Charlottesville Free Clinic Eye Clinic Completes Their Third Year

A VOSH-Virginia local initiative

Thanks to a generous equipment donation facilitated by VOSH Technology Transfer Program from retiring Optometrist Terry Mangold in 2020, VOSH-Virginia was able to establish and sustain an ongoing optometry clinic at the Charlottesville Free Clinic. The clinic is a multi-health professional and dental facility that provides care for people in the community who are working but do not have or qualify for insurance at their jobs or personally.



Image 1 Dr Vicki Weiss examining a local patient

VOSH -Virginia optometrists provide the eye exams on a volunteer basis. Eyecare patients are seen a few days each month, mostly in the evenings.

Many of our patients have not had a previous eye exam. 85% of the patients seen need a new eyeglass prescription. 45 % of the patients we examined are also being managed for diabetes. Many patients did not know they had diabetes until finding healthcare at the Free Clinic. Except for dental, the eye clinic was the busiest clinic tied with dermatology in the number of patients seen.

Seeing patients at the Free Clinic has been very rewarding. The patients are greatly appreciative and their new glasses make it much easier to do their jobs, learn at school, and continue to make improvements in their daily lives.

Another benefit from this initiative is the interaction we have with various other health professionals in the community which improves the appreciation of optometry by other health care practitioners. While traveling to provide other countries with eyecare is so rewarding, it is equally gratifying to know we are making a difference right here in our communities. Please consider having your local VOSH chapter establish an eye clinic at your local Free Clinic as well.

For more information, please contact:

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