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PROPOSAL

SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY, L'UNIVERSITÉ D'ÉTAT D'HAÏTI

OPTOMETRY GIVING SIGHT, BRIEN HOLDEN VISION INSTITUTE,
VOSH INTERNATIONAL, FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY, UEH

APRIL 2015

OPTOMETRYGIVINGSIGHT

Transforming lives through the gift of vision



Brien Holden Vision Institute



Haiti Optometry Program

Almost 2 million Haitians suffer from uncorrected refractive error - simply the need for an eye exam and glasses.

The Haiti Optometry Program aims to reduce avoidable blindness and visual impairment in Haiti through the establishment of a School of Optometry and an Academic Vision Center that will produce skilled optometrists to serve a public that currently has little or no access to any form of ongoing vision care.



Optometry Giving Sight

For the past 10 years, Optometry Giving Sight has been the only global fundraising initiative to specifically target the prevention of blindness and impaired vision due to uncorrected refractive errors (URE). Our efforts generate much needed support to help provide sustainable access to critically required vision care and eye wear.

A Worldwide Problem

Avoidable blindness and visual impairment affects 800 million individuals globally. 80% (640 million people) are blind or visually impaired simply because they do not have access to affordable vision care. The majority of cases are found in developing countries. URE affects quality of life and comes at a huge social and economic cost to the individuals affected, their families, their communities, and their nations.

Vision Impairment in Haiti

Haiti is the poorest country in the northern hemisphere. Only three optometrists and six ophthalmologists in the public sector service a country of 10 million. This makes access to eye health services difficult for over 70% of Haiti's population. This significantly reduces their ability to break the cycle of poverty through better education and employment.



"In Haiti, there are simply not enough eye care professionals to meet the need of the people - the relevant quality workforce is essentially non-existent, especially in the remote areas of the country where the need is greatest". Dr. Luigi Bilotto, Director of Global Human Resource Development, Brien Holden Vision Institute.

Searching For Solutions

URE is easily detected, measurable and correctable. What Haiti is lacking are the human resources to implement a sustainable eye and vision care program. A minimum of 200 optometrists are required to meet the target of 1 per 50,000 people, a conservative target set by global initiative Vision 2020: the Right to Sight. A trained workforce is the crucial link between services and processes required to address preventable blindness. A successful and strategic intervention in Haiti will make a significant contribution to reducing avoidable blindness and vision impairment.

Our Goals

- Establish a quality School of Optometry at UEH
- Establish an Academic Vision Centre providing optometric training and access to care
- Produce skilled optometrists to deliver quality eye care services to the people of Haiti
- Promote and facilitate the creation of optometry posts in the public sector so as to increase the delivery of eye-health services to Haiti's most marginalized communities
- Make the university an optometric training resource for the Caribbean region



Figure 2 Dr. Dave McPhillips VOSH International; Dr. Luigi Bilotto BHVI; Rector Jean Vernet Henry, UEH; Dean Dr. Jean-Claude Cadet; Clive Miller CEO OGS

The School of Optometry will be located within the new Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy that is currently being constructed with funds provided by USAID.

At a very conservative estimate, the school will produce about 16 students per year. These students will be able to reach a minimum 24,000 patients in their first professional year. With at least 16 graduates each year following, the new optometrists will be able to reach a total of 360,000 patients after the fifth graduation cycle.

Assuming a modest intake increment each year, the numbers of graduates will reach a total of 100 by 2025. By the year 2030, 160 graduates will be able to reach 240,000 patients per year. That is 53 times more than the estimated yearly reach of the nation's three current optometrists.

Sabine's Story -

Now 14, Sabine was first diagnosed with nearsightedness five years ago. Despite obtaining a prescription, Sabine's parents could not afford the cost of a pair of glasses. Every year, she had trouble seeing the chalkboard in class. After being referred to the Vision Plus Clinic in Cap Haitien, funded in part by Optometry Giving Sight, she received her first pair of glasses. Now, she is able to participate in class and follow the teachings on the board.





Figure 1 Architects drawing of proposed new School of Optometry at University of Haiti



"While Haiti is still in the process of rebuilding, we are ready to move forward in the areas of health and eye care. This is a great moment to be involved in the reconstruction of our country". Dr. Jean-Claude Cadet, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy at Universite d'Etat Haiti (UEH).

Gina & Simon -

Gina and Simon are two children from Haiti who were demonstrating mediocre performance in school. It wasn't until a screening for refractive error at their respective schools that the teachers realized they were both myopic with very poor distance vision. They met at the Vision Plus Clinic in Cap Haitien where they received their first pair of glasses. Their joy was instant and immense! They promised to keep in touch with each other to compare their improved results at school.



Where We Stand

Our goal is to welcome the first students into the new optometry program in October 2016.

Work towards the development of a suitable curriculum for the new degree has already commenced, thanks to funding provided by Optometry Giving Sight and its donors.

Advocacy has begun, with consultations between stakeholders, UEH, and the government being held. The Optometry profession is, for the first time, included in the National Plan of Haiti, due largely to these advocacy efforts.



*"We know that, from a cost-benefit perspective, setting up an optometry program in a developing country is economically justifiable in terms of increased productivity. Now, we need your help to start to build sustainable eye care within Haiti."—
Clive Miller, Global CEO, Optometry Giving Sight.*

Funding for the Future

Our total current commitment is \$1,150,000 with funds committed from the following organizations:

- Optometry Giving Sight
- Brien Holden Vision Institute
- Essilor Canada
- VOSH International

To move forward, the program requires an additional \$3 million.

Without additional donations, this program will not be possible. Your contributions will not only provide clinical and refractive services to a population in need, but will also empower a nation to change the state of eye health.

With each significant financial contribution comes special recognition in naming opportunities, which reflects the impact of a gift and our gratitude for our donor partners.



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Program Partners

Optometry Giving Sight

The role of Optometry Giving Sight is to mobilize resources in support of the program and to provide input and expertise in relation to advocacy, issues management, policy development, project management, governance, and fundraising. Optometry Giving Sight will also support mentoring and training support through its partnership with VOSH.

Brien Holden Vision Institute

The Institute is a nonprofit non-governmental organization with an international focus on eye care research and vision care delivery. They will act as the international implementing agent to oversee the rollout of the program, give technical advice, and provide educational resources for the execution of the curriculum.

L'Université d'État d'Haïti

UEH, under Dr. Jean-Claude Cadet, is the lead local implementing agent in Haiti. UEH will adopt the optometry curriculum, provide the academic and infrastructural framework, and facilitate the delivery of the optometry program. In conjunction with other relevant stakeholders, it will advocate for recognition of optometry education by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, and seek the creation of posts in the public sector for its graduates.

Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity

VOSH has years of experience working in Haiti to provide eye health services. VOSH will seek to effectively harness the potential of professional volunteers in the development phase of the program by providing additional training and mentorship support through volunteer optometrists from North America.

National Committee Prevention of Blindness

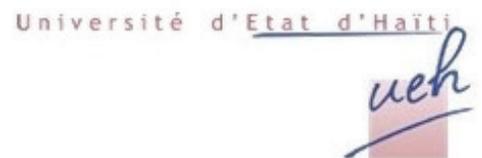
NCPC, through its links with the Haitian Ministry of Health, will support the program with a view to ensuring the legal framework of the new profession, the integration of the new health cadre within the existing eye health structure, and its effective and appropriate deployment in the public sector.

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NCPC

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Naming Opportunities



Exterior over all building

This Center will accept patients through supervised clinic optometric activities as part of the training program. The AVC is intended to generate some income through services and products to support the sustainability of the program.

Dispensing Workshop - \$175,000

The Dispensing Workshop will be where the spectacles will be made. The workshop will serve as a clinical training center and will provide the spectacles needed to transform a patient's vision.

Pre-Clinic - \$130,000

This teaching laboratory will be dedicated to and specialized for optometry training. Containing examination units and associated equipment, the Pre-Clinic allows for a simulated training environment. Here, students will learn clinical skills before interacting with patients.

Sponsor a Named Faculty Position - \$50,000 (per year)

In order to ensure the longevity and quality of the academic program, educators must be compensated for providing educational support. With an annual salary of \$50,000, the program hopes to hire six educators over the first five years.

Academic Vision Center – \$250,000

The Academic Vision Center is the keystone piece of the Haiti Optometry Program. Here, students and interns will receive hands on experience while delivering optometric services to the public in a one-stop clinical facility.





Applied Optical Lab - \$40,000

A practical facility where advancing students learn how the eye works, the AOL is fully dedicated to Applied Optics learning. This large lab hosts equipment for ophthalmic optics and for the cut and fit workshop.

The Low Vision Clinic - \$20,000

The LVC will be a highly specialized teaching clinic that focuses on low vision, teaching students how to find solutions that maximize their patients' remaining use of vision.

Binocular Vision Clinic - \$15,000

The BVC will be a highly specialized teaching clinic that focuses on binocular vision, teaching students how the two eyes work together.

Student Support Package - \$15,000 (over 5 years)

210 optometry students will come through the program within the first five years. Each student will require academic expenditures such as textbooks, instruments and equipment over the course of their five-year tutorial. By sponsoring a Student Support Package, you are creating the opportunity to provide an optometrist to a public in need.



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