A recent graduate from the School of Optometry in Malawi examines a child from the local primary school.
Imagine not being able to learn at school, play with friends or help around the family home due to preventable impaired vision. In the long-term there would be little opportunity for self-development and healthy outcomes for such a child.

Imagine being an elder and not being able to contribute to the community, to family and to your own needs due to preventable blindness. Unfortunately, such an adult may live with little sense of self-worth.

These regrettable scenarios occur daily in the lives of over 600 million people around the globe. This problem is further exacerbated when you consider that 90 percent of these people live in impoverished and developing communities.

And yet most vision impairment can be resolved simply with an eye examination and a pair of glasses. It’s that easy.

Established in 2003, Optometry Giving Sight is a joint initiative of the World Council of Optometry, the Brien Holden Vision Institute and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness. It is the only global fundraising initiative that specifically targets the prevention of blindness and impaired vision due to uncorrected refractive error.

We fund the solution by supporting programs that deliver vision care, train local eye care professionals and develop infrastructure. Since 2007 more than US$10 million in funding from donors and sponsors has been allocated or disbursed to 72 projects in 38 countries throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America. Our earned reputation has given hundreds of thousands real hope and opportunity.

Importantly, it is the generosity of our key supporters that enables us to bring hope, opportunity and dignity to people. Every day we see how empowered people make meaningful contributions that touch the lives of many in perpetuity and transform communities forever. You can be a powerful force in the lives of others.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, or the CEO, if you would like to discuss ways that we can help you to advance your philanthropic goals. We welcome your partnership in together tackling the preventable and making dreams come true.

Dr. Juan Carlos Aragon
Global Chair

Cover page photo credit: Cielo Pictures. The School of Optometry Malawi is a project of the Brien Holden Vision Institute, Sightsavers International, Optometry Giving Sight, Mzuzu University, Malawi College of Health Sciences.
CEO’s Report

Optometry Giving Sight had a successful year in 2013. Our fund-raising with optometrists, companies and students continued to grow. Changes in support levels from some of our global and national sponsors, however, meant that total income was down by 8% when compared to the previous year.

There were many operational highlights throughout the year and we remain indebted to our donors and sponsors for their ongoing support.

Our annual fundraising campaign, World Sight Day Challenge (WSDC) was successful, raising $852,000. This is a 22% increase vs 2012.

We had extremely positive feedback to our refreshed logo, new merchandise options (wristbands and t-shirts), and this contributed to increased practitioner, company and student participation. The Optoms Cycle for Sight continues to grow in popularity in the UK and now in the USA.

We were also pleased to partner with VSP Global to establish the WSDC Coalition – comprising ABB OPTICAL GROUP, Alcon, AllAboutVision.com™, CooperVision, Essilor, Eyefinity®, Marchon Eyewear, TLC Laser Eye Centers, Transitions Optical, VISTAKON® Division of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc., Vision Source®, VSP Optics, and VSP® Vision Care. The highlight was a weeklong outreach program in Atlanta, GA with 4,000 families receiving access to comprehensive eye care.

CooperVision’s “One Bright Vision” CRM program in Europe was successful with funds supporting the implementation of a Child Eye Health project in Tanzania. Heath Clash, Communications Manager for EMEA, CooperVision and Donna Power from Optometry Giving Sight completed a monitoring and evaluation visit in August, which resulted in further funds being committed to the project.

CooperVision’s Patient Rebate Project continued to be well supported by consumers in 2013. To date close to $150,000 has been raised from this initiative.

Optiqueline (Australia) announced a new CRM program with a donation to be donated for every mid priced frame sold for the next 5 years.

Our own Buy One Give One program, Seeing Eye To Eye, continues to grow. We celebrated the achievements of Dr. Krohn and Fig Garden Optometry in California for their outstanding contribution in this area.

FYIdoctors was recognized as a Platinum National Sponsor, Canada. Their total corporate and practice fundraising now exceeds $75,000; with 100% of their stores supporting WSDC.
Vision Source continued to provide outstanding support for Optometry Giving Sight in the USA – and we remain grateful for the opportunities to present to their members at the annual Exchange meeting and in other meetings throughout the year.

We have been very excited to establish Optometry Giving Sight in Mexico. This has been driven by our partnership with Devlyn Group and we have formed a National Committee comprising representatives from Essilor, JJVC, Alcon, Safilo, Marchon, B&L, Devlyn, Imagen Optica, UNAM, Carl Zeiss and Cooper-Vision.

We finalized our charity registration in Italy; and developed new sponsor agreements with OXO and Essilor. We were the beneficiaries of a successful product promotion with Essilor in support for their Crizal Prevencia lenses and a significant one off donation from Alcon.

We are now coordinating a weekly clinic for underprivileged children and elderly established in conjunction with Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore.

We partnered with Transitions Optical to implement the Eye Didn’t Know That (EDKT) program in Australian schools, commencing in early 2014.

We continued to partner with Provision in Australia and fund the ongoing training and mentoring programs that they are delivering in East Timor.

We also continued our partnership with Eyecare Plus in Australia and facilitated a sight visit for selected staff to India to provide practice management training to local ECPs.
Optometry Giving Sight continued to support high impact eye and vision care projects in 2013 with $1.6 million allocated or disbursed to 45 projects in 28 countries. As a result:

- 34 students graduated from degree and diploma Optometry programs in Africa
- 12 Schools of Optometry received ongoing and new funding support
- 2,440 people were given direct training and skills development
- 139,450 children were screened as part of Child Eye Health Programs
- 44,268 people received direct access to eye and vision care

We continued to prioritize support for Schools of Optometry in Africa (Malawi, Eritrea, Mali, Mozambique, Cameroon), Asia (Vietnam) and Latin America (Nicaragua, Argentina). We are now also supporting the establishment of new schools in Haiti, Mexico and Moldova (Eastern Europe); and the development of Optometry programs in Sri Lanka.

As a result, hundreds of students now have access to more equipment for clinical training, locally developed curricula and training materials, student scholarships and fellowships, and infrastructure support. Many more will benefit over time, with this year’s cohort of 34 new graduates already providing access to eye care as part of internships and local placements within the public health systems in their countries. Collectively, they have the potential to impact tens of thousand of lives in just their first year of practice!
Training Programs

Skills training has also been provided for 2,440 people. These include Eyeteach© workshops in India, Peru and online which are designed to increase the capacity of local clinicians to work as eye care educators; programs that provide clinical training for eye care workers in India, Indonesia and East Timor; a social entrepreneurship project in Haiti; and skills training for Optometry students working with Indigenous and remote communities in Australia and Latin America.

Vision Centers

We continue to provide support to Vision Centers, including the newly opened Vision Plus Clinic in Haiti, which currently sees more than 200 people per week. Equipment and training were also provided for Vision Centers in India; and for the development of Optical shops in El Salvador.

Child Eye Health

139,450 students benefitted from Child Eye Health programs in Tanzania (Africa), Cambodia, Nepal, El Salvador and Australia. These programs help to ensure that children have access to eye care during their formative stages in school by training teachers and health care workers to undertake school screening and making referrals where needed.
Advocacy

In May, the World Health Organization (WHO) unanimously approved the Global Action Plan for the Prevention of Avoidable Blindness and Visual Impairment 2014-2019: “Towards Universal Eye Health”. Optometry Giving Sight provided funding as part of a consortium of eye health NGOs to support the development of the plan, which is now regarded as the most important strategic document in global eye health.

Emergency Response

The typhoon that hit the Philippines in December was a stark reminder of the impact that natural disasters can have on lives – and livelihoods. We have been working in combination with our partners to provide support for a team of global optometrists who are volunteering their services to provide eye care to people in the affected areas.

Service Delivery

An additional 44,268 people received access to an eye examination and glasses, and where needed a referral, in Singapore, USA, UK, India, East Timor, Haiti and Eritrea.

Thank you to our donors, sponsors, National Committee and Board members, media partners and everyone who has helped us to raise funds for these vital, high impact projects that are helping to eliminate the backlog of refractive error blindness and impaired vision.

We also acknowledge and thank our project partners: Brien Holden Vision Institute, India Vision Institute, Provision Optometric Teams, Sumba Eye Program, Northwest Optometry, World Council of Optometry, International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, VOSH International, Fudem, Special Olympics, Vision for the Poor, Vision Spring, Equal Health, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Symbiosis International, Vision Care for Homeless People, Alcon Foundation, Essilor Vision Foundation, Optometry Giving Sight, Transitions, Nepalese Association of Optometrists.

There is much more we can do and we very much look forward to your continued support in 2014.

Clive Miller
Global CEO
The 2013 World Sight Day Challenge wrap!

Optometry Giving Sight is delighted to announce that, thanks to the efforts of fundraisers all around the world, more than USD$850,000 was raised in the 2013 World Sight Day Challenge.

Globally, the Challenge saw an array of fantastic fundraising efforts from optometrists and their practice staff, including fun runs, cocktail nights, car washes and a charity sky dive! This year also saw the introduction of the new World Sight Day Challenge wristbands, which were used by many practices to encourage patient donations.
VSP Global formed the World Sight Day Challenge Coalition in the USA, culminating in a large-scale outreach event in Atlanta, Georgia. It saw local optometrists, Coalition members and other community organizations join together to raise awareness and provide eye care and eyewear to 4,000 people in need.

Optometry students from around the world continued to bring a creative flair to the Challenge. The Optoms Cycling for Sight, led from the UK, saw an international bicycle riding event that raised almost £20,000 – and the event is expected to grow in 2014! Student groups from Australia, Canada, the USA and the UK participated in the biggest student challenge to date hosting carnival days, comedy events and dining in the dark evenings.

Eye care companies around the world again showed their commitment to helping end avoidable blindness by taking the World Sight Day Company Challenge. CooperVision staff held fundraising events in all their global offices, with many other companies participating at the national level. Alcon Foundation supported the ‘Kids Celebration of Sight’ program, whereby school children in Fort Worth, Texas and Chennai, India exchanged cards and letters to share the experience of being screened and given glasses on World Sight Day.

Thousands of optometrists, their staff, optical companies and students participated in the World Sight Day Challenge across Australia, Canada, US, UK, Ireland, Norway and Italy. There was also a free screening event held on World Sight Day in Singapore, for local disadvantaged youth and the elderly.
“Once again, members of the optometric profession, optical community and students have made outstanding efforts to raise money for those in desperate need of eyecare,” said Clive Miller, CEO of Optometry Giving Sight. “Preventable blindness is a solvable problem, and the World Sight Day Challenge is a great way for everyone to make a meaningful contribution and help to provide eye and vision care for all people.”

Staff at CooperVision in Puerto Rico celebrate World Sight Day. Everyone in the company purchased a wristband helping to raise $50k throughout the world, which CooperVision management matched.

Optometry Giving Sight – Directors and Advisors

Global Board, Optometry Giving Sight
Global Board

Dr. Juan Carlos Aragon – Senior Vice President, Global Professional & Clinical Affairs, CooperVision (Chair)
Ms Amanda Davis - Global Chief Operating Officer - Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation
Professor Brien Holden - Immediate Past Chair CEO – Brien Holden Vision Institute
Professor Kovin Naidoo - Global Director of Programs – Brien Holden Vision Institute
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Mr. Bob Chappell - Past President - World Council of Optometry
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Mr. Peter Ackland - CEO – International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness
Mr. Phillip Albano - Manager, LCIF Sight Programs Department, Lions Clubs International
Mr. Bob McMullen - Executive Director - European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Global Development Board

The Global Development Board has been created at the request of the Board to be a key driver of strategic growth and development in relation to fundraising.
Dr. Juan Carlos Aragon – Senior Vice President, Global Professional & Clinical Affairs, CooperVision (Chair)
Claude Darnault – Chief Sustainability Officer, Essilor
Dr. Glenn Ellisor – CEO, Vision Source
Erik Kapelke – Vice President, Global Development, VSP Global
Dr. Alan Ulsifer – FYI Eye Doctors
Dr. Rick Weisbarth – VP Professional Affairs, Alcon

USA National Committee

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Ron Walker - Publisher, AllAboutVision
Dr. Rick Weisbarth - Past President- American Academy of Optometry; VP Professional Affairs, Alcon
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Dr. Paul Karpecki - Private Practitioner, Cincinnati Eye Institute
Dr. Amir Khoshnevis- Carolina Family Eye Care / Administrator, North Carolina Vision Source
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Dr. Greg Pearl- Past President, VOSH International
Dr. Art Epstein - Editor, Optometric Physician, Review of Contact Lenses
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Dr. Langis Michaud - Associate Professor, University of Montreal
Scott Shaw - VP Operations, FYidoctors
Grant Kilburn - Acting Business Director, Canada, Johnson & Johnson Vision Care
Judy Parks - Director of Professional Affairs, Alcon
Dr. Shaun Golemba - Eye Recommend and Owner, Valley Vision Optometry
Louis Coté, Administration Manager, OSI
Dr. Jason Morris - Vision Source
Michael Suliteanu - President, WestGroupe

Australia National Committee

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Amanda Davis - COO, Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation
Michael Knipe - Chairman - Provision Eyecare Network
Bob Lees - Optometrist, Lees and Henschell, QLD
Genevieve Quilty - CEO, Optometrists Association Australia
Sue Strachan - Optometrist, Strachan Eyecare, VIC
Philip Rose - National BDM, Eyecare Plus National Office

UK National Committee

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Andy Hepworth - Professional Relations Manager, Essilor
Alice Austin - Chief Sales and Marketing Officer, Ocuco
David Cartwright
Brian Tompkins - Managing Director, Tompkins, Knight & Son
Tim Bowden - Managing Director, Bowden & Lowe
Michael Potter - Head of Marketing and Communications, Association of British Dispensing Opticians
Cameron Hudson - Professional Services Manager, CIBA VISION/Alcon
Nick Atkins - Director, PTR Consultants
Fares Hatoum - MCOptom FBDO BSc (Hons)
Gemma Hill - Student Optometrist
Ireland National Committee

Dr James Loughman - Optometrist, Lecturer DIT (Chair)
Deirdre O’Sullivan - Business Manager, Carl Zeiss Vision
Marie Maxwell - National Optometry Centre
Leo McCanna - Group Chief Executive, Ocuco
Leonie Larkin - Optometrist and DIT Optometry Supervisor
Josephine Austin - Human Resources Director, Ocuco Group
Amy Hamill – Optometry Student, DIT

Mexico National Committee

Dr. Juan Carlos Aragon, Global Chair, Optometry Giving Sight (Chair)
Enrique Contreras, General Director, Johnson & Johnson Vision Care
Farid Aouragh, President & CEO, Essilor Mexico
Patrick Devlyn, General Director, Devlyn-USC
Oscar Montfort, Owner & Editor, ImagenOptica
Carlos Sedas, Managing Director, Marchon Mexico
Mariano Segura, General Manager, CooperVision Mexico
Isaac G. Cortés, Commercial Director, Alcon Vision Care Mexico
Marta Uribe, Jefe de la Carrera de Optometria, UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)
Carlos Palencia, General Manager, Carl Zeiss Vision Mexico

Italy National Committee

Rossella Fonte (Chair)
Timothy Albert, Managing Director – Sanalens
Nicoletta Losi, Professional Affairs Director – J&J
Paola Rizzetto, Managing Director – Coopervision
Gianluca Melzi, HR Manager – Essilor
Daniela Manenti, General Manager – Assottica
Marica lava, Professional, Regulatory and Quality Affairs Manager – Alcon
Stefan Kaestner, Managing Director - Visus Brescia
Marco Carminati - Oxo President
Professor Giancarlo Montani
Our Global Sponsors:

Brien Holden Vision Institute – Founding Global Patron
CooperVision, Inc. – Gold Global Sponsor

Australia
Essilor Australia – Platinum National Sponsor
General Optical, Eyecare Plus (In Kind), mivision (In Kind), ProVision (In Kind) – Gold National Sponsors
Optiqueline, Safilo, Transitions Optical – Silver National Sponsors
Eyetalk, ODMA, eye2eye media group, eyesmart – Silver and Supporter In Kind Sponsors.

Canada
FYIdoctors – Platinum National Sponsor
Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Westgroupe, OSI (In Kind) – Gold National Sponsors
Alcon, Carl Zeiss Vision, Essilor, CAO (In Kind) – Silver National Sponsors
Nikon Optical – Supporter National Sponsor

Ireland
Ocuco – Platinum National Sponsor
Confederation of Optical Suppliers Ireland (COSI) – Gold National Sponsor
MacuVision Europe Ltd – Silver National Sponsor
Essilor, DX Services Limited (In Kind) – Supporter National Sponsor

Italy
OXO – Platinum National Sponsor
Essilor – Silver National Sponsor

Mexico
Johnson & Johnson Vision Care – Gold National Sponsor
Zeiss – Gold National Sponsor

Essilor, Perceptive – Silver National Sponsors

VSP Global, Vision Source (In Kind) – Platinum National Sponsors
Marchon, Jobson (In Kind), PentaVision (In Kind) – Gold National Sponsors
ABB Optical, Essilor of America, Vistakon – a division of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, TLC Laser Eye Centers, First Vision Media Group (In Kind) – Silver National Sponsors

Optometry Giving Sight: Office Contact Details

Australia
PO Box 6378, UNSW,
Sydney NSW 1466, Australia
Tel: 1300 88 10 73
Tel: +61 (0)2 9385 5198
Fax: +61 (0)2 9385 5177

Canada
4 Parkdale Crescent NW, Calgary,
Alberta T2N 3T8, Canada
Tel: 1-800-585-8265 ext 4
Tel: +1 403-670-2619
Fax: +1-888-425-7296

Ireland
12/13 Greenmount House,
Harold’s Cross Dublin 6W, Ireland
Tel: +353 (01) 402 4904
Fax: +353 (01) 453 8867

Norway
NorgesOptikerforbund,
Øvre Slottsgate 18/20
Tel: +47 23355450
Fax: +4723355440
School Children in Chennai, India write letters to their counterparts in Dallas, Texas to celebrate having received their glasses as part of a screening conducted in the lead up to World Sight Day.