead, D.O.
- (Resident)
- Walter Able
- Ryan G. Morrison

We’re always glad to return to Ecuador and re-connect with so many of our good friends. As usual, Vista Para Todos, under the leadership of Diego Benitez, helped coordinate all the details.

Dr. Nancy Morrisson, a pediatric ophthalmologist, has joined us for nearly 10 years. Dr. Morrisson performed surgery on 25 children during the trip and another colleague from Mexico, Dr. Eduardo Romo Miller shared his expertise in (manual) extra-capsular cataract surgery – a very specialized procedure. Dr. Romo Miller has helped on many previous missions, as has Dr. Ruben Landazuri. We were also supported by Chris Hill, a medical student and Dr. Samuel Beckstead an ophthalmology resident, both from Penn State College of Medicine.

This mission totaled over 250 cases – one of the largest total caseloads of our long history.

Dominican Republic Mission

January 7-13, 2018

- Albert A. Alley, M.D.
- Cynthia Alley, M.D.
- Iftikhar Chaudhry, M.D.
- Heather Auman, Surgical Tech
- Diane McMichael, R.N.
- William Cluley, Surgical Tech
- Kenny Montijo
- Dylan Herndon
- Marianne Bartley
- Ershad Khan
- Diana Vittini
- (Ophthalmologist in DR)

We returned to our “home away from home,” the Dominican Republic, in January. We call it our second home, because this was the 24th consecutive year we’ve been there. If you wonder, why 24 consecutive years – the answers are fairly simple. We go because of the tremendous need, but also because of our effectiveness, thanks to many native Dominican Republicans who share in our mission to help others. This year was no exception.

Jose Tabar is one of those native volunteers and he is tireless. No matter where we are in the Dominican Republic, we can always rely on Jose to help us make the right connections – or be there by our side. Local Rotarians assisted as usual and our good friend and long-time surgical partner, Dr. Iftikhar Chaudhry from Philadelphia joined us. Dr. Cynthia Alley, a pediatric ophthalmologist also made a huge impact by performing 20 strabismus procedures to help children.

Another highlight of our trip was the opportunity to work with local ophthalmologist, Dr. Diane Vittini. We first met Diane years ago, when she was a medical student. She is now married, completed her training and was a great addition to our surgical team! Someday, she hopes to establish her own foundation to pursue mission work like WBO. We are confident that this young lady will be successful and we’re proud to help and support her goals.

We look forward to returning in January of 2019 for our very special 25th anniversary mission to the Dominican Republic. We’re planning to include students for service work, residents from Hershey to continue our rich tradition there. We will work hard, but also celebrate this milestone and some of the great work we’ve been able to accomplish over those 25 years together!



Life Enhancement Awards

Each year, WBO organizes another group of regional volunteers to identify needs right here at home and award funding to help the blind and visually impaired. This year, we were pleased to be able to help the following individuals live more independently:

Jeannette Ahlers received a “Telkin Elite Silver” 22-inch touchscreen computer.

Allen Wargo has a greeting card business. He received a paper folding machine to help with folding.