

NEWSIGHT

FLORIDA LIONS EYE BANK

BASCOM PALMER EYE INSTITUTE • UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



FLEB Tissue Travels to Haiti on Mercy Mission

Last spring a volunteer team of medical professionals departed Ft. Lauderdale Airport bound for Cap Haitian, Haiti. They were on a mission of mercy. Team members included three ophthalmologists, including Dr. Anna Junk from Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, four residents and three medical students.

All had donated their time and skills to help the less fortunate residents of Haiti. The group took 50 “twice donated” scleral tissue from the Florida Lions Eye Bank. The first donation, and the most important, came from a generous donor

- Continued on the next page



Along with the medical professionals, the flight to Haiti carried a precious cargo: scleral tissue donated by the Florida Lions Eye Bank.

Registering as a Donor is a Breeze on New Website



Florida

At the end of July, the State of Florida launched its new Organ and Tissue Donor Registry. This is an online system where Florida citizens can designate their wish to register themselves as an organ, eye and tissue donor. Please visit www.donatelifeflorida.org. Even if you have registered previously through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) we are encouraging everyone to register on the new online system.

Please spread the word about this new website. Organ, eye and tissue Donation saves and enhances lives! To sign up, or to obtain more information, please visit www.donatelifeflorida.org

Music and Setting Make Installation Dinner a Winner
Page 4 & 5

Medical Supplies Donated to Needy Countries - P. 8

Mercy Mission - *Continued from Page 1*

and his or her family. The second “donation” came from the eye bank which provided this sight-saving tissue at no charge.

Patients in northern Haiti were evaluated and treated for cataracts and glaucoma at Justinien Hospital and at a clinic in Sacre Coeur Hospital. In total, nearly 1,200 were screened for surgery and an additional 500 patients for refractive error correction. During a five day period, there were 59 cataract surgeries performed and the donated sclera

was used to treat 20 patients with glaucoma. Successfully teaching new skills and surgical techniques to Haitian ophthalmologists was also an important aspect of the trip. The mercy mission was a great success.



More than 500 patients were screened for refractive error using a mobile technique.

“The success we experienced was a result of many hours of preparation,” said Dr. Mike Feilmeier. “It was a team effort!”

These dedicated, humanitarian professionals have actualized Helen Keller’s words: *Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.*



(Above) Four of the doctors spent much of their time in the operating room performing 59 cataract and 20 glaucoma surgeries. Patients are shown post-op at left. The volunteer doctors also concentrated on teaching the Haitian ophthalmologists.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Make certain that you have indicated on your driver’s license that you want to be a donor or that you have registered as a donor on www.donateliflorida.org. Most importantly, share your desire to be a donor with your family. By doing this, you will have joined with us in achieving our mission: *To Give the Gift of Sight.*

VITAS Innovative Hospice Care Supports Eye Bank's Goals



Don Dolan, R.N. Manager of the VITAS Hospice Unit at Florida Medical Center in Ft. Lauderdale with one of the many boxes that the VITAS' staff donated.

The employees of VITAS Innovative Hospice Care have embraced the Florida Lions Eye Bank's mission to give the *gift of sight* in many ways.

VITAS is the leading provider of hospice services in Florida and the U.S. In 2008, VITAS donated \$9.2 million in genuine charity care to hospice patients and provided 4,337,260 days of care.

Since establishing our partnership with VITAS, their employees have made possible the donation of more than 1,200 pairs of eye glasses in the past two years. The employees set up collection boxes at health care facilities throughout our region. Northwest Medical Center, where Don Dolan is a weekend supervisor, helped tremendously with the donation efforts. And it is not only the donation, but the enthusiasm with which it is done that is so noteworthy.

The eye glasses have been distributed locally and as far away as Africa. Without this generous donation, the beneficiaries would continue to have sight impairment in their day-to-day activities.

With recycling now an everyday activity for most of us, it is incredible knowing that these recycled eye glasses are bringing another human being's life into focus. Thank you VITAS!

The Importance of Year-End Giving

The past year has been one of tremendous challenge. Economic conditions have forced us all to make careful choices about how we spend, save and give our resources. We at the Florida Lions Eye Bank encourage you to seek sensible ways to stretch your charitable dollar. You may discover you can still make a significant difference in the lives of others.

Tax savings - By structuring the amount and timing of your gift, you can take advantage of available tax incentives. The

higher your tax rate, the more your gift will save. If you are subject to the alternative minimum tax (AMT), your gift can reduce both your AMT and your regular income tax. Gifts



Continued on Page 7

President Jim Klug Begins Year

The 2009 Florida Lions Eye Bank Installation dinner was an elegant evening of Lion fellowship, music and good cheer in a garden-like setting at the Forest Glen Country Club in Naples. The program included comments from out-going President Bill Sweeney, our Year in Review from Medical Director Sander R. Dubovy, M.D. and the installation and comments of 2009-10 President Jim Klug.

Special presentations included Jimmy Nelson Award presented to the Boca Raton Lions Club and the Ross Carr Memorial Award presented to Dr. John Del Zio, PDG. Other highlights of the memorable night was the entertaining silent auction bidding, featuring dozens of gifts, dinners, spa visits, household items and airline tickets. Thanks to our many sponsors and volunteers who made the evening a success.



Dorothy Letakis



Past Presidents Richard Vidal (L) and Bill Sweeney.



Eye Bank Executive Director Elizabeth Fout Caraza (L) and Executive Assistant Elina Hackworth



Presentation of the Jimmy Nelson Award to the Boca Raton Lions Club, represented by Dr. Jim Brauss.



(L-R) Rosa Galiani, Sara and Dr. Sander Dubovy



Juan & Elizabeth Tejera, Clara and Lino de la Hera, Terisita and Luis San Miguel.

With Elegant Installation



Singer James McDuffy



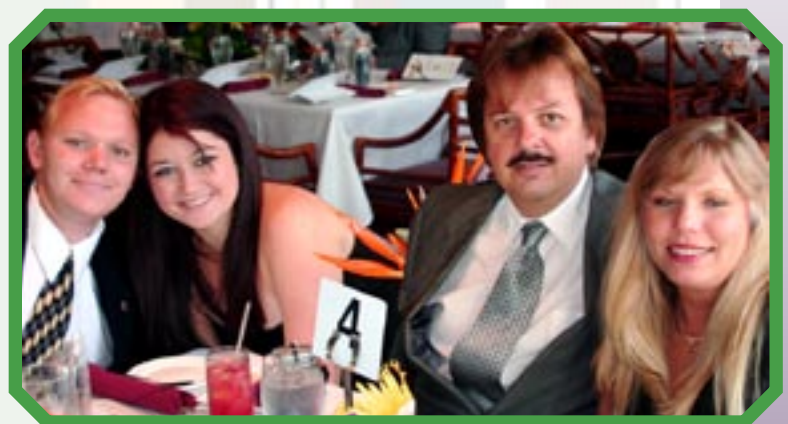
Bill Arthur (R) presented the Ross Carr Award to John Del Zio, PDG.



Better & Bigger was the title of incoming President Klug's comments.



(L-R) George Latakis, Bill Arthur and Stacey Jones, PDG



New President Jim Klug's family and friends.



(L-R) Richard Vidal, Jim Klug, Jim Brauss, Stacey Jones, Luis San Miguel, Mike Griffis, Rosa Galiani, John Desouza, George Letakis, John Del Zio, Bill Arthur, Luis San Miguel.

Donations

RECEIVED FROM MAY 1 – AUGUST 20, 2009

THE FLORIDA LIONS EYE BANK IS GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROSITY OF OUR MANY CONTRIBUTORS. WE APPRECIATE THEIR SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION TO SUPPLY CORNEAS AND SCLERAS FOR SIGHT-SAVING SURGERY.

\$1000 and above

L. JULES ARKIN FAMILY FOUNDATION
MR. LAWRENCE BRODELL

MS. LIZETTE C. HALLEY
LUBITZ FINANCIAL GROUP

\$500 - \$999

MR. R.E. FARR

\$100 - \$499

EVELYN R. OWENS

Up to \$100

Dr. Eduardo Alfonso
Ms. Olivia Almodovar
Ms. Barbara E. Appel
Mrs. Corinne Armand
Mr. Steve Armstrong
Mr. Manuel Arvesu
Mr. Siham Badawy
Ms. Eva M. Bartolet
Mr. Valdo J. Benedetti
Mr. Luis S. Blanco
Mrs. Erma B. Blank
Ms. Erika Brand
Ms. Michelle Briglia
Mrs. Sherna Brody
Mr. Arnold T. Butkus
Ms. Gloria S. Butland
Ms. Sharon H. Cabaday
Mr. Clutheld Campbell
Mrs. Gertrude Campbell
Mrs. Margarita Cardenas
Mr. Irvin Carvajal
Ms. Mary M. Champlain
Mr. Royal Chernock
Mr. John Choto

Mr. Rafaele Cifuentes
Mrs. Frances Corso
Mr. Elio Cruz
Dr. Victor Curtin
Ms. Yolanda De Venanzi
Mr. RubenDelgado
Mrs. Phyllis Delizza
Ms. Betty Eisenberg
Mr. John S.Ellis
Mr. John Erskine
Mrs. Maria Estigarribia
Mrs. Violet S. Evens
Ms. Ruth Fegers
Mrs. Dinorah Fernandez
Ms. Leah Fisher
Mrs. Velia Focaracci
Dr. Richard Forster
Mrs. Norma S. Gannon
Mr. Sam Girson
Ms. Cecilia C. Gonzalez
Mr. Paul A. Grillo
Ms. Carmen F. Guerra
Mrs. Barbara Guerrero
Ms. Helga R. Gutmann

Ms. Brenda S. Harmelin
Mrs. Wanda L. Harrod
Ms. Betty Jane Hayes
Ms. Rose Heifetz
Ms. Beatriz Herdoiza
Mr. Justo Hernandez
Estate of Florence Herwitz
Ms. Karen R. Hill
Mr. Celestino Irizarry
Ms. Virginia Isbelle
Ms. Pearleen Johnson
Mr. A. Karamanlakis
Mr. Robert Kranz
Mr. Andy Leone
Ms. Betty Levine
Mr. Leon A. Lewin
Ms. Elaine G. Lowe
Mrs. Janice R. Lowe
Ms. Ursula Ma
Mr. Luis A. Martinez
Mr. John Maruca
Mrs. Esther Maryanoff
Mr. Archie Massei
Ms. M. Minnette Massey

Ms. Karin McMullen
Mr. Kenneth McNinney
Mr. Abel Melendez
Mrs. Ruth Meltzer
Ms. Jane Merritt
Mr. Chester Miller
Mr. Sheldon B. Minnich
Mrs. Jane Monas
Mr. Larry Morrison
Mrs. Mary Munn
Mr. Burt Myers
Mrs. Ofelia M. Nibot
Mr. Dave Niemuth
Mr. Arthur Ofstein
Mrs. Evelyn R. Owens
Mrs. Maria DelgadoPerez
Ms. Grace M. Pirozzi
Mr. Henry Pitt
Mrs. Gloria Plastow

Ms. Sheila F. Quintyne
Ms. Dorothy H. Rayner
Mrs. Mildred Resnick
Ms. Irene O. Reyes
Mrs. Dorothy Richter
Mrs. Candida Rivero
Sister Therese M. Roberts
Mr. Alfred Rodriguez
Mr. Richard Romagnoli
Mrs. Esperanza Romero
Mrs. Claire Rosenblatt
Mrs. Audrey Rothstein
Mrs. Edythe Rubin
Mr. Warren Severance
Mr. Dan J. Shaw
Ms. Sue Shaw
Mrs. Selma Simon
Mrs. Elaine Solas
Ms. Leona Spector

Mr. Moises Spil
Mr. Mortimer Spitalny
Mrs. Mildred St. James
Ms. Charlotte Stern
Mr. Benjamin Strum
Mr. Leonard Tauber
Mr. Pedro Triana
Dr. David Tse
Mrs. Noemi Tsiomakidis
Mrs. Lula Tucker
Ms. Luz A. Valdes
Wachovia Foundation
 Matching Gift Program
Mr. Richard Wasserman
Mr. Heinz G. Wetzlar
Mr. Robert Wishneff
Mrs. Ileana M. Wood
Mrs. Eileen Wozneski
Mr. Harvey E. Younes
Mr. Paul A Ziarnowski

Year-End Donations - *Continued from Page 3*

must be made by December 31 to reduce the amount owed next April 15.

How to give - Gifts of cash can eliminate federal income tax up to half of your adjusted gross income (AGI).

By giving ***securities*** (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.) that are worth more than they cost can bring additional tax savings. Gift of such properties are deductible from income tax at full current value if owned more than one year and can offset tax on up to 30 percent of your AGI. No tax will be due on the capital gain. By selling investments at less than their cost and donating the cash proceeds, you can deduct both the loss ***and*** the amount of the cash donation. This amount may total more than the current value of the investment.

Gifts from ***retirement plans*** can be a practical donation. If you are older than 70 and have an IRA, you can make charitable gifts

directly from these funds. These gifts are not taxed as income and are completely tax-free. If you are older than 59 1/2, you may do the same by combining a gift with a withdrawal.

A gift through your ***will or living trust*** may be desirable because of the rapidly changing laws in estate taxes. After providing for your loved ones, you can leave a specific amount or a percentage of your estate to the Florida Lions Eye Bank.

Gifts of ***life insurance*** may be made of the accumulated cash value of the policy. This type of gift can provide tax savings today and reduce the estate tax savings in the future.

Help us in our mission to Give the Gift of Sight. We can provide more information to you and your advisors as you plan for the future. Contact your tax advisor for specific details about the type of donation that best fits your situation.



www.fleb.org • 800-329-7000 Ext. 6359

FLEB Instruments Sent to Needy Countries



Florida Lions Eye Bank recently sent thousands of nearly new ophthalmic surgical instruments to needy countries across the globe. The donation was made through Global Health Ministries, a 22-year-old organization that specializes in accepting medical supplies no longer needed by hospitals and health care facilities in the U.S., but desperately needed in other parts of the world. Some of the countries receiving the instruments and equipment include Bangladesh, Nigeria, Liberia and Tanzania.

Coordinating the effort with Global Health Ministries were corneal technician Michelle Sieira and Technical Director Dr. Jorge Peña. They prepared seven boxes of donated eye instruments.

“It is gratifying to know that these instruments will be used to help many people in need,” said Dr. Peña.

◀ *Cornea Technician Michelle Sieira and Technical Director Dr. Jorge Peña with the shipment of donated equipment.*