

FOCUS

NEWS FROM THE WORLD CATARACT FOUNDATION



"One of my first impressions was arriving at the clinic and seeing thousands of patients who had camped out the night before lined up as far as the eye can see. Many of these men, women and children had traveled for days — sometimes by stretcher — to reach our camp."
—Dr. Scott Lawrence

World Cataract in Ethiopia

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, World Cataract Foundation is providing support for its newest project in Ethiopia. In 2015 Dr. Scott Lawrence invited WCF to join Hamilton Eye Institute and others in supporting his efforts to establish Discover Eye Institute, an innovative and academically-oriented Center of Excellence for eye care in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is a large country of nearly 100 million in Eastern Africa. There are 1.6 million people who are blind and another 2.5 million with debilitating low vision from preventable or treatable causes. With only 1 ophthalmologist for every 1 million people, the need for eye care and physician training is overwhelming.

Dr. Lawrence moved his family to Addis Ababa in August of 2015. While setting the groundwork for the new center, they are currently working to provide clinical and surgical services, outreach surgical projects and ophthalmology training for Ethiopian physicians. Dr. Lawrence graduated from the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center's Hamilton Eye Institute in June 2009. Until last year, he was the Director of Glaucoma Service at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He currently serves as an Associate Professor of International Ophthalmology at Hamilton Eye Institute.



WORLD CATARACT FOUNDATION • HELPING THE WORLD TO SEE
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2016

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WORLD CATARACT FOUNDATION

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*Newsletter Layout: Disciple Design
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Remembrances



Remembering Jim Eikner

All of our World Cataract family was sorry to learn of the recent death of our friend, Jim Eikner. I have known him for over 50 years from our time at Southwestern College, now Rhodes College. He was truly an amazing person.

Jim was a friend of many who admired his special talent for so many things. Whatever he did was always exceptional, and we all enjoyed his love of drama and performances. There was also a fundamental goodness about him that is not seen in everyone. I never heard an unkind word from Jim about anything.

His work for Sight Night gave a touch of class, which helped make the time more than just another event to eat a meal and hear a speaker. We will all miss his skills, wit, friendship and his personality. WCF is better known today because of Jim's service to our mission.

— Walker L. Wellford, III

In remembrance of Manuel Muñúzuri Victoria

Manuel Muñúzuri Victoria, Vice President of World Cataract Foundation, Mexico, died on Christmas day 2015. Manuel was planning to join us for his tenth mission to Ometepec in February. He enjoyed leading the eyeglass team and especially loved seeing the joy when someone found the perfect pair of glasses.



Manuel loved the experience so much he invited several family members to join him on past missions. His wife, Paty; his sister and brother-in-law, Cande Alcaraz and Dr. Otilio Alcaraz; and his other sister, Ofelia Muñúzuri, enjoyed helping Manuel with such a worthwhile cause.

Learning we needed tools for our toolbox, Manuel gathered all the tools, packed them in our red toolbox and had them ready to go. We are so appreciative of his loving gift and will use them for many years to come. It will always be Manuel's toolbox.

The WCF Board and all the good friends he made through the years will greatly miss the smiling face of our good friend, Manuel.



Teamwork is one of the keys to our successful missions. This group of ophthalmologists, nurses, technicians, translators, circulators, pre op and post op volunteers provided 185 cataract surgeries, 41 pterygium surgeries and 4 YAG procedures. They also distributed over 1,500 reading, prescription and sunglasses throughout the week.

Ometepec, Mexico

In February of 2016 WCF participated in its 55th mission to Ometepec, Mexico. As always, hundreds of people from the Costa Chica (small coast) region of Guerrero, the area extending from south of Acapulco to the Oaxaca border, were waiting and hoping to have their sight restored.

Dr. Ariel Ramirez, President of WCF Mexico; Raleigh Crawford, WCF Board Member; and translators, Laura Carbajal and Alex Circuit, prescreened and scheduled the patients for surgery a day before the remaining team arrived.

One of our team members was Dr. Shilpa Reddy, third year ophthalmology resident from Hamilton Eye Institute. Commenting on her experience, Dr. Reddy shared, "It was a great experience to see how older microscopes and phaco machines work, engendering creativity and resourcefulness. The newer ones at home work beautifully. They are so automated; it is easy not to know what is going on." Something usually breaks down on a trip and team members work together to find a solution. One of our scopes broke down on this trip and the doctors and nurses were able to shift some parts around and got it working again!

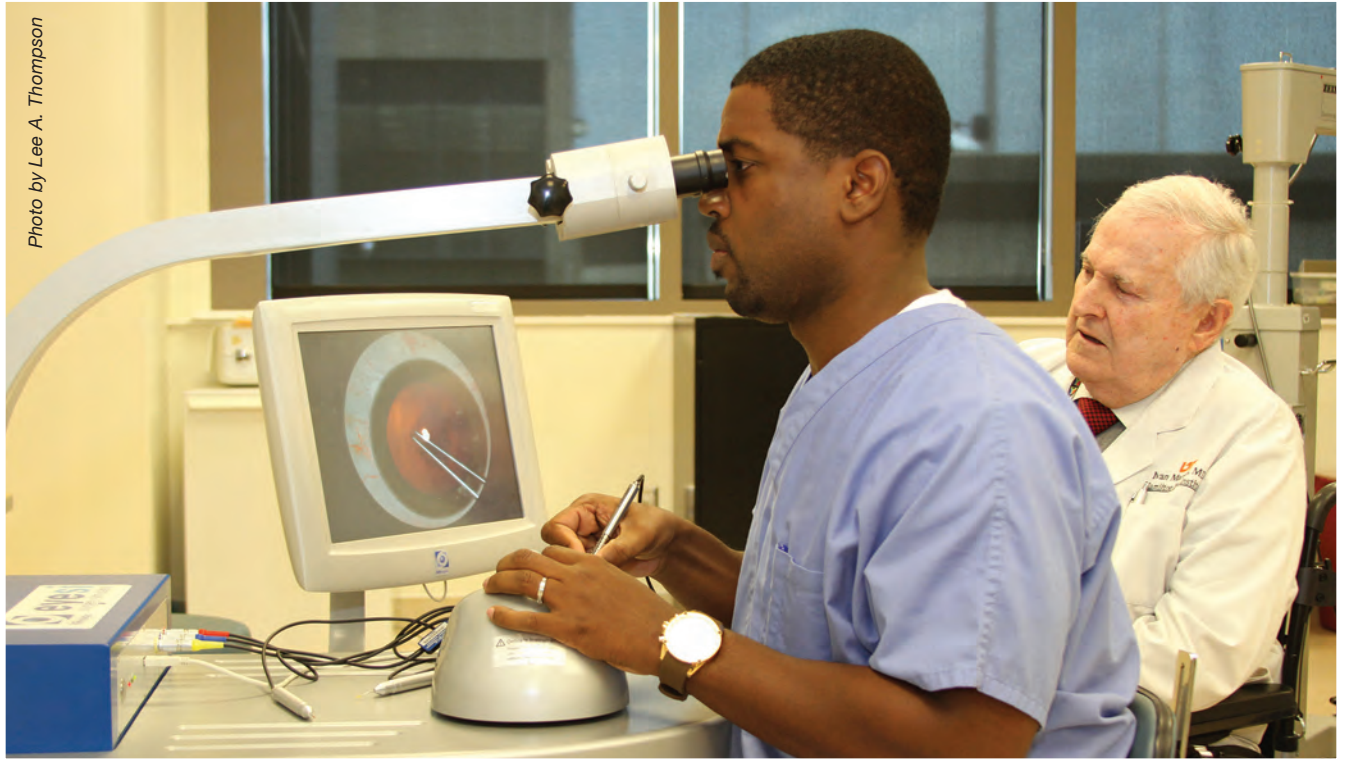
When asked if she would like to continue doing mission

work, Shilpa added, "It was a wonderful experience working with the other doctors in Mexico. I learned plenty to take home with me in my own practice, while helping provide care to a population that needs it so much. I hope to continue traveling to Ometepec and other locations in the future to provide eye care, or better yet, help train local eye physicians to do the same work."

After graduating from the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center's Hamilton Eye Institute on May 20th, Dr. Reddy will join the faculty of University of Wisconsin.



Dr. Stewart Galloway discussing with Drs Josh Wood and Shilpa Reddy normal/abnormal pupil responses. Dr. Galloway was demonstrating an afferent pupillary defect to his young doctor friends.



Carl Dumas, MD working on an ophthalmic surgical simulator with Ivan Marais, MD, instructor of Ophthalmology at the Hamilton Eye Institute's Jim & Virginia McGehee Skills Transfer Center.

Medical Personnel Exchange Program

Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere with a population of nearly 10 million, has 75 ophthalmologists. Only about half have the skills to perform surgery. Ophthalmology surgery training requires hours upon hours of mentorship and observation. Through a mentorship relationship young ophthalmologists gain new perspectives and observe many different methods of surgery eventually leading to the development of their own unique surgical styles. There are not enough ophthalmologists in Haiti with the time and surgical experience to mentor the new residents.

The World Cataract Foundation Medical Personnel Exchange Program (MPEP) invites physicians from developing countries to spend two months in Memphis for observations and transfer of medical skills in modern cataract surgery techniques, clinic management, and the teamwork approach to surgery. In addition to observing

the most advanced cataract surgery techniques, visiting physicians also spend time observing specialists in their subspecialty fields of interest.

In 2015 WCF expanded its Medical Personnel Exchange Program outreach to Haiti. After physicians complete an extensive application process in Haiti, candidates are selected by Christian Blind Mission to participate in the WCF program. Dr. Carl Dumas, Dr. Reginald Rejouis and Dr. Rachele Amedee spent two month visits in Memphis, alternating every two weeks between Memphis Eye and Cataract Associates and Hamilton Eye Institute. Observations at Vision Eye Care with pediatric specialist, Dr. Faramarz Hidaji were also incorporated. The MPEP program includes observations in cataract, retina, glaucoma, cornea, pediatric and oculoplastics. Their schedules were uniquely created to highlight their individual interests.



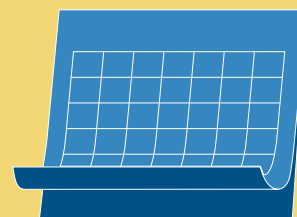
Dr. Reginald Rejouis shared, "It was amazing observing Dr. Aaron Waite. To me he's like the "Hercules" of ocular surgery. He works tirelessly. He did 21 cataracts plus 3 corneal surgeries in one day. In my residency program we perform 6 or 7 surgeries per day (the average) during surgery days. Cataract surgery itself can be tiresome since it requires lots of skills (good skills). So does corneal surgery. I appreciated observing Dr Waite performing DSAEK and DMEK, which are corneal procedures I have never seen before."

The AAO's Host an Ophthalmologist Program sent a complete set of Basic and Clinic Science Course Books and other educational materials to Dr. Rachele Amedee. Upon receiving this generous gift, Dr. Amedee exclaimed, "I am sooo happy! Beyond words!"

After spending the day observing Dr. Aaron Waite in surgery, Dr. Amedee shared, "I learned a new technique today, one that does not require specialized equipment I do not have. I simply needed to see it done and am anxious to try it back home."



Save the Date!



12th Annual Sight Night

August 31, 2016

Theatre Memphis
630 Perkins Extended
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Family Favorite Musical
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Ivan Marais, MD

2016 Freeman Vision
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**We are seeking sponsors
for our event!**

If you are interested or need more information, please contact
Chairperson, Pat Beech or
Lori Hudson at
worldcataract@comcast.net.

Ways to give



“For each blind, disabled person, two other people are required to care for him or her. That means three people are lost from being productive and contributing to society. Not only do we free the adults with the restoration of sight, but we also free their families, especially the children. This is what the World Cataract Foundation is about.”

– Jerre Minor Freeman, MD

Please help World Cataract Foundation restore sight to people needlessly suffering from cataract blindness through our surgical missions, Medical Personnel Exchange Program and donations of equipment for clinics serving the poor.

The World Cataract Foundation appreciates all gifts, large or small. Help change a life today!

- **Honorariums and Memoriams:** Give a gift in honor or memory of a loved one or friend. Please include names of those you wish to receive notification of your gift.
- **Tribute Gift:** Celebrate a birthday, graduation or other important milestone with a tribute gift.
- **Monthly Giving:** Donate through monthly automatic deductions from your checking or savings account. Please call 901-379-0405 or e-mail worldcataract@comcast.net to request a form.

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- **AmazonSmile:** AmazonSmile is a simple way to support World Cataract Foundation every time you shop. When you shop at smile.amazon.com you will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to WCF. Go to smile.amazon.com. On your first visit you will be asked to choose a charitable organization. AmazonSmile will remember your selection and then every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation. You can use your existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile.
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Congratulations to Jerre M. Freeman, MD

2016 Outstanding Physician Award

Presented by Tennessee Medical Association on May 1, 2016

Special Thanks to the Generous Sponsors of Our 11th Annual Sight Night

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**Special Thanks to Allergan, Inc. for
providing gift bags and sponsoring
Tom Sullivan's performance.**

Medical equipment to Haiti

Recently, I spent the morning working with volunteers from *Haiti Medical Missions of Memphis. The enthusiastic group showed up at the Church of the Holy Spirit to pack a shipping container destined for Port au Prince, Haiti. Genie Ashworth, VP of Haiti Medical Missions, invited WCF to send an ophthalmic microscope, box of accessories and two electric surgery lamps. Most of the items in the container will be received by the Holy Spirit Clinic (Croix des Bouquets), a primary and preventive health care, dental and eye care, and outpatient surgery near Port au Prince.

The container will travel from Memphis to Miami by train, then by ship to Haiti. Upon its arrival, the scope and lights will be received by Dr. Reginald Rejouis and his fiancé, Dr. Lyne Alexander. They plan to open The Vision Optimum Eye Care, a clinic that will provide eye care to poor people in underserved areas. The first item on their wish list was an ophthalmic microscope. When Dr. Rejouis heard he was receiving the scope, he shared, "Sometimes God places people in our way just like angels to be a helping hand for us in time of need. This microscope will not only serve to give back the eyesight to poor people who can't afford cataract surgery in private, but also it will help me improve my skills."

It is remarkable to reflect on how many people volunteered their time, resources and expertise to make the donation of the scope and surgery lights a reality. THANK YOU Bennie Lendennie and Dr. Howard Beale for donating the microscope and surgical lamps respectively. THANK YOU to the following people for their important roles of networking, packing and crating, assessing the needs, storing, repairing, acquiring accessories, delivering, making short instruction videos, loading the heavy microscope on the container and securing carefully so it wouldn't move: Jeff Bennett with 2M Medical Solutions; Kim Doebling, Chris Shivers, Luis Velasco and Jose Linares with Craters and Freighters; Trent Cuddy with Prescott Ophthalmics; Roy Williams with FEO Solutions; Tim Wood, Janice Vanderhaar; Genie Ashworth and Haiti Medical Mission volunteers.

Other items on their wish list include: Slit lamp, Autorefractor, Keratometer, Tonometer and Ultrasound. If you have access to any of this equipment (in great condition) and would like to donate it to Drs. Rejouis and Alexander, please email worldcataract@comcast.net or call 901-379-0405.

Lori Hudson

*Haiti Medical Missions was cofounded by Memphians, Dr. Gordon Kraus and Genie Ashworth.



Volunteers from Haiti Medical Missions loading our scope onto the container. The truck did not have a lift gate, so using typical mission trip resourcefulness the group made a great ramp out of pallets, bricks and plywood. The scope weighed about 250 lbs.! Other items we loaded were wheelchairs, a large dental chair, rehab equipment, rolling dental cabinets, clothing and so much more until the container was completely full!



Louis Velasco and Jose Linares, from Craters and Freighters, originally built this great crate for the scope. When they delivered it, we discovered it would take up too much room. Genie Ashworth, VP of

Haiti Medical Missions of Missions of Memphis, has over 20 years experience packing and filling up containers and assured us it would travel safely if we bubble and shrink wrapped it.



Tim Wood, missionary from Ometepec, Mexico was visiting Memphis. Tim volunteered to get in on the action of wrapping the surgery lights for shipping!

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2015–2016

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Lions Clubs and World Cataract Foundation

Lions Clubs in Memphis have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars selling delicious Mascot Pecans through the years. When November rolls around each year, people start asking, "When are the pecans coming?" Pecan sales are one of the many ways Lions Clubs raise money to fund their life-changing programs.

Included in their many community and international volunteer projects, Lions provide resources for individuals who are blind or have severe vision or hearing loss worldwide. Because of WCF's shared dedication of restoring sight to the blind and vision impaired, several Lions clubs regularly contribute to WCF.

When the Raleigh Lions Clubs folded, one of the members, Bob Williams, volunteered to help WCF sell pecans to their former customers. Bob is also a former WCF Board Member. Through the efforts of Bob and other volunteers, WCF has made \$30,525 since 2009.

Bob and his wife, Barbara, spend countless hours unpacking, sorting and delivering pecans to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Since St. Jude employees are our biggest customers every year, WCF shares a portion of the proceeds with them. Since 2009, WCF has donated \$7,800 to St. Jude.

A genuine and heartfelt thanks to our *outstanding* pecan selling volunteers: **Cumberland Eye Care, Martha Bengel and People's Custom Rx, Evelyn Page, Jeff Hudson, Wilma Miller, Lola Tiner, and Bob and Barbara Williams.** Not only do these volunteers sell, they purchase a lot themselves!!



Thank you to our Lion Friends!

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