



GLAUCOMA REPORTS

A quarterly publication of the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation, Inc.

FOUNDATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN TEXAS

August in San Antonio, Texas, is usually an extremely hot month when many people find their way out of the city to cool off. But in 2005, nearly three thousand men and women made their way into the city to have their eyes screened for glaucoma by the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation. The impetus for this was a media blitz that the Foundation conducted through radio stations and newspapers in San Antonio and the region.

Beginning August 1st and continuing until the end of the month, radio ads announced the presence of the Foundation's mobile eye screening unit and the availability of free tests for glaucoma at several sites around the city. Listeners were directed to call a toll-free number to receive information on where to go to get screened and what times screenings would be conducted. The radio ads and the information on the toll-free telephone messages were in both English and Spanish. Ads were also placed in San Antonio newspapers, also in both languages.

"We know that Hispanics have about the same high risk for open angle glaucoma that African Americans have," said S.J. "Bud" Grant, President and CEO of the Foundation. "We chose San Antonio for this new program as part of our ongoing effort to help adjust health care disparities in this country." The FCGCF has been addressing the three main aspects of the health care disparity problem by providing free and open access to screenings; by bringing the screening to underserved populations in urban centers and in remote rural areas with its mobile units; and by taking great care to show sensitivity to cultural differences and by providing bilingual



The Foundation's Mobile Eye Screening Unit in San Antonio, Texas, where it was an integral part of the FCGCF's month-long push to increase public awareness among Hispanics of the need for annual screenings to prevent blindness from "the silent theft of sight," glaucoma.

resources. The Foundation also tries to make sure that every person who is screened is properly followed-up and treated.

The ad campaign was backed up by 91 screenings in 28 different locations throughout the metropolitan San Antonio region in the month of August. This compares with an average of only 43 screenings per month in San Antonio during the months of January-July, 2005.

The results of this increased public awareness campaign and increased screening opportunities were truly astounding. Screening events in August drew an average of 30 people as opposed to only 18 people per event from January-July. Nearly seven people per screening were identified as having the early signs of possible glaucoma during August.

Three people per screening were found to have vision problems other than glaucoma. These compare to about two glaucoma cases and one other vision problem being detected per screening prior to the media blitz in August.

The media blitz was intended to identify more people with the signs of possible glaucoma more at an earlier stage. It was successful in meeting this goal. Prior to the radio campaign, some 11% of all screening participants showed signs of glaucoma. During August, however, 22% of our screenees were referred for further workups because of incipient glaucoma. This amounted to almost 600 men and women. "It's a wonderful thing that our efforts have uncovered so many potential cases," said Mr.

Continued on page 2

FCGCF IN TEXAS

Continued from page 1

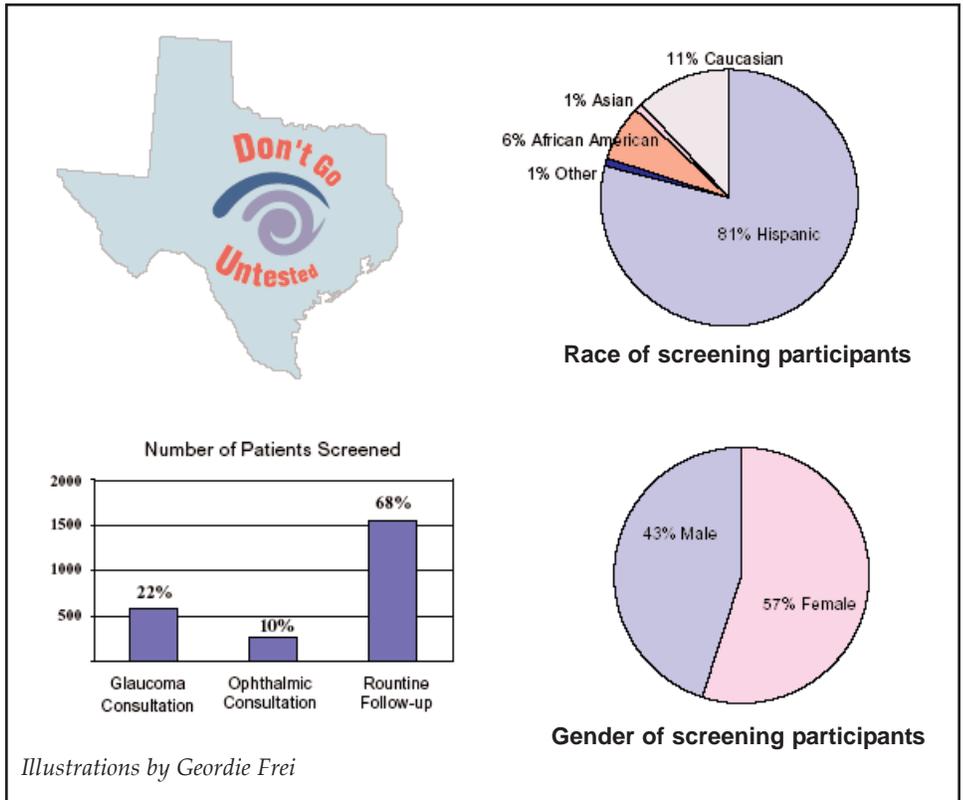
Grant. "This is what we are here for, to find glaucoma and stop it before it steals away a person's sight."

The radio campaign also seems to have helped with a puzzling inequality we noticed in past screenings. In nearly all screenings done from the inception of the Foundation in 2000 until the start of the advertising campaign in San Antonio, two thirds of all people screened were women.

This was true all across the United States, and in San Antonio before the media blitz began. But during August 43% of all participants were male. Said Mr. Grant, "Men listen to the radio and get the message."

The Foundation planned this special effort with great care. Congressman Henry Bonilla, of the 23rd Congressional District in Texas, made an appeal to San Antonians in the radio advertisements. Three other members of Congress from Texas helped spread the word. Mayor Phil Hardberger and Dr. Fernando A. Guerra, Director of Health San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, also assisted the Foundation.

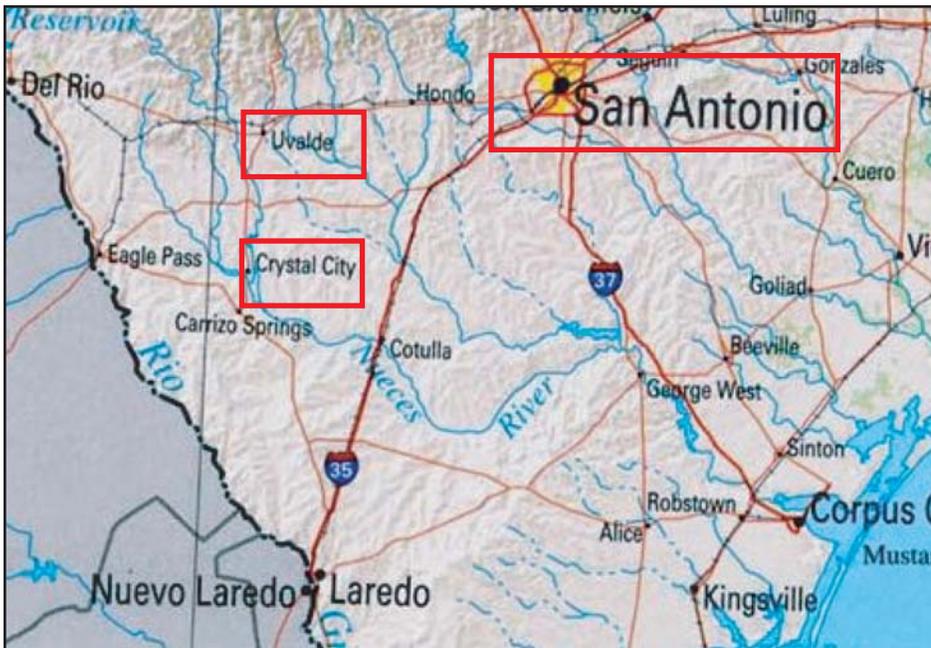
Screening sites included a location



across the street from City Hall, several senior centers, multiple HEB grocery stores, and clinics in Uvalde and Crystal City. The University Health Science Center and the Lions of San Antonio partnered with the Foundation on the media blitz and

arranged the grocery store screenings.

"The Texas initiative was an enormous success," said Mr. Grant. "We have been so impressed by it that we are already planning to replicate the radio and newspaper effort in other regions of the country."



The Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation joined together with one of its major allies, the Southwest Texas Eye Care Collaborative, on a public awareness and screening drive. Centered around San Antonio, the effort covered an area almost the size of New England. The effort involved radio and newspaper advertisements and Public Service Announcements. Increased screenings were held in San Antonio, Uvalde, and Crystal City.

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SAD LOSSES FOR THE FOUNDATION

Mrs. Eleanor Beers Grant passed away on Tuesday, September 20th, 2005 after a long illness. She faced each day with optimism, determination and fought bravely up to the end.

Eleanor was an outstanding champion for numerous causes, including education and the fight against blindness. She was a faithful wife, a loving mother and mother-in-law, a proud grandmother and a wonderful steadfast friend. She was everything that one could hope for in a person. As the Regional Coordinator the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation, Eleanor was responsible for many of its most successful projects. "Eleanor was the soul of the organization," said Randall Bloomfield, MD, the Foundation's Treasurer and a long-time friend of Mrs. Grant. "Together with Bud, she traveled all over the country, in sickness and in health, rain or shine, snow or sweltering summer heat on behalf of the goals and objectives of the Foundation's sight saving mission." She worked tirelessly to keep the mission of the Foundation in the forefront.



Eleanor Beers Grant, Regional Director of the Foundation, and her husband, S.J. Bud Grant, President and Founder of the FCGCF.

Eleanor's many contributions included her life long devotion and passion for education of the less fortunate. She was a forceful advocate for the causes she believed in, and a staunch friend. She leaves behind a grieving family and a legacy of wonderful accomplishments.

BRENDA PILLORS, PH.D.

On June 12, 2005, Brenda Pillors, PhD, chief of staff to New York Congressman Edolphus "Ed" Towns (D-Brooklyn) and a champion of the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation, passed away. Bud Grant said, "Without the help and encouragement I received from Brenda, there would be no Caucus and no Foundation, either. Her smile lit up a room," he added.



A native of Los Angeles, Ms. Pillors had worked for Congressman Towns since his 1982 election and previously served as legislative director to former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm of Brooklyn.

"There are no words to express the loss that all of us who were touched by Brenda are feeling today," Congressman Towns said in a statement after Brenda's death. "She was truly an incredible person whose generosity and care for others knew no bounds. A dedicated public servant, she lived her life committed to improving the lives of others."

ELEANOR THE FIGHTER

If there is one word that describes Eleanor, it is that she was a fighter. All of her life she fought passionately for causes in which she believed.

She battled all manner of medical conditions for many years.

This beautiful, charming and graceful lady would brush aside the ambiguities and focus in on the right thing.

Time and time again, she came to the aid of those in need.

She was superb as a teacher who could clarify the complexities that ground many an endeavor to a halt.

We, the grateful beneficiaries of that wisdom and vitality, will mourn her passing.

We will, however, be thankful that we had the pleasures of her company and sparkling wit to guide us through the stormy seas of life.

Rest in peace, Eleanor - you deserve all of that and more.

Go with God.

- Randall Bloomfield, MD

EDITOR'S NOTES

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Medical Advisory Board of the Foundation welcomes Dr. Paul Lee of Duke University and Dr. Thom Zimmerman of Louisville, Kentucky, to its ranks. These distinguished physicians will be wonderful resources for the FCGCF.

ANOTHER LOSS FOR EYE CARE

We sadly acknowledge the passing of Mansour Armaly, M.D., a nationally known and highly respected ophthalmologist. Dr. Armaly was the chair of the Ophthalmology Department of the George Washington Medical Center from 1970 to 1986. He led an early national study of glaucoma.

According to the *New York Times*, Dr. Armaly discovered an unusually high incidence of glaucoma among family members of those who had the disease. The study, financed by the NIH, determined that the incidence of glaucoma was increased about five fold in those with family histories of the disease.

The study also established that 2% to 4% of people older than 40 were likely to have abnormalities that could lead to glaucoma.

Dr. Armaly will be truly missed.

ENCOURAGING NEWS

The Foundation is committed to encouraging medical students to go into ophthalmology. We continue to support Student Sight Savers Programs in this undertaking.

Recently, several high school students were discussing ophthalmology as a career choice. Arrangements were made to have them meet with Laurey Mogil, MD, a glaucoma specialist in Brooklyn.

When Dr. Mogil spoke to these young students, she was delighted and surprised at their knowledge about the anatomy of the eye. She was so pleased that she offered them the opportunity to see her practice at the Eye Surgery Center in Brooklyn. This remarkable experience suggests that perhaps some students can be approached much earlier than medical school.

- Randall D. Bloomfield

THE FOUNDATION'S HONOR ROLL

Over the past four years, the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation has conducted more than 3,000 screening events in the home Congressional Districts of 146 Members of Congress. In these screenings, the Foundation has seen more than 71,000 men and women at nearly 1,700 locations. We have found more than 10,500 cases of potential glaucoma, and another 10,000 cases of other eye diseases. We thank the Congressmen and Congresswomen who invited us into their neighborhoods.

ALABAMA: Robert Aderholt (4th); Artur Davis (7th). **ARKANSAS:** John Boozman (3rd); Mike Ross (4th); Vic Snyder (2nd). **ARIZONA:** Jim Kolbe (5th); Raul Grijalva (7th); Ed Pastor (4th); Rick Renzi (1st). **CALIFORNIA:** Christopher Cox (48th); Nancy Pelosi (8th); Lucille Roybal-Allard (34th); Grace F. Napolitano (34th); Loretta Sanchez (47th). **CONNECTICUT:** Rosa L. DeLauro (3rd); Nancy L. Johnson (5th); Christopher Shays (4th). **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:** Eleanor Holmes Norton. **DELAWARE:** Michael Castle. **FLORIDA:** Corrine Brown (3rd); Ander Crenshaw (4th); Mario Diaz-Balart (25th); Porter Goss (14th); Alcee L. Hastings (23rd); Ric Keller (8th); Adam H. Putnam (12th); Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (18th); Debbie Wasserman Schultz (20th); Cliff Stearns (6th); David Weldon (15th); Robert Wexler (19th). **GEORGIA:** John Barrow (12th); Max Burns (12th); Jack Kingston (1st); John Lewis (5th); Denise L. Majette (4th); Jim Marshall (3rd); Charlie Norwood (9th). **ILLINOIS:** Danny K. Davis (7th); Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (2nd); Janice D. Schakowsky (9th). **INDIANA:** Dan Burton (5th); Julia Carson (7th). **LOUISIANA:** William J. Jefferson (2nd); Bobby Jindal (1st). **MASSACHUSETTS:** Michael E. Capuano (8th); Stephen F. Lynch (9th); Edward J. Markey (7th). **MARYLAND:** Roscoe G. Bartlett (6th); Benjamin L. Cardin (3rd); Elijah E. Cummings (7th); Wayne Gilchrest (1st); Steny H. Hoyer (5th); Dutch Ruppersberger (2nd); Chris Van Hollen (8th); Albert Russell Wynn (4th). **MICHIGAN:** John Conyers, Jr. (14th); Fred Upton (6th). **MINNESOTA:** Martin Olav Sabo (5th). **MISSOURI:** William Lacy Clay, Jr. (1st). **MISSISSIPPI:** Chip Pickering (3rd); Bennie G. Thompson (2nd); Roger Wicker (1st). **NORTH CAROLINA:** Virginia Foxx (5th); Robin Hayes (8th); Mike McIntyre (7th); Sue Wilkins Myrick (9th); David Price (4th); Melvin L. Watt (12th). **NEBRASKA:** Lee Terry (2nd). **NEW JERSEY:** Robert E. Andrews (1st); Mike Ferguson (7th); Rush Holt (12th); Robert Menendez (13th); Bill Pascrell, Jr. (8th); Donald M. Payne (10th); Steve Rothman (9th). **NEW MEXICO:** Steven Pearce (2nd). **NEW YORK:** Gary L. Ackerman (5th); Tim Bishop (1st); Sherwood Boehlert (23rd); Joseph Crowley (7th); Eliot Engel (17th); Vito J. Fossella, Jr. (13th); Brian Higgins (27th); Steve Israel (2nd); Peter King (3rd); Nita Lowey (18th); Carolyn B. Maloney (14th); Carolyn McCarthy (4th); Gregory W. Meeks (6th); Jerrold Nadler (8th); Major R. Owens (11th); Jack Quinn (27th); Charles B. Rangel (15th); Thomas M. Reynolds (26th); Jose E. Serrano (16th); Louise M. Slaughter (28th); Edolphus Towns (10th); Nydia M. Velazquez (12th); Anthony D. Weiner (9th). **OHIO:** Sherrod Brown (13th); David L. Hobson (7th); Ralph Regula (16th); Tim Ryan (17th); Michael R. Turner (3rd). **OKLAHOMA:** John Sullivan (1st). **PENNSYLVANIA:** Robert A. Brady (1st); Mike Doyle (14th); Chaka Fattah (2nd); Jim Gerlach (6th); Joseph M. Hoeffel (13th). **SOUTH CAROLINA:** James E. Clyburn (6th); Bob Inglis (4th); Joe Wilson (2nd). **TENNESSEE:** Jim Cooper (5th). **TEXAS:** Chris Bell (25th); Henry Bonilla (23rd); Henry Cuellar (28th); John Abney Culberson (7th); Lloyd Doggett (10th); Charles A. Gonzalez (20th); Gene Green (29th); Ruben Hinojosa (15th); Eddie Bernice Johnson (30th); Nick Lampson (9th); Sheila Jackson Lee (18th); Kenny Marchant (24th); Randy Neugebauer (19th); Solomon P. Ortiz (27th); Ron Paul (14th); Ted Poe (2nd); Ciro D. Rodriguez (28th); Lamar S. Smith (21st). **UTAH:** Rob Bishop (1st); John Carter (31st). **VIRGINIA:** Eric L. Cantor (7th); Shelly Moore Capito (2nd); Thomas M. Davis (11th); Virgil H. Goode, Jr. (5th); Jim Moran (8th); Edward Schrock (2nd); Robert C. Scott (3rd). **VIRGIN ISLANDS:** Donna M. Christensen. **WEST VIRGINIA:** Alan B. Mollohan (1st).