



GLAUCOMA REPORTS

WINTER 2006

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

NEW COLLABORATIVES PLANNED FOR 2006

by Bud Grant, President

The Foundation's success in its Southwest Texas Eye Care Collaborative and in the older Washington, D.C., Eye Care Collaborative has convinced us that these efforts are worth applying in other settings. In 2006 this will be our main effort: to coordinate large-scale collaborative eye care entities based on the models that SW Texas and the nation's capital presents.

The FCGCF's newest effort will be the Metropolitan Eye Care Collaborative in New York City and its surrounding suburbs. With the aide of New York's senior Congressman (and one of the founders of the original Congressional Glaucoma Caucus), Charles B. Rangel, along with Carolyn Maloney and Nydia Velázquez of Manhattan, José E. Serrano, Eliot Engel, and Joseph Crowley of the Bronx, Edolphus Towns, Major Owens, Gregory Meeks, Jerrold Nadler, and Anthony Weiner of Brooklyn and Queens, Vito Fossella, Jr., of Staten Island, Nita Lowey of Westchester, Gary Ackerman, Tim Bishop, Steve Israel, Pete King, and Carolyn McCarthy of Long Island, and newly named Senator Robert L. Menendez of New Jersey, the Metropolitan Eye



Congressman José E. Serrano of the Bronx having his eyes checked in the Foundation's Mobile Eye Care Unit at a screening in the Fall of 2005. Helping the Congressman is technician Margie Irizarry.

Care Collaborative will reach out to more than 20,000,000 men and women in the greater New York Metropolitan Region.

The Foundation already supports screening and follow-up efforts at Columbia University's Harkness Eye Institute, Cornell-Weill Medical College, Harlem Hospital, Mt. Sinai, Manhattan Eye and Ear, New Jersey College of Medicine, New York Hospital-Queens, New York University, and SUNY Downstate Health Science Center in Brooklyn. The new Collaborative will include a Mobile Eye Screening Unit to be used exclusively by the

group's partners, and will also include ophthalmology fellows to be funded by the FCGCF. In keeping with our philosophy as we have evolved it, follow-up and treatment will be a top priority.

Already the Foundation has screened more than 17,000 men and women in this area, which is a good strong showing, but it is only a beginning. The Metropolitan Eye Care Collaborative will soon be the very model of a partnership among all health care players in New York City metropolitan region.

FCGCF BY THE NUMBERS

OUTCOMES

Total number of screenings4,129
Total screening locations2,025
Total people screened to date . .94,639
Total people referred for suspicion of glaucoma13,507
Total people screened for eye diseases other than glaucoma . .14,399

DEMOGRAPHICS

Total women screened59,606
Total men screened32,886
African-Americans21,343
Asians3,592
Caucasians16,029
Hispanic45,560
Other1,956

AGE

19 and younger1,785
20-3921,289
40-6446,092
65 and older21,147
Mean Age51

ON THE ROAD AGAIN: FCGCF VAN TRAVELS ACROSS TEXAS, ARIZONA, AND NEW MEXICO IN A MONTH OF SCREENINGS



Congressman Jim Kolbe of Arizona's 8th District, stands in front of the FCGCF's MESU in Tucson. With the Congressman is his Aide Petra Quiroga, a longtime supporter of our efforts in Arizona. In Tucson, the MESU participated in screenings at St. Elizabeth's of Hungary Church and La Lo Guerrero Residence.

The idea of having a mobile glaucoma program was pushed "about as far as it could go" as the words of the song from Oklahoma have it. In fact, one of the Foundation's MESUs went much further than Oklahoma. In late January, the Mobile Eye Screening Unit traveled from San Antonio, Texas to Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona, criss-crossing New Mexico and western Texas on the way.

Along the way, visits were made to various Congressional District offices. In El Paso, Texas, driver-manager Steve Lutz stopped at the local office of Congressman Silvestre

Reyes, where the Congressman's assistant Yvonne Escobar toured the van and received press materials aboard the MESU. The vehicle then proceeded north to Las Cruces, New Mexico, for a visit to Congressman Steve Pearce's office. Pearce's District Representatives Donna McClanahan and AnaMaria Salazar had their questions answered about the mobile unit and the work of the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation. The effectiveness of Steve's trip to Congressman Pearce's office has already been proven. In the week following the MESU's visit to

Las Cruces, Congressman Pearce has contacted the Foundation and asked how he can help advance its work. Further north in Santa Fe, New Mexico stop offs included Congressman Tom Udall's office and a tour of the van by Michele Jacquez-Ortiz, the District Director. The final stop in New Mexico was in Albuquerque with Congresswoman Heather Wilson's staff, Carrie Phillis, Donna Trone, and Darlene Garcia. Next, MESU proceeded west to Phoenix, Arizona with visits to the offices of Congressman John Shadegg where Steve met with Senior District Aide Bruce Raden and District Aide Joan Hosey. Next stop was at the office of Congressman J.D. Hayworth in Scottsdale. District Scheduler and Outreach Coordinator, Constance Powell was very impressed with the MESU. At Congressman Ed Pastor's office, E. Mari Herrera-Daniels, Community Liaison, met with Steve. Another visit took the MESU to the office of Congressman Jim Kolbe, whose assistant Petra Quiroga has been a help to the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation many times in the past five years, arranging screenings through the University of Arizona's Student Sight Savers Program. Steve and the MESU also visited the office of Congressman Raul Grijalva.

After the District office visits, a series of screenings were held, beginning with one at Clinica Adelante's Tidwell Family Care Center in Surprise, Arizona, in the district of Congressman Trent Franks.

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President: S. J. Bud Grant Chairman: Anthony Pisacano, MD

Editor: Randall D. Bloomfield, MD Managing Editor: Brian Quinn

Contributors: Martha Cahill, Esq.; Geordie Frei; Loraine Karimullah; Steve Lutz; Michele Mirro; Vipul Patel; Mary Scott Pearson; Maya Rockeymoore; Sharmon Thornton

THE FRIENDS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL GLAUCOMA CAUCUS FOUNDATION

SUITE 111, 1983 MARCUS AVENUE

LAKE SUCCESS, NY 11042

TELEPHONE: 516/327-2236

WWW.GLAUCOMACONGRESS.ORG



VISION VAN HONORED

Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (center) and FCGCF President Bud Grant (left) traveled to Miami to congratulate Dr. Carmen Puliafito (right) and his team from the Bascom-Palmer Eye Institute "Vision Van" for the work they had done after Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc on the Gulf Coast last fall. The Vision Van, which is behind the group here, was dispatched to the New Orleans area where it helped to provide rescue services. Because of its support for Bascom-Palmer, the FCGCF was included in the official commendation to the Vision Van.

THE FACES OF FCGCF



Sharmon Paschal Thornton

Since its inception in 2001, the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation has benefited tremendously from the dedicated service of Sharmon Paschal Thornton. Sharmon was instrumental in working with the Washington Congressional Delegation to establish the Foundation as the action arm of the

Congressional Glaucoma Caucus (CGC). It was Sharmon who established many of the Foundation's vital early relationships with members of Congress and their all-important staffs.

Sharmon, who resides in Arlington, Virginia, received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology/Social Work from Central State University in Ohio and later received her Masters Degree in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Michigan. She also participated in the prestigious Brookings Institution LEGIS Fellows Program.

Bringing with her over 20 years of experience within the Department of Defense as a career civil service employee

and political appointee, Sharmon has successfully served in the planning, coordination and execution of the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus Foundation programs with particular emphasis on the nations capitol and surrounding metropolitan area. In addition, she has planned and participated in broad-based screenings for glaucoma (frequently including diabetes and hypertension) in Alabama, Arkansas, the Carolina's, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Pennsylvania, and the Virgin Islands.

Sharmon also serves as Legislative Consultant to Congressman Charles Rangel, and acts as a liaison between the congressman's office, the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center at Howard University, Appropriations Committee staffs, the US Department of State, other federal agencies, and coordinates annual congressional placements for "Rangel Fellows," through The Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program.

On behalf of the FCGCF, Sharmon cultivates congressional contacts, participates in strategic planning, and has a deft hand in development of legislative initiatives. She also supports the work of the Metropolitan DC Eye Care Collaborative which includes Howard University Hospital, Washington Hospital National Eye Care Center, George Washington University School of Medicine, and Georgetown University Medical Center. Sharmon has also been a great friend to the Foundation's CEO and President Bud Grant and managed to completely surprise him with a special dinner in his honor in December. "Sharmon has always been our rock in Washington," said Bud Grant. "She knows everyone and every place in the District, and, frankly, what Sharmon doesn't know isn't worth knowing."