

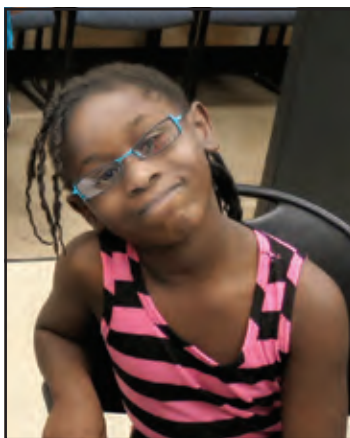


I CARE SAN ANTONIO  
VISION CENTER  
AT HAVEN FOR HOPE  
www.icare-sa.org

# I CARE SAN ANTONIO



Saturday, October 25 was the third annual I Care 4 Kids event. Local children were referred by their school nurse and thanks to over 30 volunteers, 140 children received free eye exams and glasses. Over \$35,000 worth of care was donated, and the many smiles were priceless.



MAJOR  
UNDERWRITER

PROGRAM  
SPONSORS



## Special thanks to ICSA 4KIDS volunteers

Dr. Keith Davis,  
iCare4kids Chairman

Alex Almonja  
Bryan Anderson  
Jaynee Baker  
Charlotte Barilleaux, COA  
Libby Bentley  
Luke Berry  
Dr. Susan Berry  
Matthew Broll  
Elaine Castillo  
Rachel Cavarruvias  
Bianca Conti  
Olivia Davis  
Dr. Melanie Frogozo  
Cecilia Elizondo Herrera  
Dr. David Holck  
Roquita Garcia  
Laura Garza  
Yvette Gomez-Vaquera



Carle Gonzales  
Rachel Granger  
Tammy Heinzman, COA  
Lisa Lenzy, COA  
Leana Lujan, ABOC  
Connor McNabb

Tami Moreau, COA  
Nicole Morris, COA  
Mari Murillo  
Brenda Nakoski, COA  
Lauren Ortega  
Doug Radcliffe  
Dr. Robert Rice  
Janessa Romero  
Irene Saenz  
Mari Saenz  
Rosanna Salas  
Dr. Frank Scribbick  
Stefan Sensenbrunner  
Dr. Dimitrios Sismanis  
Lou Sprake  
Rhonda Ullom, COT  
Laura Vigil, COA  
Terri Ward  
Amanda Wedelich  
Vanessa Zomora

## Volunteer Spotlight *Wendy Drezek*



*Q. Tell me about yourself and how you became involved in I Care San Antonio?*

A. I received a gift donation the first year and then started volunteering for the children's' Christmas clinic at Dr. Rice's offices. When ICARE moved to H4H I trained to do intake, but I've scribed tech notes, helped in optical, monitored field tests, etc.

*Q. What has been the most rewarding experience at the I Care Vision Center?*

A. My most rewarding experiences have been two--one doing intake for a client with AIDS who was so thankful to get vision services he gave me a Christmas hug! The second was doing intake with a client who had been acting differently in the waiting room, then came in, and when I reassured him, said he'd just been acting that way because he was so scared. It was lovely to see both clients feel comfortable and safe at ICARE.

*Q.. What would you like to share with others about volunteering at I Care?*

A. No matter what I do for ICARE I know it's making a real difference in the world.



# THE BIG GIVE S.A.

May 6 was an unprecedented day of giving in San Antonio. The BIG GIVE was an online giving campaign that made a tremendous impact in our community.

How much did we raise online?

**\$32,860**

**\$7,500 in prize earnings**

**1st** among all participants

**#3**  
In money raised out of 467 participating nonprofits

**Grand Total**

**\$40,360**

A HUGE thanks to our prize sponsors: The Brooklynite and Wave Healthcare and the Kronkosky Charitable Foundation

## Thanks to the following donors who chose to GIVE BIG to I Care SA

Dr. and Mrs. Darrell Baskin  
Libby Bentley  
Patrick Carrier  
Dr. and Mrs. Mark Davis  
Perry Deckard  
Melvin Fechner  
Lukin Gilliland, Jr.  
Barbara Keller  
Roland Keller  
Barbara Kyse  
Camilla Labatt  
John McClung

Michele McMurry  
Dr. Loretta Miramontes  
Asha Nagaraj  
Brenda Nokoski  
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Radcliffe  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Rice  
Dr. Joseph Rogalinski  
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Scannell  
Dr. Scott Sitterle  
Mr. and Mrs. John Strong  
Priscilla Sweeney

## Our International Caring Mission

By Dr. Bob Rice, Co-Founder, I Care SA

Beckoned by the incredibly beautiful country and colorful, friendly people of Peru, our 18 member I Care San Antonio team packed up 18 bags of supplies and equipment and traveled there this summer. We worked 2 weeks partnered with Medical Ministries International in Arequipa in



southern Peru surrounded by a massive volcanic mountain range followed by another week in and north of Cusco working at a children's home (Casa del Aguila) near Limatambo. The home, nestled in a lush valley along a river on a large ranch surrounded by majestic mountains, was established by Ralph Fair of Boerne. I was medical director for a team of 50 who came from the US and beyond partnering with the local MMI Peru team; during the three weeks, we cared for 3,461 children and adults. We were able to give out or make 2,247 glasses and performed 171 surgeries. Working with the local MMI Peru team led by Tania Catacora was truly a blessing and inspirational. They work all year in Peru among the poor and have established a warehouse, dental and eye clinic and a physical rehab program. Their team always organizes an excellent mission project and are dedicated Christians who demonstrate the love and care of Jesus to all people.

After the MMI mission, we examined 182 children from Casa del Aguila, finding 38 who needed glasses. The glasses were made free of charge by VisionWorks and Paragon Labs and sent to Peru with another mission team. Everyone enjoyed meeting the children at the home, who seemed to be very happy with several coming up and giving us

spontaneous hugs. We learned about the huge problem of abused, abandoned children in Central and South America. Perhaps this helps to understand why so many children are showing up at our southern border to escape their very hard, dangerous life. Another day we traveled to a village in the mountains and examined 105 of the residents. We worked in an abandoned,

cold community building seeing Quechua people (descendents of the Incas). Later that day, we found out that the leader of the home, Jaime, and the mayor of the village worked on a plan to start a Christian church in the same center, led by the pastor of Casa (they have started 6 churches around the area). So we were all blessed that our work was used to help establish a new church. Praise God! Three weeks is a long time and we were all getting tired but the news about the church lifted our spirits.





Another highlight of the trip was a chance to work with an American ophthalmologist, Nathan Henson, who with his wife are missionaries in Cusco. He is medical director of a very busy eye clinic and also teaches medical students in Cusco. He will continue to provide eye care to Casa and the people who need cataract and other surgeries we found in our clinics.

Participating in international missions to bring eye care to the indigent of foreign countries is very important to the mission of I Care San Antonio. Traveling to a foreign country with a different language, food, customs and culture helps the I Care team broaden its experiences and view of the world. This in turn helps us deepen our Christian compassion and motivation for serving others. We work very hard, sleep in strange beds and eat different foods. Our stomachs occasionally get upset, we may feel the effects of high altitude and miss our families but the stresses we encounter strengthen our team as we help each other along the journey. As we stretch and grow as individuals, we bond with each other and become a better team.

We had no major travel or health issues during this trip and I was already looking forward to our next mission as we arrived home feeling very blessed by the experience. Betsey and I along with my two techs Mari and Laura are planning to join MMI for



a two week mission to Tarija, Bolivia, the last week of February and first week of March. This will be our fourth trip to Bolivia and second to Tarija. The MMI Bolivia team is also wonderful and we look forward to working with them again.

If you would like to have an experience of a lifetime, please join us for our adventure in Bolivia next February. Many thanks to all our donors, volunteers, doctors, staff, medical and optical suppliers who make our missions possible.



## A Patient's Story

### Dear I Care,

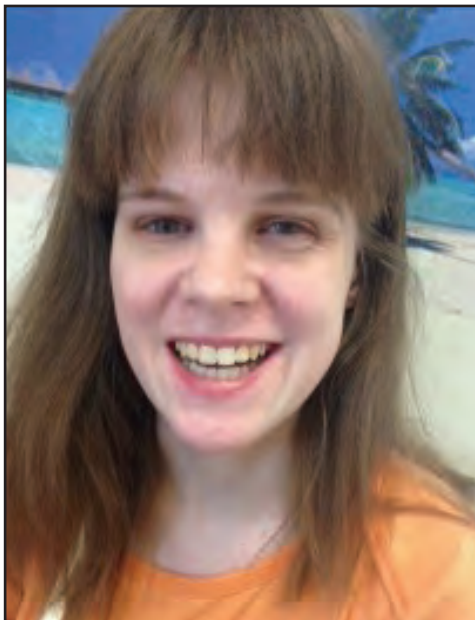
As I sit here reflecting on the entire process of how it has been to receive prosthetic eyes for the first time, I'm almost at a loss for words, in the best of ways. My heart has never felt more happy and filled with love, in my entire 26 years of life, and even that's putting it mildly.

Growing up, the maternal side of my family had an incredibly difficult time accepting my blindness. I always wanted the world for myself, and even as a child, I knew that I deserved to be afforded the same opportunities everyone else had. However, it wasn't until my adult years that I finally took the bull by the horns, learned to love myself completely, and give the love to humanity that I never had much of.

Prior to receiving my prosthetic eyes, I was in excruciating eye pain, for several years. I had no idea anything was wrong, though, and I constantly told myself it was severe allergies. Eventually, I figured out that something was indeed wrong, when I could no longer get around my apartment successfully, due to how horrendous the eye pain was.

I didn't have a regular eye doctor, so I had to see two different doctors, before finally meeting the surgeon who removed my eyes, in March 2014. All three doctors said variations of the same thing, which was that both eyes were probably beyond repair.

I was scared, because, although I was willing and eager to do whatever I needed to get rid of the pain, I felt all alone. I've never been one to shy away from discussing any subject matter, so I constantly tried explaining what I was going through to my friends. Some of them got it, but most of them didn't. Then, when I found out my insurance wouldn't pay for me to get prosthetic



eyes, I became even more scared. I had no idea how the situation would ultimately turn out, which was the hardest thing I've ever faced, especially factoring in that I felt I didn't have a good, healthy support system to lean on.

I tend to find the beauty in life, even in the most trying situations, and thankfully, this situation was no different. When I asked my doctor's staff for help

finding a way to pay for the prosthetic eyes, they told me about the I Care Vision Center at Haven for Hope.

Fortunately, it didn't take long for me to get set up with them. I had no idea what a true life saver the organization would be, but the staff is truly phenomenal. It was obvious to me, from the second I entered the building, that I was in great hands. Then, when I met the staff, they thoroughly explained the process, and made me feel like I was a valued human being.

Words are not enough to express the love I feel in my heart for everyone who works at the I Care Vision Center, for the doctors, especially Dr. Chris DeBacker and other volunteers, like Jean Thompson, Rhonda Ullom and Terri Fonseca, who realize that caring for humanity, and working together to make the world a better place, are crucial things that will lead towards the betterment, and peacefulness, of society. I tremendously respect what's done by each and every one of you, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for caring, sharing, loving, hoping, dreaming, and being lovely, compassionate people, through and through.

Love, Chelsea

## From the President's Desk

By Doug Radcliffe, President and Co-Founder, I Care SA

I'm reading a book right now that really resonates with me. It's called *Simplify*, by Bill Hybels (pastor of Willow Creek Church in Chicago). *Simplify* discusses issues that cause so many of us to live frenetic lives, often leaving us feeling exhausted and overwhelmed. It asks important questions like, "How depleted is your energy bucket right now?" and "What does your life feel like when your energy bucket is filled to the brim?"

These questions have led me to think about what activities help me replenish my energy bucket.

It's not always obvious what things or activities drain us or replenish us. For instance, I'm usually pretty tired after working all week, so I've learned to guard my weekends in order to use that time to recharge my batteries. When I see on my calendar that I've volunteered for an all day Saturday activity like iCare4Kids, I wonder "What was I thinking, I'm going to be exhausted by the end of the week!"

We started Saturday morning at 7:30am with a group prayer. We then divided up into teams and began seeing the young patients. There were 165 patients signed up ranging in age from 4 through 17. We had 30 volunteer doctors and technicians and 6 volunteer general helpers like me. It was a long but exciting day. We gave 125 kids complete eye exams and dispensed 106 pairs of glasses.

I was stationed in optical dispensing, so I had the pleasure of helping the kids pick out their new pair of glasses. After the frames are selected they are sent off to VisionWorks where they custom make



the lenses. The whole process takes about 3 weeks. Disappointed at how long it was going to take, one mother told us her 7 year old daughter's vision was so poor she had to sit on a stool next to the teacher's desk everyday so that she could see the blackboard. We looked in our inventory of premade glasses

and found a beautiful pair of glasses that was almost exactly the little girl's prescription, and they fit perfectly. Both mother and daughter left with big smiles on their faces!

Last stop for the kids was the check-out where volunteers passed out goodie bags but most importantly each child got an age specific Bible to take home with them. The young ones received a wonderful Family Time Bible in Pictures and the teens received an NIV Teen Life Study Bible. These Bibles aren't inexpensive but this year we received funding from Alamo Heights Methodist Church, for which we are tremendously grateful for!

When we wrapped up at 3:30 I had a rare and wonderful feeling. I felt completely reenergized! I looked around at the rest of the volunteers and none of them were dragging or bolting for the door. Instead everyone was talking, sharing stories and just bursting with vitality. I thought, isn't it amazing how by giving a little of ourselves we often get so much back, Praise God! What I learned from this wonderful experience is don't assume the only way to recharge your batteries is by getting some rest!



# Make holidays happy *all year long!*

As we come to the end of another year, we want to thank those who have contributed to our success and ask if you will help us once again. The Christmas season is the perfect time to show how much you care.

Making a donation is simple, please fill out the below form and either send it or fax it to our office. Christmas shopping has never been easier!



My check is enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ by credit card.

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return to:

I Care San Antonio

or fax 210-220-2499

One Haven for Hope Way

San Antonio, TX 78207

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San Antonio, Texas 78207

