



Global
Endowment for
Sight

THE GIFT OF SIGHT
2020-2022
REPORT

A NEW VISION



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LETTER FROM THE **FOUNDER AND ED**

Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Supporters,

I am pleased to share our 2022 annual report with you. Much has happened since February 2020, when the Gift of Sight (GOS) returned from Lascahobas, Haiti. Due to the pandemic, our team of volunteers and our organization did not participate in any international eye missions in 2020 and 2021.

However, during the pandemic, we shifted our resources to helping the Las Vegas community with vision screenings and providing lectures and support to the UNLV School of Medicine Outpatient program. With the ease of restrictions, we were able to resume our international programs. In 2022, the team was invited to Guatemala, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and the Philippines. In 2023, we plan to return to Kenya, the Philippines, Guatemala, and potentially, Vietnam.

In 2022, we changed our name to the Global Endowment for Sight. We made this decision in an effort to better represent our current ethos and model, which is focused on building and nurturing sustainable healthcare delivery in the global communities where we work, rather than just treating as many patients as possible once a year. We are excited to unveil our new brand with all of you and to continue to share this model in action.

We also gained two new members to the medical team in 2022. We are blessed to welcome Dr. Michael Maingrette and Nina Marcellus. Dr. Maingrette is a Haitian ophthalmologist and was fellowship trained in Glaucoma at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. Since 2006, Dr. Maingrette has volunteered and helped us with logistics, such as obtaining proper documentation, when the team traveled to Haiti. Over the years, he joined us annually in Lascahobas to examine patients, operated on patients with visually significant cataracts, and provided post-operative care after the team left Haiti.

Nina Marcellus is a Level III neonatal intensive care (NICU) nurse, and she holds an MSN in Nursing Education. Nina joining the organization was unexpected. In one of my conversations with Sister Julianna at Kalimoni Mission Hospital, she informed me that she plans to expand the current pediatric unit and hopefully provide acute care for premature birth. She asked me if I knew of any nurses or intensivists that could help her. Nina not only provided consultation relating to logistics and expectations to building a NICU unit, but she was also able to give a few “on-the-spot” lectures to the nursing staff.

She also served as the circulating nurse in the operating room. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Maingrette and Nina to the Gift of Sight's team. Our vision and mission have not changed. One of my goals is to expand the organization by increasing the personnel to provide wider eye care in underserved countries. My other goal is to provide educational support to the host countries, so they can in turn be self-sufficient and sustainable, even in our absence. One unique factor in the upcoming August 2023 mission is implementing ophthalmic education and training. Although the approach is not unique in concept, it is unique to the location.

One member of the medical team will remain in Kenya for a duration of three months and will implement ophthalmic training, both academically and clinically. This approach is to train and educate not only medical personnel at the main hospital but also in one of the satellite clinics where eye care is spartan at best.

The year 2022 also brought about a change in leadership. The year 2023 will be my 20th year working alongside Dr. Kenneth Westfield, not only in the clinic but also on eye missions around the world. Dr. Westfield served as the President of the Foundation since its inception and has now passed the duties and responsibility to me. Dr. Westfield is my teacher, my mentor, and a very dear friend, and I am honored to be given the opportunity to lead the Gift of Sight.

We have you to thank for your contributions over the years that have made our work possible. We ask for your support now more than ever, as we work diligently to complete this transitional period so that we can expand and deepen our impact.

With thanks,

Hon Vu Duong M.D.

President and Medical Director
Global Endowment for Sight





OUR PHILOSOPHY OF CARE

The Gift of Sight's mission is to build sustainable healthcare delivery in underserved communities in order to foster a society with little to no low vision. At GOS, we believe in more than just providing eye care to the resource poor and underserved.

We strive for a sustainable model that goes beyond immediate interventions. One of our core missions is to equip and empower local healthcare professionals in eye care, enabling them to serve their communities year-round.

***"ENSURING THEY HAVE
THE KNOWLEDGE AND
SKILLS TO PROVIDE
COMPREHENSIVE
EYE CARE"***

We understand the limitations of depending solely on outside resources that may or may not be available every year. That is why we are committed to teaching and training local healthcare professionals, ensuring they have the knowledge and skills to provide comprehensive eye care services independently.

By investing in their education and professional development, we are nurturing a self-sustaining ecosystem of eye care. Our goal is to empower local professionals to become the primary caregivers, reducing the dependence on external resources and fostering long-term, consistent care for the population in need.

Our volunteer medical staff includes dedicated doctors, surgeons, nurses and medical technicians who take time away from their practices and families to give care and expertise.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

100
patients
in 2022



87 performed
surgeries



3
countries.



Despite the unprecedented challenges brought forth by the COVID19- pandemic, we remained steadfast in our commitment to making a meaningful impact. While literal and physical barriers presented themselves, we found ways to extend our support through donations of both funds and essential supplies between 2020 and 2022.

In early 2020, just before COVID19- became a threat, we embarked on a mission to Lascahobas, Haiti, delivering much-needed medical care and assistance to those in need. Although international travel was momentarily halted, we eagerly awaited its resumption.

As soon as international travel restrictions eased, our team embarked on successful missions to Kalimoni Mission Hospital in Juja, Kenya; Chichicastenango Clinic in Chichicastenango, Solola Ilumina Clinica in Solola, and Hospitalito Atilan in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala; and Adela Serra Ty Memorial Medical Center in Candon City, the Philippines. We saw over 100 patients in 2022 and performed 87 surgeries across the three countries. Our endeavors also went beyond the provision of immediate aid; they acted as catalysts for enhancing sustainability and achieving long-term impacts through various means. These included conducting informative lectures to train local physicians and ophthalmologists in performing life-changing eye surgeries, donating state-of-the-art cataract equipment and essential medical supplies, and providing ongoing support through financial contributions to ensure the continuity of these programs.



I first went to Lascahobas, Haiti in 1995 at the request of Dr. John Mitchell, who had already gone on 8-10 medical mission trips with what is now Friends of the Children of Lascahobas, Haiti. When we joined the group, the number of patients seen went from 450 per mission to over 800 per mission. Today, we have a hospital with two operating rooms that is open year round. The hospital is usually limited in the number of patients it will see during the time the mission is there, because we take up so much space.

We have our own optical shop, pharmacy, pre-op testing, post-op area and two exam rooms. There is also the space required for 225-150 patients per day. I believe we have been able to make an impact on the overall health of the people of Lascahobas over our years of medical trips and dedication to health infrastructure development, having treated tens of thousands of people during our time there.

However, I do not believe we have impacted the overall context in Haiti that determines health at the societal and individual levels. Ongoing social, political, and economic challenges as well as natural disasters hinder the kind of progress and stability that is required in order to create long lasting change. Thankfully, the Haitian people find a way to get through some of the most difficult periods in the world, whether they're caused by earthquakes, hurricanes, floods or political and economic upheaval.

Yet, it is frustrating and disappointing when it begins to feel that no amount of time, money nor political intervention will be enough to solve the ongoing problems. It is with a heavy heart that I share that we have been unable to return to Haiti since 2020, and due to the current violence and unrest that has persisted since the tragic assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, we must indefinitely postpone our work in the country. The safety of our patients and team members is our first priority in all things we do.

Our work in Haiti over nearly thirty years has been a lesson in health care, eye care, community development and changemaking that we will cherish forever and apply to our work regardless of what the future holds for our program there. And our thoughts go out to the people of Haiti who we wish we could treat today.

Kenneth C. Westfield MD

Founder





2022 ZIMBABWE

Lessons Learned: Overcoming Challenges And Empowering Education In Zimbabwe

During our mission to Zimbabwe, education emerged as a key highlight, emphasizing our commitment to knowledge transfer. Optometric students were privileged to receive insightful lectures covering various eye-related topics, such as the anatomy and physiology of the eye, acute vision loss, diabetic and hypertensive retinopathy, glaucoma, and retinitis pigmentosa, among others. To enhance their understanding of ocular anatomy, students were provided with cow eye specimens, generously donated by the Department of Physical and Life Sciences, enabling them to dissect and explore the intricacies of the eye.

Our journey in Zimbabwe was not without challenges. We encountered, for instance, significant discrepancies in charges for room and board, as well as services like laundry. The planning process began in early January 2022, with meetings held with Mr. Makado, who has ties to Bindura and Bindura University. Initial communication with the host country was positive, and the leadership in Bindura appeared receptive and welcoming to our mission.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlined our commitment to fulfill three goals: providing surgery for indigents, consultations, and lectures for medical students. Given that 2022 marked our first mission to Zimbabwe, we decided not to overextend ourselves and agreed upon a target of fifteen (15) surgeries.



Upon our arrival in Harare on July 2nd, we faced an unexpected setback as four bags of supplies were detained by customs and were only returned to us upon our departure. Even retrieving our own supplies proved to be a burdensome process. On July 3rd, our team conducted examinations and made dispositions, initially identifying nine patients as candidates for cataract surgery. The following day, the team identified an additional twelve patients, including two cases requiring functional plastic reconstructive surgery. Unfortunately, we received a disheartening communication revoking our privilege to operate in Bindura Hospital.

The reasons behind this decision were multifaceted, largely attributed to poor communication among various parties and Zimbabwe's leadership associated with our mission.

Despite these challenges, we remained resolute in our commitment to education. Ophthalmic lectures were provided for optometric medical students, with allocated lecture times ranging from four to six hours, depending on the day and lecturer's obligations. To enrich their learning experience, students were equipped with the necessary tools to dissect an eye, further enhancing their understanding of ocular structures.

As we departed Harare on July 6th and arrived safely in Nairobi, Kenya for the next phase of our mission, we reflect on the lessons learned during our time in Zimbabwe. While the journey presented unexpected hurdles, we remain steadfast in our dedication to providing transformative eye care and empowering education. Through shared experiences and continued resilience, we strive to overcome challenges and create lasting impact in the communities we serve.



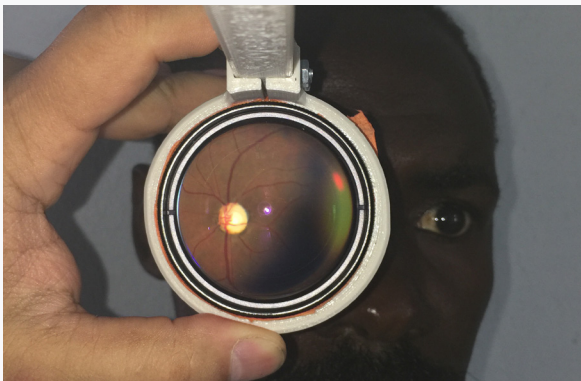


2022 KENYA

Celebrating Success and Positive Developments: GOS's Impactful Mission in Kenya

Our journey to Kenya following the challenging mission in Zimbabwe was an incredible experience that strengthened our partnership and opened new avenues for collaboration. Beyond providing critical eye care services and delivering appropriate dispositions, the highlight of this mission was the establishment of a connection that transcended traditional boundaries as we explored the possibility of establishing a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). This venture into a different realm of healthcare showcased our adaptability and dedication to comprehensive medical support.

During our time in Kenya, we were grateful to receive meals and discounted hotel accommodations, reflecting the warm hospitality extended to us. However, we acknowledge that the mission as a whole incurred significant costs. Nevertheless, the impact we made and the lives touched far outweighed any financial burden, reaffirming our commitment to providing essential healthcare services to those in need.



Upon our arrival in Nairobi on July 6th, our team was warmly welcomed and transported to Juja. The following day, we had the privilege of meeting with Sister Julianna Moses and her dedicated staff. With their support, we were granted full access to the operating room and eye examination facilities, enabling us to carry out our vital work. In conversations with Sister Julianna, we discovered her vision to expand the hospital's services to include care for premature births. Recognizing the need for expertise in establishing and managing a NICU, Sister Julianna inquired if we knew someone who possessed the knowledge to guide their team.

Introducing Nina Marcellus, one of our exceptional new volunteers, who not only served as a circulating nurse in the operating room but also played a vital role due to her extensive background as a Level III NICU nurse with an MSN in Nursing Education. Nina became the clear choice to lead the team, providing invaluable consultation, impromptu lectures, and ongoing communication after our departure, ensuring the continued progress of this important initiative.



As we commenced cataract operations on July 7th, we encountered an unexpected challenge. It was at this point that we realized supplies were missing, detained by Zimbabwe's customs throughout our stay in the country. Despite this setback, we were grateful to have reserve supplies on hand, and with the dedicated efforts of Sister Julianna and her team, we were able to acquire the necessary medications for the patients without imposing any additional costs.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to SEE International and other supporting pharmaceutical organizations for their generous donations of supplies. Although there was a nationwide shortage, particularly of post-operative medications, the host country took proactive measures to procure the required medications, ensuring that our patients received the care they needed. The resilience of our team prevailed, successfully performing surgeries on 15 patients.

This mission provided valuable insights and recommendations for the future. We recognize the importance of maintaining our exceptional surgical team personnel, whose collaborative spirit and ability to perform under duress were evident throughout the mission. Furthermore, we remain committed to planning and assisting in the development of the eye clinic, ensuring a sustainable and accessible facility for the local community. Open lines of communication with the nurses will be maintained, facilitating ongoing collaboration in planning and building the NICU.



**2022**

THE PHILIPPINES

Our mission to the Philippines in 2022 started with planning in mid-July, and on October 13th, we embarked on our journey to the Adela Serra Ty Memorial Medical Center in Taday, Surigao del Sur.

Our mission had a two-fold purpose:

1. To provide vision-restoring surgery to those unable to afford such care.
2. To offer ophthalmic education to primary care physicians, internists, and emergency room physicians, aligning with our philosophy of empowering local communities.

We were fortunate to receive generous donations of all necessary supplies from SEE International and other supporting pharmaceutical organizations, a testament to the power of our partnerships. These supplies were invaluable in ensuring we could provide quality care to those in need.

The synergy among our medical professionals was once again truly inspiring, confirming our recommendation to keep our team as is. We performed a total of 65 surgeries without any intraoperative or post-op complications reported. Additionally, we successfully delivered lectures on various topics, including Acute Vision Loss, Acute Red Eye, Diabetic Retinopathy, and Hypertensive Retinopathy. The number of pediatric surgeries conducted is of particular significance.

Typically, the count on other missions is less than two. In 2022, we successfully completed four eye surgeries on three pediatric patients, all under the age of 6. We are pleased to share that all these young patients had exceptionally positive post-operative results, resulting in improved vision for them. Although the full effects of the rehabilitation process might not be immediately apparent, in the long run, it will significantly enhance their quality of life.

Our mission not only restored sight but also highlighted areas for improvement. We recognized the need to update our instruments and invest in newer, more advanced equipment, especially for small incision surgery. Furthermore, the mission emphasized the necessity of a portable slit lamp and an Icare unit to enhance our capabilities and reach more patients.

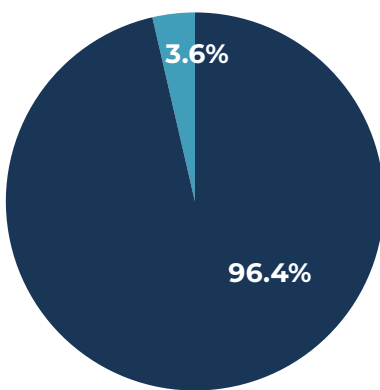
As we reflect on our mission's achievements and the lessons learned, we acknowledge the importance of continued support. To ensure our future missions reach their full potential, we call upon our community and partners to contribute to our cause. Specifically, we require additional donations for supplies, including 5cc syringes and -27gauge needles, to meet the growing demand for our services.



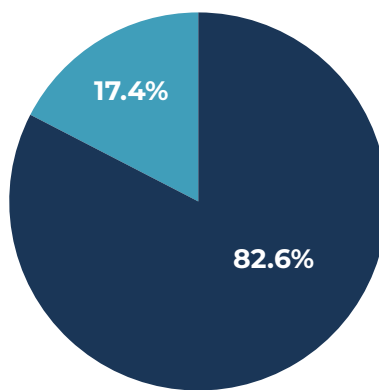
FINANCES

Revenue

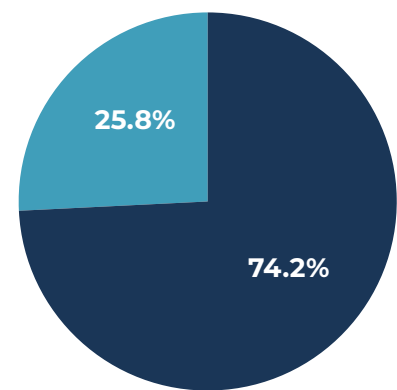
	Revenue 2020	Revenue 2021	Revenue 2022
Donations	\$ 17 628,61	\$ 16 078,10	\$ 11 807,44
Other Income	\$ 661,97	\$ 3391,00	\$ 4101,89
Total Revenue	\$ 18 290,58	\$ 19 469,10	\$ 15 909,33



2020 REVENUE



2021 REVENUE



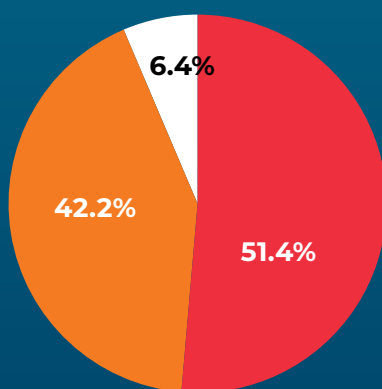
2022 REVENUE

● Donations ● Other Income

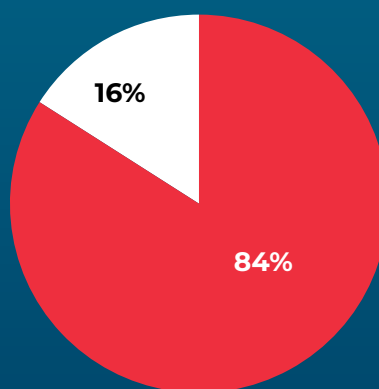
ASSETS	2020	2021	2022
Total Assets	\$ 104 473,19	\$ 110 377,39	\$ 71 285,14

Expenses

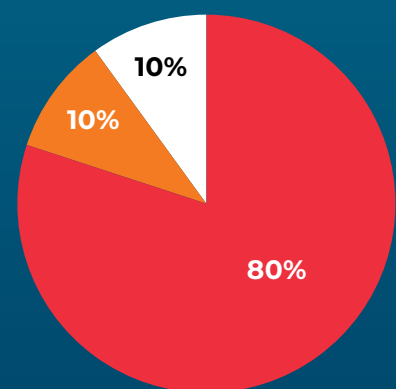
	Expenses 2020	Expenses 2021	Expenses 2022
Program Implementation	\$ (9 551,50)	\$ (6 900,00)	\$ (43 128,12)
Medical Equipment Repairs	\$ (1 384,00)		
Medical Supplies New			\$ (428,90)
Haiti Mission	\$ (8 167,50)		
Guatemala Mission		\$ (6 900,00)	\$ (1 070,00)
Kenya Mission			\$ (38 911,14)
Philippines Mission			\$ (2 718,08)
Fundraising Expenses	\$ (7 853,00)	\$ (0.00)	\$ (5 370.45)
Administration Expenses	\$ (1 189,02)	\$ (1 312,60)	\$ (5 391,43)
Total Expenses	\$ (18 593,52)	\$ (8 212,60)	\$ (53 890,73)
Net Income	\$ (302,94)	\$ 11 256,50	\$ (37 981,40)



2020 EXPENSES



2021 EXPENSES



2022 EXPENSES

● Program Implementation ● Fundraising Expenses ● Administration Expenses

**Note: By generously donating their time and expertise, our volunteer medical team significantly reduces our operational and program expenses. While these invaluable contributions are not reflected in our financial reports, we believe it is important to acknowledge the substantial savings they provide.*

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

The Gift of Sight is able to restore vision around the world thanks to our team members and supporters. We are thankful to all of our core of volunteers and support staff that consistently donate their time and effort to our cause. We would like to express our appreciation to the following organizations and individuals who have made our work possible:

Partners

- Eyecare 4 Kids
- Friends of the Children of Lascahobas, Haiti
- Hawaiian Eye Foundation
- Nevada State University
- Sankoré

Corporate Sponsors

- Alcon
- See International

Individual Donors

Kenneth Banner, Ellen Boyer, CRNA, Robert W. & Mary Ellen Bruderman, Constance James Gyna Jean-Denis, A William Maupin, Esq, Paula Morgan, R.N. & Willis Griffin, Marc L. Rosenberg, David & Angie Westfield

Volunteers

Guatemala

Todd Jackson, M.D.
William Jackson
Virginia Loza, M.D.
Julio De Lion, M.D.
Eduardo Ventura, M.D. (fellow)
Hospitalito Staff
Chichicastenango Clinical/Surgical Staff

Kenya

Sister Juliana Moses (Host)
Cheryl Cox
Hon Vu Duong M.D., SFHEA
Mike Maingrette M.D.
Nina Marcellus MSN.
Gabrielle Mitchell CST.
Kenneth C. Westfield M.D., MBA

The Philippines

Hon Vu Duong M.D., SFHEA
Mike Maingrette M.D.
Gabrielle Mitchell CST.
Nina Marcellus MSN.
Kenneth C. Westfield M.D., MBA

Zimbabwe

Cheryl Cox
Hon Vu Duong M.D., SFHEA
Ashley Ellis
Mike Maingrette M.D.
Nina Marcellus MSN.
Gabrielle Mitchell CST.
Nash Makado
Kenneth C. Westfield M.D., MBA

THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

.01

**KENNETH C.
WESTFIELD MD,
MBA**



After serving in the United States Army (71-1969), Dr. Kenneth Westfeld attended and graduated from the Wayne State University School of Medicine in 1976. He then completed his internship at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, and residency training at the Kresge Eye Institute.

In 1980, he founded a private practice in Las Vegas, which has since grown to become the largest full-service ophthalmology center in Nevada. The center includes an ambulatory surgical center, a Laser Refractive Center and an optical shop.

Among his many accomplishments, he served as the founding medical director of the Nevada Eye Bank; was the first to perform refractive surgery in Las Vegas (radial keratotomy); opened the first satellite eye care clinics to serve outlying rural Nevada; was the first surgeon to perform cataract surgery in a freestanding ambulatory surgery center; and was the first to successfully service a large managed care contract, making surgery from an eye doctor in Las Vegas more affordable for plan participants.

Dr. Westfeld founded the Gift of Sight in order to realize his vision for a world where treatable yet debilitating eye conditions were addressed in the places of most need. Since its inception, he has been able to help and heal thousands of people in his own community of Las Vegas and the world over who would otherwise not have received the necessary care. In his eyes, this has been the biggest accomplishment of his career.

HON VU DUONG MD, SFHEA



Dr. Duong was born in Hue, Vietnam. In 1975, he and his family immigrated to the United States and settled in Virginia. After high school, he enlisted into the US Army. After four years of distinguished service in the Army, he attended college and medical school. A graduate of The Pennsylvania State University, he completed his General Surgery training at The University of Virginia Health Science Center; his ophthalmology residency at Howard University Hospital where he received advance training in oculoplastic and microsurgery; and his fellowship in Ophthalmic Pathology at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. Dr. Duong serves as Assistant Professor of Biology at Nevada State College where he teaches Neuroscience, Anatomy & Physiology, Endocrinology and Microbiology. His primary focus as an instructor is that students not only master course content, but are able to apply the knowledge to novel contexts. This focus carries over in his role as the Director of Continuing Education

at the Westfield Eye Center. He ensures that our staff continually learns about the latest developments in procedures and treatments for eye diseases. He also mentors the ophthalmology residents that come through our practice. Dr. Duong has published in peer review journals. He authored Sickle Cell Retinopathy and Basal Cell Carcinoma of the Eyelid chapters in Roy & Fraundfelder's Current Ocular Therapy, 6th Edition and other ophthalmology textbooks. He has lectured at regional and national ophthalmology meetings. Recently, Dr. Duong along with some of his peers published a Case Study manual for nursing students at Nevada State College and nationwide. Dr. Duong emphasizes community-based learning. He truly believes that selfless endeavors are an essential part of medical practice. Dr. Duong has led several Gift of Sight mission trips to Haiti and Vietnam.

Dr. Todd Jackson was born and raised in Las Vegas. His family instilled in him a strong commitment to community service, which began with volunteering at the local shelter. After attending Brigham Young University, Dr. Jackson spent 6,000 hours serving the people of Guatemala and made a promise that he would do all he could to serve others throughout his life. It was during this experience that he decided to become a medical doctor and surgeon. He attended the Medical College of Wisconsin and completed his residency at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, specializing in ophthalmology. Yet he did not want to wait until he was established to continue to serve the less fortunate. He founded Prestige Laser and Cataract Institute in 2011 with a mission statement to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, liberate the captive and care for the sick and afflicted. He told his staff, "If I can not run a world-class premium business and do charity from the very beginning, I do not deserve to own a business, and I should go to work for someone else."

He attributes the success of his business to this focus on service. Dr. Jackson also participates in the H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Everywhere) clinic on a monthly basis, where he provides care on a pay-it-forward basis. Dr. Jackson's work around the world has helped him to become proficient and confident treating the most advanced forms of anterior segment disease. He has participated in eye missions in Guatemala and Kenya and is a member of GOS's Volunteer Medical Team as well as the organization's leadership.

TODD JACKSON MD, MPH



LELAND E. BACKUS, JD



Leland Eugene Backus is a Juris Doctor graduate of University of California at Los Angeles where he received honors in the Order of Barristers and Moot Court. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, in 1969. Mr Backus is an author for the Nevada Civil Practice Manual and has written several articles in the field of litigation.

He has lectured internationally on a wide range of topics related to mass disaster litigation, computer use in litigation, litigation practice, construction law, claims presentation, insurance law, pharmaceutical and medical device litigation, and various procedural aspects of the law.

Furthermore, Mr. Backus has an extensive history of community involvement. He served as a trustee and former chairman of the Nevada Law Foundation, was the former president of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Southern Nevada, a past director of The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, and the charter president of the Exchange Club of Las Vegas. Additionally, he previously held the position of Chairman of the State of Nevada Certified Court Reporters Board. Mr. Backus is a founding benefactor of the Nevada Law Foundation Colleagues and received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for his role in launching this program. His commitment to aiding the less fortunate has remained a consistent theme throughout his career.

In addition to his leadership of GOS, Mr. Backus currently serves as a Director of Send Me On Vacation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that provides well-deserved vacations to breast cancer survivors following their treatment.



