

Bring the World Into Focus

# VOSH - Indiana Chapter™

VOLUNTEER OPTOMETRIC SERVICES TO HUMANITY



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## Third Jamaican Mission A Success

By Bob Merriam

A third annual VOSH mission along Jamaica's beautiful north shore was recently completed. In January, a team of five optometrists and eleven volunteers were hosted in Montego Bay by the St. James Red Cross and an American Trans Air representative.

Following our style of previous years for this one week mission, we married a good four day work week to villa living in the off hours. On Monday through Thursday, we arrived at the work site early for a full day with our patients. One distinct advantage this year was the short 10 minute ride from the villa to the work site. Despite our quite compact work rooms in the Red Cross building, 1,794 patients were examined and most were fitted with glasses from our 3,600 pair library.

This year we brought a Nikon Retinomax hand-held autorefractor with the intention of pre-screening each patient before refraction by an optometrist. A special battery pack was added to allow continuous operation through the day. Even then, the best we would do was about 30 per hour, which was not enough to keep up with our team of five OD's. Comparison of the Retinomax printout and the final prescription by the OD did not give as good a correlation as we would have expected.

Friday, the manager of the luxurious Wyndam Rose Hall Resort treated us to day passes to his all inclusive hotel. Four of us opted for a cross-island safari to check out a possible 1997 site at May Pen. The ride was teeth chattering 3 1/2 hours trip (one way) to cover 89 miles. The site is very promising with a new large Lions Club health center making

an excellent work site. The May Pen Lions are quite active in eyecare and should make a fine support team. Saturday, a well sunburned team boarded the plane for home. Dr. Susan Matzdorf, in particular, was leaving a balmy 75 degrees for a reported minus 80 degree wind chill in her home at Minneapolis.

**VOSH Indiana wishes to thank the many members who give so much of their time and resources to make our missions possible.**

### Sustaining Members

\$50 per year

Carolyn Begley, O.D.	Cynthia Bethel
Jim Blume	Joseph Brett
William F. Brigham, O.D.	Paul Edson
Thomas Cochran, O.D.	Randall Faunce, O.D.
R. Michael Fewell, O.D.	James Haines, O.D.
Cynthia J. Frischmann, O.D.	Gregory Gordon
Greta E. Lehman	Scott E. Lehman
William Loveall, O.D.	Kay Lutes
John Rex Parent, O.D.	Dennis Sommer, O.D.
Kathryn Sommer	Tod Thompson
David Weigel, O.D.	Eric Weyer, O.D.
Robert Wolter, O.D.	

### Patron Members

\$100 per year

J. J. Abrams, O.D.	William Ahfeld, O.D.
Pamela Avery, M.D.	Ruthann Berck
Clifford Childress, O.D.	Michael Farrar
Verla Farrar	Jack Hedrick, O.D.
J. Michael Frische, O.D.	Gracielee Platt
Jonathan Kintner, O.D.	Wayne Ten Cate, O.D.
C. David Landaw, O.D.	Steven R. Rutan, O.D.
John Shackie, O.D.	Jeffrey Marshall, O.D.



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***We save sight - and sometimes we get lucky and save lives, too."***

*....Dr. Jeffrey Marshall*

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*Hector Reyes, left, as he looked before the prosthetic eye was fitted.*

*Below, left, Hector as he appeared before his surgery.*

*Below, Dr. Jeffrey Marshall tries to comfort Hector during the prosthetic eye fitting process.*



## **Hector Reyes**

### **An Update**

At age three, Hector Reyes was diagnosed by a VOSH doctor with retinoblastoma, a fast growing and extremely dangerous cancer of the eye. The VOSH doctors had only about three weeks to perform the surgery before it involved the other eye. This type of cancer, left untreated, would most certainly be fatal.

Through the efforts of a Honduran businesswoman, Dr. Chuck Hornberger, the Lions Club and a host of doctors and volunteers, Hector was brought to the United States for life saving surgery and radiation therapy. His right eye was removed and the treatment a complete success. But to Hector, it left him "different" than the other kids. The last thing any little boy wants is to be "different".

On the last VOSH mission to Honduras, Hector arrived to see the VOSH doctors and - best of all - to have a prosthetic eye fitted. Dr. Jeff Marshall helped to calm his fears during the selection and fitting process. "He came through this whole thing just like a champ," says Marshall. He's a remarkable little boy, and more importantly, represents what VOSH missions are all about. We save sight - and sometimes we get lucky and save lives, too."

# VOSH International Meeting

Indianapolis will host the 1996 VOSH International Annual Meeting. The Indianapolis Marriott on the east side at 21st Street will provide the meeting space for the October 18 and 19 meeting. Registration forms will be distributed in June. VOSH members from across the country are expected to attend.

## VOSH International Names New Vice President

Jeffrey C. Marshall, O.D. was recently appointed to the office of Vice President for VOSH International. The two year term began in January.

Dr. Marshall's responsibilities will be in an advisory capacity for 8 states. His long term involvement in VOSH Indiana and VOSH International is well known, and he has lead hundreds of missions to Honduras, Haiti and other third world countries.

# February Honduran Mission

## Hard Work - Great Rewards

The February 1996 VOSH Mission to Honduras was hard work, but the rewards, as always, were huge. The February trip was made by forty-seven volunteers, anxious to meet any challenge and ready to help everyone they possibly could.

That enthusiasm never waned, even on the longest of days. The volunteers helped to perform 2,962 eye examinations. If that weren't enough, they then lined up 1,300 school age children (see photos on page 4) and performed vision screenings. For most of the children of Honduras, any medical attention is rare, and the opportunity to see one of the VOSH doctors was tremendously appreciated by school officials and the children's parents. The average income in Honduras is only about \$600 per year - certainly not enough to provide good health care for a family.

As one weary VOSH volunteer put it, "By the end of the day, all I wanted to do was put my feet up. But, when I thought about it, some of these people walked 20 or 30 miles just to get here -- and they were putting their feet to the ground to walk home. Sure puts things in perspective."

## JAMAICA 1997

January 18 - 26

Bob Merriam - Phone 502-683-7564 FAX: 502-683-8495

4TH Annual Jamaica mission. Maypen, Jamaica 1 hour west of Kingston Housing in new hotel

Hosts: Clarendon Lions. Approximately \$800 total cost.

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservation(s) for me (us) for the 1997 VOSH Mission to Jamaica.

Mail to: Bob Merriam, 4531 Taylor Dr., Owensboro, KY 42303

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

# Mission Faces



*These are the things you don't forget. The faces of those who, without VOSH volunteers, would not be provided eye care.*



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