

AOS Foundation Newsletter December 2016



The New Arizona Medical Eye Unit Arrives!!!



As 2016 comes to a close, the AOS Foundation and Arizona Lions have much to celebrate! The new Arizona Medical Eye Unit (AMEU) was christened on October 29, 2016 at the Sheraton Four Points, Phoenix South Mountain. The new trailer has significant upgrades that include a more fuel efficient design, auto leveling, a handicapped entry lift, larger exam lanes and new ophthalmic equipment! The new auto-refractor and lensometer will reduce exam times and improve efficiency. The combination of a new trailer and relatively new truck will allow the AMEU to continue serving the ophthalmic needs of rural Arizonans well into the future.

The old trailer is retiring to Mexico as a gift from the Arizona Lions to the Mexican Caborca Lions Club. While it served us well since 1976, it will continue its eye care mission in Northern Mexico. Our former trailer was gratefully received and it will be used in the same capacity, with a less demanding travel schedule.



While we celebrate the new trailer our work continues to raise funds for a power generator and to identify and train AMEU staff for the next generation of clinics.

Thank you for your past and future support!

The new AMEU Ribbon Cutting Ceremony (left)

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Arizona Lions Award Ceremony

Funding our trailer has been a labor of love by hundreds of people that spanned multiple years. Arizona Lions Vision Center Executive Director, Jeannette Russell, presented Recognition Awards to many individuals and groups that provided their time, talents and financial assistance make the new trailer a reality. This was a massive team effort from the grass roots levels of all organizations. Among the recipients were members within the following Lions groups; Lions International for providing a matching grant that doubled the Arizona Lions Club efforts, the North Phoenix Lions

Club, the Tucson Lions Clubs and the Family of Florence Umphrey.

The AOS award was received by AOS Foundation Chair, Jeff Edelstein and AOS member Tom McPhee (photo left). Lou Shone, founder of Ophthalmic Instruments, Inc. and daughter Christy Mikesell (OII AZ director and AOSF Board member) were recognized for outstanding corporate and individual and contributions

(photo right).

The AOS was further honored with a sponsorship banner on the trailer itself for membership volunteerism, medical expertise and fundraising efforts since the inception of the program.



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An interview with the AOS Foundation Chair

Jeff Edelstein, M.D.

Q: Why did you start the AOS Foundation?

A: The AMEU program has been chugging along with 50–70 clinics/year since 1976. In 2011, I felt it was necessary to create a sustainable funding mechanism to ensure a strong future for the program because of the positive impact it has on rural Arizonan's that lack access to medical eye care.

Q: Why do AOS members volunteer their services?

A: AOS members have been remarkably generous with their time due to the rewards of giving back to the community. They are



(Jeff, Christy and Greg pictured above)

rewarded by interacting with Arizonans in areas not typically travelled and receiving the kindness of grateful patients. Over the 30 years I've been doing annual clinics, I find there are always one or two patients per clinic where I've made a dramatic impact on the quality of their lives. The AMEU experience differs from the daily office experience and offers a chance to rekindle skills due to the diversity of patients.

Q: Who are the key members of the AOS Foundation Board?

A: We have enjoyed significant success since AOSF began and I have many to thank, but I could not have done this without Christy Mikesell who has been an energetic force in executing the vision for our annual campaign events and corporate sponsorships. Of course, Greg King Director AMEU, has been a wealth of compelling stories and photos generated from AMEU clinics as well as his in-depth knowledge of the needs for rural community and Indian Health Centers. Robert Spurny MD has a similar 30+ year history working AMEU clinics and as OPAC Chair is able to shine the light on rural patient needs to State and National politicians who can be removed from that reality. Finally, Jeannette Russell, Executive Director Arizona Lions, has such a passion for this program seen by her operational management skills, collaboration with other Lions Clubs and fundraising to keep the AMEU alive.

Q: What challenges did you face?

The urgency became apparent in 2014 when the AMEU trailer door literally fell off the trailer on the freeway! The early AOSF fundraising from silent auctions set the groundwork for our move to larger events. In 2015, the success of our Top Golf event evolved with Christy following her mother's philanthropic tradition and Ophthalmic Instruments, Inc soliciting corporate sponsorships. Bob Spurny MD created "event buzz" with the "King's Cup" travelling trophy. The "Cup" transformed Bob into an effective spokesman and recruiter for the event. I brought in GiveSmart which streamlined event management through an online platform allowing digital registration, consignment items for auction, pre-event bidding, on-site/remote Silent Auction bidding and post event accounting. This years "Casino Night" was a similar success netting over \$18,000!

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AOSF Casino Night—September 24, 2016



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Our Donors and Volunteers are the Best!!!

AOSF Charity Event, Sept 24, 2016

Individual Donors

Sara Alcock, Nicholas Alcock, Andrea Bakall, Ben Bakall, Mark Barakat, Denise Bee, David Bee, Mary Bain, Mike Bain, Kaelin Bernier, Stephanie Briney, Ray Bryant, Ann Bullington, Paul Hermens, Penny Burns, Savannah Callaway, Liz Carett, Harry D Carrozza, Steven Chen, Chris Chorkey, Cindy Collins, Mandi Conway, Gene Cox, Doug Crane, Xiaoxuan Dai, Stephen Desouza, Vinay Dewan, Pravin Dugel, Carol Dulis, Jeff Edelstein, John Edelstein, Misha Faustina, Kurt Feil, Kendra Frey, Erick Foy, Gerald Ford, Suzanne Foy, Ali Ghafouri, Suzann Grabe, Wayne Grabe, David Goldenberg, Dan Hall, Mike Harlan, Chris Healy, Christina Healy, Carmen Hoffman, Erin Hughes, Jennessa Iannitelli, Karen Janitell, Christopher Jenkins, Keith Johnson, Tom Jorishie, Irena Juras, Emilio Justo, Roy Kadair, Johanna Keys, Greg King, Derek Kunimoto, Yael Kusne, Mark Kwong, Caroline Kwong, Valerie LaBlanc, Ashleigh Levison, Niousha Liefer, Peter Liefer, Doug Mapson, Jeff Mapson, Evelyn Marchi, Kimberly Martin, Pat Martin, Tom McPhee, Caleb Mayes, Sachin Mehta, Don Miles, Gholam Peyman, George Reiss, David Roberts, Gary Robles, Angel Romo, Sabrina Romo, Jeannette Russell, Manasa Sagaram, Charles Schafer, Thomas Seymour, Joann Shaw, Ron, Jordana Smith, Ron Sotak, Robert Spurny, John Sullivan, Jon Valla, Beth Vander Schaff, Anabelle Walter, Randall Walter, Nicole Warrington, Jenny Wheeler, Katy Welch, Matt Welch, Robert Wilkiewicz

Volunteers

MidWestern University Ophthalmology Club

Thomas Seymour, Manasa Sagaram, Caleb Mayes, Kaelin Bernier, Xiaoxuan Dai

KAB the Band (Scott LeComte, Mark Moffatt, Pat Redl, Eric Jones, Jon Ruterman)
Dennis Schimansky, Jeff Hinton, Elijah LeComte, Lauri Johnson, Shauna Mote,
Karen Morabito, Patrice Hand, Joni Bowers



Please Support our Corporate Donors

AOSF Casino Night 2016



Arizona Diamondbacks
Arizona Cardinals
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Arizona Lions Vision Center
Bath & Body Works
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Clean Slate
Eye Physicians & Surgeons of Arizona
Fogo De Chao GC
George Reiss, MD PC
GiveSmart
Hacienda del Sol
Hub Bar & Grille
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Ophthalmic Instruments, Inc
Panera Bread
Phoenix Ophthalmological Society
Red Flower
Retinal Consultants of Arizona
Starbucks
Sidewinders Subs
Topcon Medical Systems
Jerry Mitchell Leather
Villages Racquet Club



The new AMEU trailer will be a lasting legacy to your generous donations
Our work to support the program continues!

2017 AOS Foundation Donations

Your donation will maintain rural access to medical eye care for future generations

My 2017 AOSF Pledge/Donation: _____

Online donation: www.aosfoundation.org

Check:

Please make payable to AOS Foundation and mail:

2201 East Camelback Road, Suite 405B, Phoenix, Arizona 85016

Check#_____ **Amount\$**_____

Credit Card: Visa () MasterCard () AMEX () Other:_____

Card #_____

Exp: ____/____ **CVC#:** _____

Equity, Bond or In-kind Donations:

ACF Contact: Michelle Arndt 602-682-2052-email: marndt@azfoundation.org

The AOS Foundation is a component of the Arizona Community Foundation

AOSF Contact: Patrice Hand: 602-347-6901-email: Patrice@azmed.org

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