

\$320K RAISED

SEE International's 50th Anniversary Gala was an overwhelming success! We had such a wonderful time celebrating with our dedicated partners, supporters, and volunteers. Read all about it on page 2.



SIGHTINGS



VISION RESTORED GLOBALLY

SEE International's Direct Supply Support site with PazSalud at Rosales National Hospital in El Salvador is transforming lives. This October, with donated supplies from SEE and Alcon, local ophthalmologists

provided sight-restoring cataract surgeries to economically marginalized seniors who had been waiting for charitable care. Among them was 81-year-old Irma, who is too old to work but contributes to

the family by doing household chores and caring for the grandchildren while their parents are at work. But Irma's advancing cataracts left her fearing for her safety and independence. (Continued on page 7.)

LETTER FROM DON BELL, PRESIDENT AND CEO



DEAR FRIENDS,

You'll notice this Sightings letter resembles a newspaper. For those of my generation it might stir distant memories of a simpler time before we got our news from comedians and influencers.

You'll also notice that we've taken the unusual approach of printing good news. That's because the past few months at SEE have produced lots of it. Inside, you'll find a story about the incredible work done by SEE's Humanitarian(s) of the Year, along with the unmatched dedication to patient care exhibited by our direct supply partners in El Salvador through their SEE-supported outreach program! You'll also learn about the overwhelming success of our 50th Anniversary Gala, which brought together past and present leaders, donors and supporters, international partners, volunteer surgeons, and those actively shaping SEE's next 50 years.

These are just a few of the life-changing stories that took place during 2024. As we approach the year's end, we reflect upon all that's been accomplished and take a moment to appreciate those who've enabled it to happen. That includes you. Your support of SEE's work reaches more than 40 countries and over 55,000 surgical patients each year. Together, we've created meaningful change.

On behalf of the entire SEE family, we wish you a happy holiday season and look forward to sharing our ambitious plans for 2025.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Don Bell
President & CEO

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**sightings
winter
2024**

Paolena Comouche
Writer

Brandon Van Hook
Designer



SEE'S 50TH GALA - A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



SEE is excited to announce that our 50th Anniversary Gala was an overwhelming success! We had such a wonderful time celebrating this milestone with hundreds of our dedicated partners, supporters, and volunteers.

The SEE team is deeply grateful to everyone who joined us in this unforgettable celebration. Our supporters made this



milestone truly meaningful, and we are thrilled to share that we raised over \$320,000 together. This incredible achievement will propel SEE's vision into the future, transforming thousands of lives through sight-restoring care.

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to all of our sponsors for making this event possible: Our Ophthalmic Ambassadors; Drs. Illene and Jeff Levenson. Our Eyesight Advocates; Genentech, The Julia Stearns Dockweiler Charitable Foundation, and Drs. Madhavi and Sundeep Reddy. Our Optical Partners; The Hutton Parker Foundation. And our Supporters of Sight; CenCal Health, Sansum Clinic, Dr. David and Patricia Markoff, and Drs. Randall and Karen Goodman of Shepard Eye Center, and Montecito Bank & Trust.

If you didn't get a chance to give in celebration of SEE's 50th Anniversary, there's still

time! Your support can bring the gift of sight to those in need just in time for the holidays. You can send a donation via the envelope on page 6, or by scanning the QR code below.

From all of us at SEE, thank you for believing in our mission and joining this inspiring community. Here's to the next 50 years of changing the world through humanitarian eyecare!



Scan to give online.

2024 HUMANITARIAN AWARD WINNERS

In 2014, SEE launched the annual Humanitarian of the Year Award to honor the outstanding dedication and achievement of volunteer ophthalmologists, local optometrists, and partner organizations that are committed to making eyecare more accessible worldwide. Please join us in recognizing and celebrating the wonderful 2024 recipients of this award!



**Blue Planet
Eco-Eyewear**

Blue Planet Eco-Eyewear combines eco-friendly design with social responsibility, crafting eyewear from recycled or natural materials and donating a pair to someone in need with every purchase. Since 2019, they have donated over 3 million pairs of sunglasses, readers, and blue light glasses to SEE, significantly enhancing patients' quality of life and playing a vital role in the success of SEE's local programs.



**James
Conahan, M.D.**

Dr. Jim Conahan got his medical degree from Creighton University, and did his ophthalmology residency at Scott and White Hospital/Texas A&M in Temple, Texas. He began his mission work abroad in 1998 in Mante, Mexico. In 2006 with his 3 children and wife Molly, he founded "The Mission of Healing Eyes" in Zihuatanejo, Mexico. Over the last 35 missions, they have provided over 4,000 cataract surgeries, all supported by SEE International. Dr. Conahan had a private practice in Highlands Ranch, Colorado for 30 years before leaving in 2023 to expand his mission in Zihuatanejo and pursue other SEE sponsored missions.



**Jeremy
Joseph, M.D.**

Dr. Jeremy Joseph began his humanitarian work early in his career while a senior resident in London. He later learned about SEE International in Oc-

ular Surgery News International and signed up for his first SEE trip to Zimbabwe. He has since continued traveling for humanitarian work throughout his career as a Consultant Ophthalmologist in London. Recently, he has increased the number of trips he takes annually, now traveling for about 5 humanitarian eyecare missions each year.

Dr. Joseph is committed to exposing younger ophthalmologists to SEE's work, and feels that delivering eyecare to underserved and diverse countries is a wonderful privilege that he recommends to all ophthalmologists.



**Reed
Kindermann, M.D.**

Dr. Reed Kindermann, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Rochester School of Medicine, completed his ophthalmology residency and pediatric ophthalmology fellowship at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia. He established a private practice in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, while teaching at Wills Eye Hospital and Cooper Hospital, Rowan School of Medicine. Committed to global service, Dr. Kindermann began volunteering abroad immediately after his training and has since provided humanitarian eye-

care with Orbis, the U.S. government, and SEE, traveling to countries such as Georgia, Laos, Cambodia, Guatemala, Peru, Haiti, Ecuador, and Namibia.



**Michael Paveloff,
M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Dr. Michael Paveloff began his humanitarian ophthalmology work in 1994 by designing the Mission Program in Bakersfield, California, providing cataract and pterygium surgeries for migrant farm workers. After moving to Santa Barbara in 1996, he connected with SEE International founders Dr. Harry Brown and Dr. John Crowder, inspiring him to expand his efforts locally and globally. For over 30 years, Dr. Paveloff has restored vision in underserved communities worldwide and now leads the SEE Vision Care Program, offering free eyecare to patients in the Tri-Counties. Honored with numerous awards, he remains dedicated to SEE's mission both locally and abroad.



**George B. Primbs,
M.D., F.A.C.S.**

In 1958, **Dr. George Primbs** served as a Captain Flight Sur-

geon in Libya, where he joined a WHO team to combat trachoma in North Africa, later providing advanced eyecare at a UN-funded hospital. After establishing a private practice in Santa Barbara, he partnered with his former student, Dr. Harry Brown, to found SEE International, securing funding, hosting the incorporation meeting, and serving as Chairman, President, and CEO until 2007. Together, they trained professionals and expanded SEE's global reach, leaving a lasting legacy in the fight against preventable blindness. We honor his remarkable contributions and memory.



**Rajesh
Saini, M.D.**

Dr. Rajesh Saini is a dedicated healthcare management professional with expertise in community eyecare, hospital administration, and patient care. With a Master of Philosophy in Hospital and Health Systems Management from BITS-Pilani and certifications in quality healthcare and human resource management, he has been instrumental in advancing efficient hospital operations. Since joining Siliguri Greater Lions Eye Hospital in 2017, Dr. Saini has been an active member of organizations such as the Academy of Hospital Administration, ASQUA, and ISQUA, and was elected President of Vision2020: The Right to Sight – India in 2023.



**Sansum Clinic, now
part of Sutter Health**

Sansum Clinic, now part of Sutter Health, is the largest non-profit outpatient healthcare organization between Los Angeles and the Bay Area, with a century-long commitment to community health.

Sansum Clinic partners with SEE Vision Care to provide free eyecare services to SEE patients who have no health and/or vision insurance, enabling members of our local communities to receive high-quality services and treatment without worries over cost. Since the start of this partnership in 2019, Sansum Clinic's eye specialists and medical staff have provided eyecare to 150 uninsured patients (delivering 941 services.)



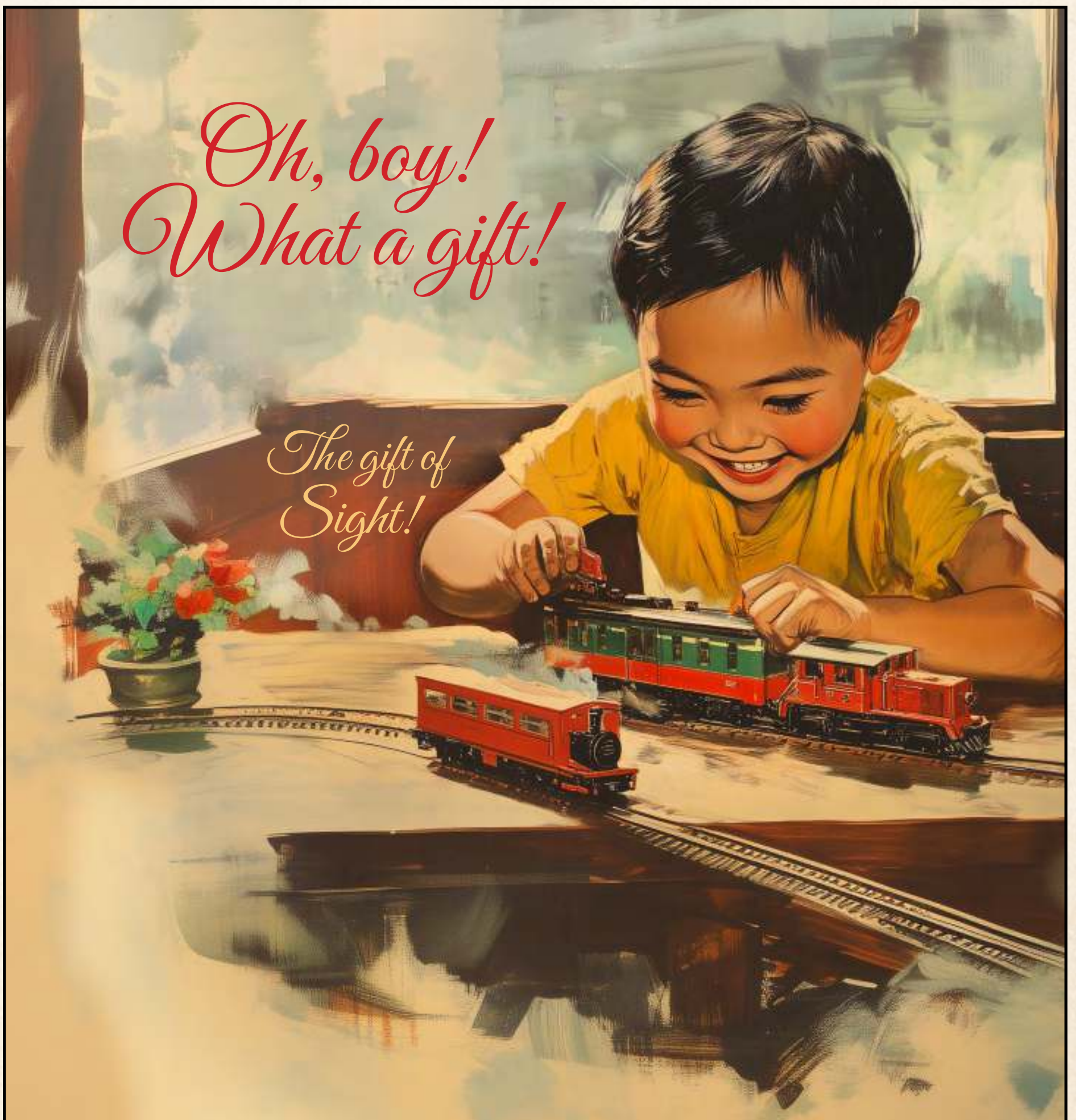
GIVE SIGHT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

This holiday season, you have the power to bring the gift of sight to communities around the world! The stories in this issue reflect the profound impact that your support makes possible. Your contribution can bring light and joy to those in need of accessible eyecare just in time for the holidays.

As the year comes to a close, we hope you will consider making a lasting difference by giving back to our global community. To make a donation, please use the enclosed envelope or scan the QR code. Let's end the year by changing lives together!



Scan to give online.



DIRECT SUPPLY SUPPORT - EL SALVADOR

SEE's Direct Supply Support site with Pazsalud at Rosales National Hospital in El Salvador is thriving! In 2021, PazSalud partnered with SEE International and Alcon to connect donated surgical supplies with local ophthalmologists who then perform cataract surgeries on economically marginalized seniors. This October, PazSalud and Rosales Hospital teamed up for a cataract surgery mission with support from SEE and Alcon to help underprivileged El Salvadorian patients who rely on free sight-restoring care.

SEE and Alcon donated the supplies necessary for PazSalud and Rosales Hospital to operate on patients in need, many of whom were on the hospital's waiting list until a charitable surgery option became available. Because the hospital's budget doesn't cover all the medical supplies needed for surgery, SEE and Alcon donate myriad surgical materials such as intraocular lenses, scalpels, suture thread, ocular gel, and other supplies throughout the year.



During the October clinic, PazSalud received patients from disparate locations in El Salvador, all seeking care for debilitating conditions with the hopes of improving their lives. They are cobblers, housewives, welders, farmers, teachers, cooks, street vendors, tortilla makers, gardeners, repairmen, seamstresses,



and whatever jobs they can find to get by. With little to no vision, many struggle to walk as they grapple with other disabilities and illnesses. These individuals are forced to work disabled, often dependent on their families for support. What unites them above all else is the need for free sight-restoring surgery that would allow them to lead safer, happier lives once again.

Among the patients who received care through this Direct Supply site was 81-year-old Irma, who lives with her children and grandchildren in the outskirts of San Salvador.

Irma is too old to work but contributes to the family by doing household chores and caring for the grandchildren while their parents are at work. But the advancing cataracts in both eyes made it difficult for Irma to do even basic chores. With her vision waning, she feared burning herself or one of her grandchildren in the kitchen, falling when going to the market for food, and most of all, losing her ability to care for her family.

After receiving successful surgery with the help of SEE's direct supply support, Irma has regained significant vision. She will now be able to live without fear and fully participate in family life with a renewed sense of confidence and independence.

Each surgery provided through this partnership is more than just a procedure; it's a life renewed, and a testament to the power of accessible, compassionate care.



SEE International

P.O. BOX 981263

W Sacramento, CA 95798-1263

info@seeintl.org

Phone: (805) 963-3303


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SIGHTINGS - WINTER 2024

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM SEE!

As we celebrate the holiday season, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support and partnership throughout the year. Together, we're bringing light and hope to so many lives, and it's an honor to have you by our side in this mission.

Wishing you and your loved ones joy, peace, and a bright holiday season. We look forward to another year of making a difference together!

