2022 Jenny Pomeroy Award for Excellence in Vision and Public Health

VOSH/International
Michael Ciszek, OD
President, VOSH/International
Provide the gift of vision and quality eye health to people who can neither afford nor obtain such care.

Facilitate the provision and the sustainability of vision care by supporting sustainable eye clinics, optometry schools and optometric educators in geographical areas lacking sufficient eye care.
The Origins of VOSH

- 1970 Dr. Franklin Harms began building the base for a volunteer organization in Kansas
- 1972 The name “Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity” was adopted by an organization committee of the Kansas Optometric Foundation.
- 1972 The first VOSH-Kansas project “Fly In” provided eye care to Montemorelos, Mexico.
- 1979 VOSH/International was incorporated in the State of Indiana, registered by Secretary Dr. Walter Marshall.
- 1984 The first Student VOSH Chapter was formed: SVOSH-NECO: New England College of Optometry
2022 and Beyond

The biggest network of volunteer optometrists in the world

Over 5,000 Volunteers
99 US and International Chapters
140,000 patients annually
In 32 countries worldwide
Support Global Optometric Education

Quality education: Our new cornerstone

Educating our members and our organization.

Educating optometrists and optometry students around the world.

Educating others on the importance of optometry.

Educating children and young adults about the profession of optometry.

Educating other organizations on the role of VOSH in the global future of optometry.
Global and Sustainable

International and domestic humanitarian eye health and vision clinics
Global and Sustainable

Improve local, in country, optometric capacities
Global and Sustainable

Support international schools of optometry
Global and Sustainable

Support establishment, recognition, scope advancement
Support Global Optometric Education

Educating Future Generations

South - South Exchanges
A 2022 VOSH pilot program

Fellowships for development of local training resources

VOSH Corps; recruiting ODs to teach internationally
Support Global Optometric Education

Ambassadors’ Program

US trained ODs lecture at international schools of optometry for short periods.
Support Global Optometric Education

Mentorship Program

Foster relationships and mutual learning amongst our US chapters and international chapters
Support Global Optometric Education

**Education and Research**

Offering COPE accredited education

Development of research capacities
Of our international chapters

School Screening Working Group
Support Global Optometric Education

Technology Transfer Program

Refurbished equipment donated to international schools of optometry: Haiti, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Nicaragua

And to US chapters providing local care in Nebraska and Virginia
Support Global Optometric Education

Vision
Instruments
Program

New pilot program
Supporting young graduates in low- and middle-income countries
Meetings and Networking

Hybrid format allows for in-person networking while facilitating participation from our international chapters.
The impact VOSH has had on me