

The Lions Eye

A Publication of the
Lions Eye Foundation of California-Nevada, Inc.



Fall 2011

LEF Improved the Life of Juan De Dios Caballero

*A note from Geoff Wilkes,
M.D., CPMC Surgeon:*

As ophthalmologists, our goal is most often to improve vision. This wasn't the case with Juan. His visual acuity was excellent in both eyes, and he came to his first appointment as a shy man with no visual complaints. As the photos show, Juan had esotropia, a turning in of one or both eyes, which was corrected with strabismus surgery. With this surgery we were able to help treat something possibly even more important than how Juan saw the world - how Juan saw himself. The photographs, taken one week after surgery, show a new confidence. Juan's smile was the greatest gift a new surgeon could ever get. Gone was the shy man I had met only a few months earlier! My experience caring for Juan has certainly been a highlight of my residency thus far, and we both have the Lions Eye Foundation to thank for bringing the two of us together at the Lions Eye Clinic at California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC).

Thank you, Geoff Wilkes, M.D.,
Ophthalmology Resident at CPMC

*Thank you letter from our patient,
Juan de Dios Caballero:*

Dear Norma Miller at Walnut Creek Host Lions Club. I'm writing to you to thank you for referring me to get my eye surgery at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco. I have no words to thank the Lions Eye Foundation for giving me the opportunity to have this surgery and further more at no cost to me.

I was born to a very modest family. My parents cared for me, my brothers, and my sisters, and they had



Pre-op Callabero photo



Post-op Callabero photo

very little money to afford an operation to fix my eyes. Throughout my life, people made fun of the way I looked because of my eyes. This affected my ability to find work, and have normal life. Even though I have learned to value people for who they are and not by the way they look, this operation means a new beginning for me. I will be able to blend in.

The team of doctors, clerks, lab technicians, nurses, and interpreters at the eye clinic and surgical center treated me with respect, and provided me with state of the art medical care. I will always feel thankful of this opportunity and grateful to the Lions Eye Foundation for helping me and making a difference in my life.

With lots of appreciation and eternally in your debt.

Respectfully yours, Juan de Dios Caballero

Lions Eye Foundation Acknowledgment:

The Lions Eye Foundation thanks Dr. Taliva Martin, the attending surgical doctor who assisted Dr. Wilkes with Juan's surgery and Katie Reges, Community Health Educator at La Clinica de La Raza.

Endnotes:

1 Esotropia is a form of strabismus, in which one or both eyes turns inward. The condition can be constantly present, or occur intermittently, and can give the affected individual a "cross-eyed" appearance. Treatment options for esotropia include glasses, the use of prisms and/or eye muscle surgery.

2 Strabismus is a condition in which the eyes are not properly aligned with each other. It typically involves a lack of coordination between the extraocular muscles, which prevents bringing the gaze of each eye to the same point in space.

From The Editor



Fred Sommer

Despite multiple reviews, there were two significant errors in the last issue. First, apologies go to our LEF Secretary Jan Ahearn for misspelling her name in the article about her. Second, I must have been thinking of Boeing aircraft when the picture on the last page was labeled “777 Van Ness Avenue”. The correct address is 711 Van Ness Avenue. My apologies go to the Pacific Vision Foundation for the error.

During the last few months, several Lions have asked why their club should continue to be a Member Club since there have never been any patients sent from their club? This is a very good question. The answer is that it takes many Lions and many clubs to provide for one patient. How many clubs have enough money and could cover the estimated cost of a surgery themselves? Here is a specific example.

In the quarter ending June 30, 2011, District 4-C3 had 33 Member Clubs with approximately 1036 individual Lion members. Since each Lion contributes \$9/year to the LEF, the quarterly amount received was $\$2.25 \times 1036 = \2331 . The ten patients, sent by only five of the 33 Member Clubs, ranged from 27 to 87 old. The estimated retail cost of their surgeries was \$208,000. Thus it would have taken over 89 years of dues contributions to pay for the surgeries.

The LEF, however, had 10:1 leverage and it only paid about \$20,800 for the treatment of the 10 patients. This cost includes any transportation reimbursements, motel costs, medications, and “free” services, such as translators, provided by the hospital. Even with this leverage, it would have taken 8.9 years for the 33 Member Clubs to cover the actual costs. The LEF is fortunate to get other donations and bequests that together with income from investments cover the difference between dues contributions and actual costs.

As you can see, just as it takes a whole village to raise a child, it takes all Member Clubs to take care of all the patients in a District, even though your specific club may not have sponsored them. Each club and each Lion are doing their share to help the whole. The LEF also relies on ongoing contributions to cover the difference between costs and dues. You can check our web site or talk to your Trustees or Advisors to decide on what is the best way to give. Each Lion in all Member Clubs should feel very good about “Preserving the Gift of Sight” and making it financially possible to do so.

Another question that always comes up is “I really don’t understand the patient referral process?” The answer is that there are always three entities and always three forms involved. There is the patient, a sponsoring club, and a doctor. Forms are Physician Referral, Patient Financial Statement, and HIPAA Information Release forms. Here is how these all relate to each other.

To be eligible, the patient must meet the following criteria:

1. Referrals from MDs, ODs, FNPs, PAs, or ODs. (A patient is a candidate if treatment is required by an ophthalmologist (MD)).
2. One year’s continuous residency.
3. No insurance Medicare, Medicaid/Medi-Cal, Kaiser, high deductibles, SOCs, county plans, etc. Our agreement with CPMC does not permit any partial insurance coverage.
4. Maximum allowed income (Proof of income required).

Item 1. Results in a Physician Referral form being partially filled out by the referring doctor. Now is when the sponsoring club needs to be involved. Each club should have either a Vision Committee or a Sight Conservation Chair who takes responsibility for (1) assuring the patient meets eligibility requirements, (2) completing the Referral form, (3) filling out the Patient Financial Statement Form and having the Patient sign the Release Form, (4) sending all forms to Mark or Michelle at CPMC, (5) arranging

(cont. on page 4)

LEF’s Residents Share Their Stories



Adam Gess, MD
LEF Resident

Dr. Adam Gess grew up in Alexandria, Minnesota and received his undergraduate degree in sociology from Wheaton College, IL. In college he participated in the Human Needs and Global Resources program, during which he spent six months working in a medical clinic in rural Honduras. His interactions with a volunteer group of ophthalmologists during his internship in Honduras greatly influenced his interest in the field of ophthalmology. He attended the University of Minnesota School of Medicine, and completed his internship in internal medicine at Kaiser Permanente in San Francisco.

Adam’s interest in ophthalmology is fueled by the rewarding nature of restoring sight, and the profound impact this has on patients’ lives. He comes from a family of eye doctors, and developed an interest in international eye care through the influence of his grandfather, a medical-missionary ophthalmologist in Sierra Leone, West Africa. He hopes to incorporate international service in the developing world as a regular part of his career.

Dr. Gess values the experiences he has had here at the clinic. “I’m grateful for the role that the Lion’s Eye Foundation plays in my clinical education at CPMC. Treating our patients at the Lion’s Eye Clinic is a rewarding experience, and we really benefit from the opportunity and remarkable program.”

In his free time, Adam enjoys spending time with his wife, reading, enjoying the outdoors and traveling.

Meet Leila Chinn, LEF's Treasurer



Leila Chinn

Our current LEF Treasurer, Dr Leila Chinn, is one of our newest members of the Foundation. A member of LEF since 2010, Leila joined the Walnut Creek Host Lions in 1999 and currently is a member of the Walnut Creek Ygnacio Valley Lions.

Leila, who grew up in San Francisco, was born in Hong Kong moving to the United States at a very young age of 4. She graduated from the University of California Berkley and then attended the UC Berkeley School of Optometry graduating in 1990. She began her career in private practice in Antioch, CA but always curious, Leila wanted to know more about the practical side of her business. To accomplish this goal Leila, sold part of her Optometry practice and returned to school, attending California State University, Hayward where she earned her MBA in 2001. Presently, Leila is one of 14 O.D.'s working at Brookside Optometric Group in Stockton, CA and divides her working time between Stockton and Oakland.

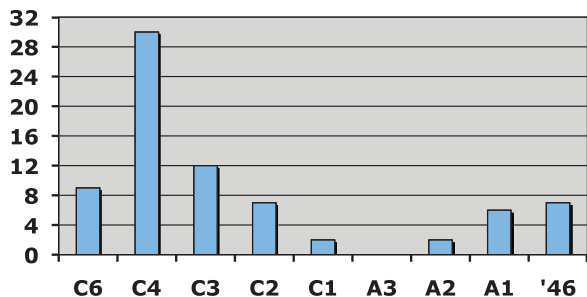
Adding to the Leila's busy work schedule, she and her husband Charles are raising a beautiful little daughter, Kristen.

Leila, who actually began her volunteer life at the age of 12, is also a member of Lions in Sight, having served as Executive Director and Treasurer for 6 years. As part of that program, Leila oversaw the clinic and eyeglass recycling warehouse operations, along with the responsibility of the day-to-day financial operations. She has helped coordinate clinic missions and to train doctors and technicians for staffing "permanent clinics" in developing countries. Leila has also served as a Technical Advisor on the development "Teacher's Vision Screening Kit" and was a Co-Presenter at the USA/Canada Forum in Memphis, TN.

Leila has been the recipient of many awards for her work in Lions, among them being the International Leadership Medal (2), International President's Certificate of Appreciation and Melvin Jones Fellowship. And her work continues with LEF. Leila has stated that one of her goals for LEF would be to help implement an "improved efficiency in the LEF program as medical care and practices change in the 21st century with the advances in technology and the possibility of socialized medicine in the future".

Statistics and Leverage

**Number of Patients by District
from 7/1/11 to 9/30/11**



Total number of Patients --- 75

New Referrals ----- 126

Actual Dollars Spent --- \$113,906

Estimated Value ----- \$1,444,500

LEVERAGE 12.7:1

Fast Facts

- The most prevalent surgery was for cataracts
- There were 14 surgeries for retina, cornea or strabismus problems that would have cost \$25,000 to \$35,000 each
- Youngest patient was 21 years old, oldest was 88 years old
- There were also 45 Laser Procedures with an estimated value of \$67,500 (incl in \$'s above)

Acknowledgements and Thanks

July - September 2011

New and Progressive Helen Keller Fellows

• Kwanghyon Park • Robert Stout • Eldena Hason-Russel

New Life Members

• Richard Conrad • Deborah Kielty • John Klumbach • Ed Seifert

Memorial Donations (at least \$200)

• Daniel Armistead • Don Stanaway • Sally Territo-Wong

General Donations (at least \$200)

• Ben Meeker • Geneva Mission Lions Club • Novato Lions Club • San Mateo Lions Club

Donations (at least \$1000)

• Danford Foundation • Human Race • Cayucos Lions Club (Golf Tournament) • Palo Alto Lions Club

Total Received:

<i>General Fund</i>	\$16,327
<i>Restricted (Life) Fund</i>	\$ 1,600



P.O. Box 7999
San Francisco, California 94120
www.lionseyeca-nv.org
415.600.3950

Officers & Key Personnel

President – Steve Laden
First Vice President – Fred Sommer
Second Vice President – Dennis Noble
Treasurer – Leila Chinn
Secretary – Jan Ahearn
Executive Director – Don Stanaway
Program Coordinator – Mark Paskvan

Contributors

Editor – Fred Sommer
Editor – Pat Neal
Photography – Norene Miranda
Articles – Mark Paskvan, Pat Neal, John Posey
Layout & Production – Roger Weiner
Printing – Forté Press Corporation, Burlingame
Distribution – Precise Mailing, S. San Francisco

For More Information: www.lionseyeca-nv.org

From the Editor (cont.)

for transportation to/from CPMC once the patient is scheduled, and (6) requesting transportation reimbursement if appropriate. As you can see, the club is heavily involved and the Sight Conservation Chair must understand both the process and the requirements. All forms and criteria are shown on our website. Our Trustees and Advisors are always available to answer questions and to help as needed or to give presentations to the club membership.

If you have any questions that could be answered in this publication, please email them to me at sommerfred@sbcglobal.net. Do include your name, email address, and club/district affiliation so that we can give you credit.

**Complete information and the following forms are downloadable
from our website: www.lionseyeca-nv.org**

Forms:

- **Eligibility Guidelines** (PDF: 88 KB / 1 page)
- **Patient Financial Statement** (PDF: 272 KB / 2 pages)
- **Physician Referral Form** (PDF: 272 KB / 1 page)
- **Patient Release Information** (PDF: 272 KB / 1 page)
- **Transportation Reimbursement Request** (PDF: 352 KB / 1 page)
- **Example of Transportation Reimbursement** (PDF: 528 KB / 1 page)

Mission Statement: "The Lions Eye Foundation preserves and restores the gift of sight by providing free ophthalmic examinations, operations and medications to the less fortunate members of our community."