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Our Mission

Optometry Giving Sight is the only global fundraising initiative that specifically targets the prevention of blindness and impaired vision due to uncorrected refractive error – simply the need for an eye exam and a pair of glasses. More than 600 million people around the world are blind or vision impaired because they do not have access to the eye examination and glasses they need. Your donations allow Optometry Giving Sight to help fund the solution by supporting programs that:

• **Train** – local eye care professionals and;
• **Establish** – vision centres for sustainability to;
• **Deliver** – eye care and low cost glasses.

Alyssa’s story

Alyssa lives in a rural village in Mexico where there is no eye care help. She struggled for years at school, home and at play with her poor eyesight. “I didn’t know what was wrong with me,” says Alyssa. Her mother Emelia worried about Alyssa’s future. “I felt helpless because I wanted to give her the best but I don’t have the resources to do it and I felt awful,” related Emelia. The *Ver Bien Para Aprender Mejor* (“See Well to Learn Better”) program, which receives funding support from Optometry Giving Sight, visited Alyssa’s school and she was given a free eye exam and a pair prescription glasses. With this help, Alyssa’s world changed forever. “I want to say that I’m very thankful for my eyeglasses and everything that was wrong, is now in the past,” said Alyssa. “Nothing can stop me now.”

Photo courtesy Ver Bien Para Aprender Mejor

Photo courtesy Cielo Pictures
Since 2013, Optometry Giving Sight has been supporting a child eye health program in Cambodia which has eye screened 38,097 children, 3,006 teachers and has dispensed 5,500 spectacles.

East Timor
Optometry Giving Sight is a long time supporter of the East Timor Eye Program through support of ProVision Optometry Teams (PVOT), who provide primary eye care services and training for local staff. In 2016, Colin McKenzie (pictured far right), from Total Eyecare in Hobart, made his 4th visit to Oecussi, a coastal exclave in the western part of the island of Timor. Colin said his role as the team Optometrist was predominantly to mentor and train eye care workers and to assist the other East Timorese team members from the capital in Dili. “It was a joy to work in partnership with the local Timorese eye care staff, mentoring and training them in eye care, history taking, diagnosis and management of disease, improving their refraction skills and encouraging them in the development of their profession,” he said. “I have seen significant growth in their knowledge and skills over the last 5 years”.

Photo courtesy Colin McKenzie

Photo courtesy Brien Holden Vision Institute
Chairman’s Message

Dr. Juan Carlos Aragón

All of us can appreciate the importance of providing access to vision care for children. It is estimated that as much as 80% of what a child learns is through the visual system; and that nearly 75% of a typical school day comprises of reading and writing.

It is not surprising, therefore, that in some countries an eye examination and glasses from a qualified Optometrist can literally mean the difference between a life of poverty and a life of opportunity.

This was reinforced to us recently, when Optometry Giving Sight travelled to Mexico, to see first-hand the impact that funds provided by our donors and sponsors are having on the lives of economically disadvantaged children.

We were privileged to not only witness the lives of children being transformed once they received their glasses, but to meet and experience the gratitude of their parents. They asked us to thank you, our donors and sponsors, for your incredible generosity, and for helping to provide the resources for their children that they would otherwise be denied.

Ensuring that there are enough trained Optometrists in the world continues to be a key priority, and we were delighted to join the celebrations in Nicaragua in June, when the first 20 students graduated with their Bachelor in Medical Optometry. It was a proud day for the students and their families, but it was a monumental day for the future of eye care in Nicaragua. Many of the graduates are now working as Optometrists and providing vision care to people in need, while others are pursuing further studies so that they can become local faculty.

There are now 782 students enrolled in degree and diploma programs in Malawi, Mozambique, Eritrea, Mali, Kenya, Uganda, Vietnam and Nicaragua; with more students set to enroll in schools in Moldova (Eastern Europe), Haiti and Oaxaca, Mexico over the next 12 months. This is a fantastic achievement and we are grateful to all our donors and sponsors whose continuing belief in our vision and mission enable these projects to be funded.

Photo courtesy Cielo Pictures

We visited a school in a remote part of southwest Mexico, where children were being given access to vision care as part of the Ver Bien Para Aprender Mejor (See Well to Learn Better) program.
Our Global Board continues to play an active role in the development of a strategic framework to guide the future growth of Optometry Giving Sight. This will involve investing in new forms of fundraising, strengthening our communications and ensuring that we reach out to all those who value good vision. We are excited to embrace these new ideas and strategies, and will keep you up to date with our progress.

We lost a dear friend in 2016. Along with the late Professor Brien Holden, Dr. Vic Connors was one of the driving forces behind the establishment of Optometry Giving Sight in the USA, serving as both Chair and CEO for many years. He also served on our Global Board from 2006-12. We are delighted, therefore, to be raising funds in support of an endowed scholarship in memory of Vic and hope to announce the first recipient in late 2017.

As always, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our donors and sponsors for their ongoing financial support; our Global and National Boards and National Committees for their generous voluntary donation of time, ideas and influence; and our management and staff for their unfailing commitment and enthusiasm for our cause.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, or our CEO, Clive Miller, if you would like to discuss ways that you, your company, friends or colleagues can help us to achieve our vision of a world where there is no more avoidable blindness or impaired vision.
Global CEO Message

Clive Miller

Our 2016 global consolidated results were steady with a 2% Net Operating profit (funds available for projects and community education and advocacy) compared with 2015. This is a pleasing result, given the uncertain economic and political climate in our key territories.

Our Global Directors approved $US1.458 million in allocations to 35 projects in 21 countries - transforming the lives of tens of thousands of individuals. We also provided vital support to community education and advocacy activities to raise awareness about the importance of eye health and the role of the Optometrist as primary eye care provider.

Project highlights include our continuing support for 11 Schools of Optometry in Africa, Asia and Latin America, in partnership with Brien Holden Vision Institute, which enabled 782 students to pursue a degree or diploma in Optometry. We welcomed 102 new graduates in 2016, bringing the total for the program to 383. Many of these are now working in government hospitals and vision centers. By our estimation, these new Optometrists are giving sight and hope to an amazing 766,000 people each year.

A key priority is to ensure that select graduates receive the opportunity to continue their studies so that they can become local faculty, thereby replacing the need for international faculty. Eight graduates are currently completing post graduate studies and some are already employed as junior faculty at their Schools.

We have been pleased to partner with VOSH International and Brien Holden Vision Institute to support the appointment of VOSH Corp teaching placements in Nicaragua, Uganda and Malawi. These placements were admirably filled by Dr. Justin Manning, Dr. Jerson Desiderio and Dr. Sara McGowan, respectively.

We provided books and projectors to Mzuzu University in Malawi, with support from Essilor of America and the Allergan Foundation; and continued to work with our partners in Haiti and Mexico to support the establishment of new Schools of Optometry at I'Universite d’Etat D’Haiti and at Benito Juarez University in Oaxaca. We hope these schools will welcome their first students in the near future.

As part of Our Children’s Vision, we partnered with CooperVision and India Vision Institute to launch the One Bright Vision Project, which screened 34,327...
children in and around Chennai and provided 2,992 pairs of glasses. An additional 7,418 children received vision care thanks to the support of Allergan International Foundation. The We See Project in Soweto, South Africa, wrapped up with more than 95,000 children being seen by an Optometrist over the 3 years of the project, which was funded by VSP Eyes of Hope Foundation. 40,000 children in Mexico were seen by an Optometrist as part of the Ver Bien Para Aprender Mejor program, with additional support from Alcon Foundation.

ProVision Optometric Teams continued to provide much needed mentoring and training support to eye care nurses in East Timor, and we pay tribute to Micheal Knipe for his leadership of this program over the past 10 years.

The support of iCare Health Partners enabled us to provide much needed funding for the advocacy efforts of our founding partner, the World Council of Optometry.

In its 10th year, the World Sight Day Challenge continued to mobilize industry and professional engagement around this international day of eye health awareness. A record number of optical companies participated in the Company Challenge, with CooperVision, VSP Global, Bausch + Lomb, ABB Optical, Alcon, Westgroupe, Eye Promise and the Contact Lens Manufacturing Association helping to make this part of the Challenge our most successful to date. We remain incredibly grateful to our key donors for their ongoing support.

Sincere thanks as always to all our donors and our global sponsors Brien Holden Vision Institute and CooperVision; and our national sponsors. We also thank our network partners, Vision Source, FYidoctors, Eye Recommend, OSI, Eyecare Plus and Provision. In 2017, we are pleased to welcome Primary Eyecare Associates of America (PECAA) as a new network partner.
Anna-Karin’s story

Like too many young girls, Anna–Karin was teased at school because she couldn’t see properly. She was also falling behind in her studies, which was heart-breaking for Jacqueline, her mother. A simple eye exam and glasses, provided through a school eye health program *Ver Bien Para Aprender Mejor* (“See Well to Learn Better”) in Mexico proudly supported by Optometry Giving Sight, has changed Ann-Karin’s life for the better. “I’m very thankful for the help because unfortunately most of the time we don’t have the resources to give our children what they need,” said Jacqueline. Anna-Karin is one of 500,000 school aged children who received eyeglasses in 2017 as part of this great program.

Nicaragua School of Optometry

Optometry Giving Sight is pleased to be a funding partner with the School of Optometry at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua (UNAN). In June of 2016 the first 20 students graduated from the 5-year optometry program. It was a proud day for their families and themselves but it was also a great day for the future of eye care in Nicaragua. The next day they were in the countryside using their skills to help children like Marlon (pictured with his glasses), who was having difficulty reading the chalkboard at school and his grades were suffering. An optometry graduate from UNAN was able to give him the eye care that he desperately needed. His new glasses not only improved his vision and studies, they also put a smile on his face.

Photo courtesy Cielo Pictures
Optometry Giving Sight was pleased to co-host the official launch of *Our Children’s Vision* at the Australian Consulate in New York on 12 April, 2016. Our thanks to the Australian Consul-General in New York, the Honourable Nick Minchin, for hosting the event.

Optometry Giving Sight’s UK partnership with Vision Aid Overseas provides practical training to 70 university students in Ghana and is also addressing the shortage of skilled eye care workers in Ghana, Ethiopia and Zambia by providing practical two-week training courses to Optometry university students. Since 2016, this partnership has been able to support two training assignments to Ghana, one to Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and the other to the University of Cape Coast. It has delivered 8,100 practical training hours to 70 final year students in how to carry out eye tests. We have helped to screen the vision of nearly 500 patients suffering from poor eye sight, providing over 150 adults and children with prescription glasses to correct their vision.
World Sight Day Challenge 2016

The global call to action for our tenth anniversary World Sight Day Challenge in 2016 was met with gusto and a myriad of creative fundraising activities and initiatives.

More than 60 companies engaged their staff in donation drives and fundraising activities, as a way of raising awareness among their own employees about the importance of good vision. They include A&A Optical, Acuity Pro, Advance Optical, Allergan, Amcon, Art Optical, Bard Optical, Capricornia Contact Lens Pty Ltd, ClearVision, DAC Vision, De Rigo REM, Essilor Laboratory Western Australia, Europa, Eye Recommend, France Medical, General Optical Australia, GPLI/CLMA, Heidelberg, Hilco, HOYA Lens Australia Pty Ltd, Jobson, Johnson & Johnson Vision Care (Canada), Linden Optometry, Match Eyewear, Modo, Nikon/Elaine Turner, Optiqueline, Optos, OSI, PECAA, Primary Care Optometry Magazine/Slack Inc., ProVision, Reptile Sun, Ron’s Optical, Rotary Club Of Gymea, RX Optical, Signet Armorlite, Synergeyes, Texas State Optical, Tura, Vision One Credit Union, VmaxVision, Wave

Thousands of eye care professionals, companies, students, staff and patients all contributed with verve and fun to raise funds to help eliminate avoidable blindness and impaired vision. The overall response to our World Sight Day Challenge this year has been very positive, with an increase in the number of practices, individuals, companies and schools who have rallied together to either make a donation or undertake fundraising events.

Global collections totalled $886,933.36 - an increase of 8.9% from last year’s total.
Bausch + Lomb joined the Challenge for the first time, with employees raising more than $40,000.

More than thirty CooperVision teams and locations generated funds through the “Fight for Sight” campaign raising a total of $164,000, including a generous matching amount from The Cooper Companies.

VSP Global employees on four continents contributed more than $40,000 to support Universidad Autónoma de Nicaragua, the first school of optometry in Nicaragua, and other Optometry Giving Sight projects that address avoidable vision impairment around the globe.

All 24 Schools of Optometry in North America participated in the Challenge, joining with schools in Italy and Australia, reinforcing the strong connection that exists with emerging Schools of Optometry in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

This year saw Optometrists and their staff participating in bake sales, pies in the face, head shaves, cycling for sight, running for sight in marathons and other fun runs, Halloween combined activities, morning teas, raffles, guessing competitions, free eye exams, discounted frames, cocktail parties, many barbecues and the famous Dining in the Dark celebration.

In Canada over $262,000 was raised. FYidoctors once again achieved 100% participation from their practices, raising over $100,000. Canadian optometry schools took top honours in the 2016 World Sight Day Student Challenge. The
University of Montreal achieved #1 out of all schools in North America by raising $10,059 and the University of Waterloo achieved the #2 spot by raising $4,905. Bramalea Optometric Clinic raised the most of any Canadian practice with over $13,000 in total.

General Optical in Australia raised $35,000 through a series of events throughout the year. Total Eyecare Macquarie St held a trivia night and raised $4,103. Amanda Rungis (Sure Eye Care) and Gordon Ryan (ReviveR Cocktail Bar), organizers of the fifth annual Highballs for Eyeballs fundraiser, were blown away by the generosity and support shown by the local business community which donated prizes and silent auction items for the event, raising $13,270.

In Italy, the University of Salento, “Grandis” Cuneo Institute of Higher Education and Johnson & Johnson all fundraised and held free eye screenings with CooperVision Italy holding a delicious cake sale. The University College of Southeast Norway sold cakes and wristbands on campus and Maui Jim offices across Europe raised approximately €10,500 during 2016 with a variety of events. The Nordic office raised around €2500 with a trunk show for friends, family and suppliers. You can find a plentiful and inspirational list on our website and in Facebook posts.
“Optometry Giving Sight is part of our DNA. It’s a true feel good experience. There aren’t many things better than giving sight to somebody in the developing world. We support the World Sight Day Challenge every year. My staff is constantly looking for ways to fundraise and we change it up in our office all the time. What a surprise is how our patients have taken to giving. They want to be part of the experience as well. It’s become a new business model. So we now partner with our patients to give back. Please support the World Sight Day Challenge.” - Don Matsumoto OD, Culver City, CA

“We have participated in the World Sight Day Challenge for many years because we are strong believers in what Optometry Giving Sight does. The idea of aggregating contributions and putting them to the best use around the world is vitally important. There’s probably a billion people who need a simple eye exam and vision correction who can again be contributing members to their family and community. The economic value is enormous if we can solve this crisis and Optometry Giving Sight does that. We support the World Sight Day Challenge because it’s a great time to focus on the cause and because it’s a lot of fun. Our entire organization rallies around it. I encourage all companies to do the same. Enjoy the experience, support the World Sight Day Challenge and Optometry Giving Sight and have fun with it.” - Mike Hundert, CEO, De Rigo REM Eyewear
Global Board

Dr. Juan Carlos Aragón  
Chair,  
Senior Vice President of Southern and Central Eastern Europe at CooperVision

Mr Peter Ackland  
CEO - International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness

Dr. Bobby Christensen  
Senior VP Clinical Strategies, Vision Source

Dr. Susan Cooper  
Secretary.  
Past President - World Council of Optometry.

Ms Amanda Davis  
COO - Public Health Division – Brien Holden Vision Institute

Marc Ferrara  
CEO Information Services, Jobson Medical Information

Pat McNeil  
Chief Communications Officer, VSP Global

Dr. Howard Purcell  
Senior Vice President, Customer Development Group, Essilor of America

Dr. Alan Ulsifer  
President and Chair, FYidoctors Global Development Board

Yvette Waddell  
COO - Brien Holden Vision Institute

Dr. Rick Weisbarth  
VP Professional Affairs, Alcon
Financials

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<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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<td>A-Donations and Grants</td>
<td>$2,066,563</td>
<td>$2,176,044</td>
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<td>B-Corporate Support</td>
<td>$880,689</td>
<td>$833,256</td>
<td>$47,435</td>
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<td>C-Other Income</td>
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<td>Total Income</td>
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<td><strong>Operational Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>D-Fundraising Campaign costs</td>
<td>$360,122</td>
<td>$466,485</td>
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<td>E-Accountability and admin</td>
<td>$330,224</td>
<td>$320,701</td>
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<td>Total Operational Expenses</td>
<td>$690,346</td>
<td>$787,187</td>
<td>$(96,841)</td>
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<td><strong>Net Operating Profit</strong></td>
<td>$2,262,030</td>
<td>$2,228,110</td>
<td>$33,921</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<th>Aid and Development programs expenditures</th>
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<td>F-International and Domestic Project Expenses</td>
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<td>G-Community Eduaction and Advocacy Program Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total Project Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Net Profit before Other Income</strong></td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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<td>Intercompany Cash Support</td>
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<td><strong>Net Income/Loss</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Retained Earnings previous year</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Foreign Currency Translation Reserve</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NET INCOME/(LOSS) Annual Report</strong></td>
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Optometry Giving Sight seeks to ensure that 75% of total income is directed towards aid and development programs and that Operational Expenses do not exceed 25%.
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Transforming lives through the gift of vision

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