




THE VISION *of* CHILDREN

NEW HOPE IN SIGHT

Pioneering work at University College London's (UCL), Moorfields Eye Hospital, started last year with the world's first attempt to treat a vision disorder using human gene therapy. The team from UCL is led by Professor Robin Ali and includes leading eye surgeon, Dr. James Bainbridge, a guest speaker at our Vision of Children World Symposium in 2006!

The Phase I/II clinical trial is a novel approach to cure a form of childhood blindness called Leber's congenital amaurosis (LCA), an inherited disease that leads to the degeneration of the retina. One gene, RPE65, hinders a layer of cells located at the back of the eye from doing their job. These cells, called photoreceptors, are responsible for detecting light signals, converting them into electrical impulses and transmitting this information via the optic nerve into the brain. The aim of the trial is to restore vision by introducing healthy copies of the defective RPE65 gene into the back of the eye using a harmless virus as a carrier. A comparable approach has been very successful in dogs with the same genetic defect, leading to restored vision.

UCL researchers hope that these new trials on humans will have a large impact on future treatments for many different inherited eye diseases. It is important to note that the use of gene therapy will have to be studied independently and tested in separate clinical trials for each individual eye disease.

The Vision of Children Foundation's team is very excited about this incredible news. The Foundation's goal, since its inception in 1991, has been to cure hereditary childhood blindness & vision disorders. We are happy to be able to say ... hope is in sight!! 



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MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN:



Dear Friends:

Greetings to all of our Foundation's supporters, sponsors and volunteers!
I hope 2008 promises to bring good health and happiness to you throughout the year.

In December 2007, we hosted our Andrea Bocelli Concert in New York. This exclusive event brought forth old friends of the foundation and many new ones, too! This was one of our strongest efforts to date, bringing together Foundation Friends who support our cause of finding a cure for genetic vision disorders in children. We are proud of the concert's enormous success which raised needed funds to support our dedicated researchers worldwide.

Exciting news from our research world: the first human gene therapy trial for hereditary vision disorders is currently underway at Moorfield's Hospital in London, under the supervision of Dr. James Bainbridge. Some of you may recognize Dr. Bainbridge as one of our presenters at the Vision of Children's World Symposium in Capri in 2006.

Our Foundation is committed to help researchers and scientists move forward on these innovative, life-altering studies. We are eager to help support more studies and research that will ultimately benefit children living with vision disorders around the world. Our Scientific Director, Nicole Schick, Ph.D., and our Development Coordinator, Kristy Winters, are working diligently to support the mission of our foundation by developing new and creative ways to help fund the Foundation's programs. Find out how you can help by calling the Foundation at (858) 799-0745 today!

Our goal in 2008 is to tangibly benefit the more than 850,000 children in the United States who suffer from serious vision impairment; a loss of vision that makes it hard or impossible to do daily tasks without specialized adaptations, and which cannot be corrected to a "normal" level.

Eleanor Roosevelt is famous for her quote, "Tomorrow starts today." Tomorrow's children will benefit from the work we are doing today and that is a powerful motivator for our foundation. With your support, we are confident that we can make a difference!

Thank you for all that you do for the children of the world!

Warmest personal regards,

Samuel A. Hardage

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Samuel A. Hardage
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Editor, Eyesite

Kristy Winters
Development Coordinator
Co-Writer, Eyesite

RESEARCH MATTERS

Meet one of The Vision of Children Foundation's supported researchers, Dr. Alex Yuan.

Alex Yuan M.D., Ph.D., is a very promising young physician researcher in the field of vision and ophthalmology. After earning his M.D./Ph.D. from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Dr. Yuan moved his family to Los Angeles and became a research fellow and ophthalmology resident in the EyeSTAR program (the only one of its kind in the country). EyeSTAR is a highly selective, rigorous program co-sponsored by the Jules Stein Eye Institute/Department of Ophthalmology and the UCLA School of Medicine. The applicant completes clinical training in a residency toward certification in Ophthalmology and advanced research training. Since his arrival at JSEI, Dr. Yuan has been producing exciting results. He has spent the past two years in the laboratory of Professor Debora B. Farber conducting research on the characterization of microvesicles -- fragments of plasma membrane that shed from almost all cell types.



Debora B. Farber (left) and Alex Yuan

These microvesicles contain mRNA and proteins which fuse to target cells, potentially mediating the transfer of mRNA and proteins from cell to cell. Dr. Yuan hopes these microvesicles will be used to treat degenerative diseases of the eye.

Last year, Dr. Yuan was the recipient of the Robert E. Christensen, M.D., Research Award given by the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Association annually to an outstanding resident or fellow. A grant from The Vision of Children Foundation has made it possible for Dr. Yuan to continue his studies on cell microvesicles. Look for new developments in his research in our next newsletter. ☺

THE SCIENTIST IS IN

Have you ever read an article in the newspaper and wondered what certain terms such as "vector", "virus", and "gene therapy" mean? Well, VOC would like to give you the opportunity to ask our scientist, Dr. Nicole Schick, any scientific questions you ever wanted to know. We will answer your questions by e-mail. Every month we will pick a great question and answer it (anonymously of course) on our web-site. So, don't be afraid to ask!

To start, we will answer a question relevant to our cover story:

Q. What is human gene therapy?

A. Gene therapy is the introduction of a healthy gene into human cells to replace a faulty, disease causing gene.

We all look a little like our parents, since we received their genes that encode instructions on how to make proteins. Although genes get a lot of attention, it's the proteins that perform most life functions and even make up the majority of cellular structures. When genes are altered so that the encoded proteins are unable to carry out their normal jobs, genetic disorders can result. The goal of gene therapy is to

introduce healthy copies of the faulty gene back into the cells and therefore restore the function of the protein. There are different ways scientists can deliver the healthy gene to the cells. One possible way is the use of a transport vehicle called a "vector". Currently, the most common vectors are viruses that have been altered by researchers to be harmless and carry the normal human gene. The viral vectors transport the corrected gene into target cells, such as the cells in the back of our eyes, where they unload their cargo into the cells. The healthy genes are then able to produce functional proteins that are finally able to fulfill their job. We look forward to answering questions from you!

Please e-mail your questions to :
nschick@visionofchildren.org ☺



MOVEMENT CAN BE DECELERATING

Nystagmus is an involuntary eye movement (or wobbling of the eyes) that begins in the first year of life. It becomes most evident at about two to four months of age and may be inherited, due to an unknown cause or may be associated with a sensory problem, such as albinism. The direct cause for nystagmus is instability in the motor system controlling the eyes. In most cases, children with infantile nystagmus have decreased vision that is uncorrectable by glasses, though glasses may help to reduce the eye movement.

The Vision of Children Foundation is funding, in partnership with the Communities Foundation of Texas, a new nystagmus research program at The Retina Foundation of the Southwest. This unique project, under the supervision of Dr. Eileen Birch, utilizes a novel eye movement recording system to evaluate acuity development in infants and children with infantile nystagmus.

COMPUTERRIFIC

From scholastics to careers, technology has evolved to become an inescapable facet of our everyday lives. This reliance on technology becomes an increasing problem for visually impaired students in academia, who tend to fall behind in computer application and comprehension. For most low-vision individuals, using a computer comes hand in hand with back pain, neck aches, and eye strain. At The

Recently, new surgical and pharmacological methods have been studied to improve vision in older children and adults with nystagmus. Interestingly, researchers think that infants and young children will benefit the most from the new treatment strategies as the visual areas of their brain may not develop correctly if they don't receive proper stimulation. To this day, not much is known about the correlation of the eye movement to visual development in infants and young children with nystagmus. This research project is exceptional in that it unites the analysis of visual acuity and eye movement studies. The acquired data will significantly support the basis for the development of treatment trials for infantile nystagmus. ☺

Vision of Children Foundation, we have worked to address this technological problem by introducing our innovative Computer Monitor systems -- a flat-screen LCD monitor attached to a retractable arm. Initially launched in 2003, this program has made remarkable progress in schools around the country.

Teachers and parents have reviewed their child's progress on our computer monitors in the past, and have reported an 85% increase in the child's usage over the short span of three months! Students utilizing our monitors have reported an average increase of 40-60% in overall comfort!

Due to generous grant funding from Price Charities, Delta Gamma, Cush, and Country Friends, The Vision of Children Foundation was able to grant over 25 monitors in 2007, and will continue this beneficial project in 2008. The Foundation encourages all students, parents, and schools to apply for a computer monitor system. ☺

SHOP, SWIPE, AND RALPHS DONATES FOR FREE!

Now going grocery shopping can earn you more than dinner ingredients! You can help VOC earn much-needed research dollars every time you visit a Ralphs Supermarket at no-cost to you! This is one of the easiest and fastest ways to help The Vision of Children Foundation.



Here is how to join:

1. Visit www.ralphs.com
2. Click on "community contributions"
3. Click on "participants"
4. Register your card with The Vision of

Children Organization, NPO number 84900, by following the easy online directions.

Do you use your phone number instead of your card at the register? We've got you covered that way, too. Call 800-660-9003 to register your card number with the Foundation. Don't have a Club Card yet? Then just pick one up at the customer service desk at any Ralphs and start saving (and earning) today. With this new partnership, VOC will automatically earn rebates each and every time you shop and swipe your card at Ralphs. This is a simple way to help friends and loved ones who rely on the VOC's progress in genetic research. ☺



I GIVE WHEN YOU GIVE

Who knew that one quick, easy online session could reap rewards for VOC at over 680 of your favorite stores? That is exactly what will happen when you sign

up for iGive! iGive is a fabulous new way to help VOC raise money, at no additional cost to you! There are no club cards to keep track of or codes to enter. iGive automatically calculates the donation from the online store without any work on your part. You will even get free gift certificates and more by being an iGive member. Sounds too good to be true? Surprise! It really is that simple.

To get started:

1. Log on to www.igive.com/welcome/
2. Select "The Vision of Children Foundation" as the cause you would like to support
3. Download the pop-up window which will let you know if any future website you shop from participates in iGive
4. Start shopping! Up to 26% of your spent dollars will be donated to VOC every time you spend money at any of the iGive-affiliated stores -- which include Staples, Gap, Delta, Southwest Vacations, Best Buy, Target, Expedia.com and loads more!!

So what's stopping you? Make sure you always enter the store via iGive, this automatically allocates your visit and your purchase to the VOC. ☺

GO FISH

Are you a devoted Ebay-er? Do you have a pile of unwanted items that you've been meaning to sell? Well, now's the time! Sign up to be an Ebay vendor and, through www.missionfish.org, you can donate a percentage of each item you sell to the Vision of Children (at no extra cost). Just pick "The Vision of Children Foundation" as your chosen non-profit recipient and decide what percent of the sales price you'd like to donate. That's it! Once you're signed up, you can list your things as you normally would (bidding is the same, too). Once your item sells, Missionfish will collect its donation from you, the seller, and pay VOC. It will also provide a tax receipt for your benefit. We call this recycling at its finest! For more information, visit www.missionfish.org and start selling (and donating) today! ☺

SEE HOW FAR A CARD CAN GO!

Now when you send a card, you give children the hope that they will be able to see clearly some day soon. We have teamed up with Tiny*Prints, a company offering premium, personalized, social stationery. Tiny*Prints provides simple, fresh, modern and unique stationery from birth announcements, holiday cards, party invitations, thank you cards and other fine stationery for all family and business occasions. They also offer exclusive designs from the nation's top designers, easy card personalization, a powerful preview engine and top-notch customer service. Their designs have been lauded by numerous television networks, publications, and celebrity parents. Most importantly, 20 % of your Tiny*Prints order benefits the Vision of Children programs as long as you enter the promotion code VISION.

How it works:

1. Go to the Tiny*Prints web-site; www.tinyprints.com
2. Create your photo card. Choose the card design. Upload your photo. In a few easy steps you can create your photo card for any occasion.
3. Place your order. Check out through the tiny*prints web-site.
4. Enter the promotion code VISION (you will not see a deduction of your price, since the money will be donated to the VOC).
5. Tiny*Prints will mail your photo cards to you and a donation check to the VOC. ☺



WE'VE GOT A NEW LOOK!

Check out our new look! Our creative new web-site will be launching soon. Our "EyeGive" tool allows you to donate with one click. We've been very busy working on remodeling our web-site including: reporting information, research updates, and putting up loads new fantastic pictures of our VOC families! We love hearing from all of you so keep the stories and updates coming. If you haven't noticed already, we've redone our "EyeSite" Newsletter! Keep an eye open for our new and improved brochure coming your way this spring. We hope you will enjoy the new look. We are working hard to make our Foundation the best it can be and hope you agree that we are making huge strides! The current VOC Web site, which includes details about the Foundation and our events, will stay online throughout the redesign phase. The new Web site will debut later this spring! ☺


WELCOMING OUR NEW TEAM

Please help us give a big "Willkommen/Welcome" to our new Scientific Director, Dr. Nicole Schick and our new Development Coordinator, Kristy Winters.

Originally from Mannheim, Germany, Nicole first arrived in the U.S. as a Masters student at the prestigious Salk Institute in La Jolla, CA. After graduation, she took her talents to Switzerland, where she obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Basel. Dr. Schick must have been bitten by the Southern California bug, because she returned to San Diego to take her residency at the Salk Institute. At the Salk Institute, Dr.



4TH ANNUAL RACE FOR SIGHT - MAY 4, 2008 @ 4:00PM

This unique Charity event is sponsored by  the San Diego Alumnae Chapter of Delta Gamma and has benefited The Vision of Children Foundation from its inception in 2005. The event takes place at Miramar Speed Circuit—an indoor Kart racing facility—and consists of dinner, racing, an opportunity drawing, a silent auction, and free arcade games to play. The heart of the event is the RACING—RELAY Races in which each team gets one kart and they compete against each other on a 1/4-mile race track at speeds of up to 40 mph! The races run 60 laps each and up to ten teams can compete in each race. You can have between two to four drivers on your team and the first team to complete 60 laps wins! Registration is being accepted now and space is limited, so reserve your spot today.

Visit www.sandiegodeltagamma.org/race.htm for details and registration information or contact event co-chairman, Megan Powers, at mcpowers@cox.net or 619-851-8986. Come on down, help VOC, and have a whole lot of fun in the process. Let the RACES begin! ☺

BOCCE BALL TOURNAMENT

The Vision of Children Foundation has paired up with the Del Mar-Solana Beach Rotary Club to become one of the beneficiaries of their 12th Annual Rotary Turf Bocce Ball Family Day & Tournament. Individuals, families, and business groups can have a great time while doing a good thing for the community. The Tournament will take place at the Del Mar Horsepark in



San Diego on March 9th. We are looking to form some VOC teams. If you are interested please contact us.

The day is sure to be filled with fun for all! ☺

"MAINLY MOZART"

The Vision of Children Foundation is partnering with "Mainly Mozart" to offer two hours of enjoyment at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido. The concert features acclaimed "Mainly Mozart" concertmaster, William Preucil, plus principal players from leading orchestras across North America. The concert will be performed on June 22nd at 2:00pm. Please contact us for tickets. They are on sale now for only \$15. You and your family will enjoy an entertaining evening. All proceeds from the concert benefit the VOC. ☺

WHY DON'T YOU GET BETTER GLASSES?



That's the kind of question kids with visual impairment hear all the time, yet few have an answer -- until now!

"All Children Have Different Eyes" is a self-help book available for kids with low-vision conditions. It stars, Tommy with wobbly eyes (nystagmus); Wendy with crossed eyes (strabismus); and other co-stars who have cataracts, albinism or red/green color deficiency. The characters confidently and competently explain their condition to kids like Lucy who asks "Are you blind? I can see it!" Through engaging stories and beautiful illustrations, Tommy and Wendy also model how to become part of play groups, handle mistakes responsibly, and take leadership roles with their friends.

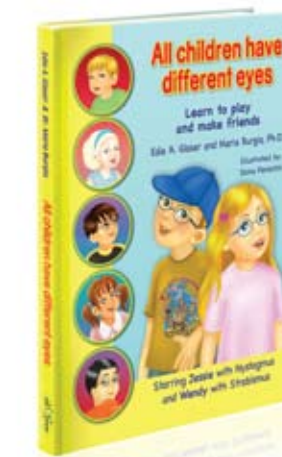
"The story offers more than models of

good behavior," says Dr. Burgio, co-author and child-psychiatrist. "By reading this book to children with visual impairment, parents and teachers can start important conversations with their child about their own daily challenges in the classroom and on the playground. That can lead to life-changing opportunities for positive social development." To help in this effort, the book explains the social competencies modeled by each of the characters and provides specific activities for parents and teachers to use as they nurture healthy play and social interactions in their child. "All Children Have Different Eyes" is a complete package suitable as an early chapter book reader for ages 4-8, as a professional development tool, and as a parenting guide.

The Vision of Children Foundation has teamed up with the book author, Edie Glaser. If you buy a copy of "All Children Have Different Eyes" from the VOC, \$7

of the book price will go directly toward vision research programs supported by the VOC.

Please return the enclosed envelope for your book order or contact us directly at 858-799-0745. We will be happy to mail your book for \$16.95 (plus \$5.00 shipping & handling fees). ☺



Kristy Winters (left) and Nicole Schick

FAMILY NETWORK

KID OF THE MONTH

This year we are launching our new “Kid of the Month” program. We would like to give you a chance to tell us and everybody in our network about your amazing child. We will choose one child every month who will be highlighted on our new web-site as “Kid of the Month.” In addition, this superstar will receive a small gift as well as the acknowledgement of being famous in the VOC world! Our first honoree for the month of January is 18 year old, high school senior, Chase Hardage.

When Chase Hardage was a little boy, doctors said he would never be able to participate in sports, drive a car, or live a normal life. But, luckily for him and everyone in the VOC community, Chase’s parents were unwilling to accept the doctor’s prognosis. Instead, Sam and Vivian Hardage came out fighting, and founded The Vision of Children Foundation, dedicated to eradicating childhood blindness and genetic vision disorders.

Years later, Chase, who has Ocular Albinism (OA), is rarely home – he’s too busy playing three varsity sports, driving from one practice to another, and hanging out with his friends during his rare down time. But Chase is not just a team player, he’s a truly top-notch athlete, and he’s got the medals to prove it. As a junior in high school, he took home the gold medal for the 171

pound weight class at the San Diego Section CIF Wrestling tournament. In December, his Cathedral High School football team captured the San Diego Division III CIF championship title. Chase played left tackle for the offensive line throughout the team’s winning season. Winning two CIF championships is an outstanding accomplishment for any kid, but an almost unheard-of result for a child affected by OA. Chase’s success is a testament to the power of his determination, motivation, and hard work. It is proof that a visual impairment doesn’t need to stand in the way of achieving one’s dreams. Now finishing up his senior year of high school, it’s not vision problems that are presenting challenges for this young sportsman ... it’s deciding where to attend college next year. We know how stressful choosing the right school can be – but in Chase’s case, we’re also sure of one thing- he’s going to continue to surprise and impress us all. *Good luck and Go Get ‘Em, Chase.* ☺



IN HONOR AND MEMORY PROGRAM

Many of you have made a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one and shared your stories with us. We would like to share these stories with our supporters. Therefore, we have created the “In Honor and Memory Program”. When a donation is made in honor or memory of a loved one we acknowledge this with a card to the honoree or to the family of the remembered. We may share your sentiments in our newsletter and on our web-site, with your permission. This is a meaningful way to pay tribute to someone special.

We begin the program with a donation that was made by the Bruskotter family in memory of their dear friend, Ian Gonzalez, who passed away last June. Ian, was a wonderful supporter of the Vision of Children Foundation and is remembered by his sister, father, aunt, grandmother, and friends as a beautiful, joyous spirit who will be greatly missed, but always remembered. ☺



GET HOOKED ON FACEBOOK!

Ever wonder what your teenager is doing on the web? Chances are, they’re plugged into the latest networking craze: Facebook! Teens and young adults spend a majority of their web-surfing time on Facebook’s online community. Whether it is surfing through pictures of friends, sending virtual gifts, playing virtual games, or commenting on each other’s “walls” -- generation x, y and z kids are doing it via Facebook! Recognizing this new addiction, The Vision of Children Foundation has made its move, and is now part of the frenzy! Get your teens linked to the digital-side of VOC. Visit us at http://apps.facebook.com/causes/view_cause/8966.

Join our cause, view our friends, read our blogs! Click, connect, and chat with us directly! (And don’t worry—we’re kid-safe. You can join the community too!) ☺



SPREAD THE WORD

As our Family Network grows we are in need of people who will serve as a fountain of knowledge for our new family network members. If you would like to volunteer as a geographical contact person please let us know. Several states are in need of a contact person. Our contact volunteers are reachable through our Family Network via e-mail or phone to answer questions, inform them of programs in their area, or to be a friendly voice to let them know that they are not alone. ☺

ARE YOU UP-TO-DATE?

E-mail newsletters from The Vision of Children Foundation are an excellent way to stay informed on the latest research, clinical trial information, and event notifications. Please visit us at www.visionofchildren.org to sign up for our e-mail updates. It helps if you add the VOC to your e-mail list to avoid losing our e-mails in your spam folder. ☺



INSIGHT FOR EYESIGHT

Give us your feedback and ideas. VOC wants to hear from YOU. If you have suggestions for programs you think VOC should partner with, or start, let us know! Our Computer Monitor program, started by feedback from you, has been a huge success. We want to start more programs that you want and need. Have ideas about new projects or initiatives? Send them our way! We’re here to make it happen. ☺

“AN EYE FOR OTHERS” AWARD

The VOC would like to introduce a new award program set up to thank and praise our supporters who help raise money through their own fundraising efforts. For our first award we would like to give a “Big thanks” to Joe and Emily Bruskotter, along with their family and friends, who helped raise over \$7,600 at their 2007 annual holiday party for the Vision of Children! We are forever grateful for our Family Network members like Joe and Emily. We recognize the significance and magnitude of Joe and Emily’s hard work in helping The Vision of Children reach our goal. Check out new award recipients on our up coming new webpage! ☺



Charlie Bruskotter



PHILANTHROPY

CORPORATE PARTNERS

We are grateful to all of our Corporate Partners who supported our 2007 Andrea Bocelli, "Music that Touches the Heart; a Cause that Touches the Soul" fundraiser and who share our vision to cure hereditary childhood blindness and other vision disorders. ☺

TITLE SPONSOR GMAC FINANCIAL	SILVER SPONSOR THE ISSA FAMILY FOUNDATION
GOLD SPONSOR BOSA DEVELOPMENT HAHN&HESSEN LLP OTTERBOURG ODMD SYNERGEYES	YEAR-LONG-PARTNERS THE HARDAGE GROUP DIMENSION ONE SPAS

SHOPPING RITE

Who knew that a love of Andrea Bocelli's music, and an appreciation for Vegas glamour, could lead to a great gift for the VOC? Well... that's exactly what happened when long-time VOC supporters George and Lorenza Triebenbacher invited friends, Richard and Laura Saker, to join them at the 2006 New York Bocelli event. After an evening of beautiful music and top-notch company, Saker topped things off by bidding on, and winning, the Las Vegas auction item. The VOC is certainly lucky he did – while on the trip itself, Saker mentioned to VOC chairman Sam Hardage that his business, ShopRite grocery stores, supports non-profits by allowing legitimate charities the opportunity to promote their causes

in his Northeastern stores. This philanthropist takes things a step further: his employees ask shoppers to make donations to the chosen recipient. At the end of the promotion, ShopRite matches the total amount donated during the drive. Saker very kindly agreed to host the Vision of Children as August's non-profit of the month. Customers opened their wallets for our cause and at the end of the event, VOC was awarded a staggering total of \$120,000.00! Many thanks, ShopRite! ☺



SPOTLIGHT ON CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

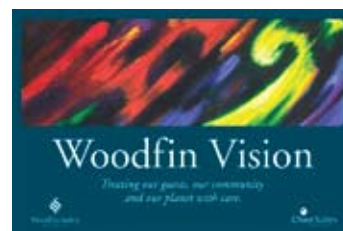
The Vision of Children Foundation's corporate partners come from industries of all types and sizes. All of our partners are vital to funding our research programs to cure hereditary childhood blindness, and we are grateful to each one for their generous contributions. Email, nschick@visionofchildren.org, for more information on partnering with The Vision of Children Foundation!

The Hardage Group, the parent company of Woodfin and Chase Suites, has created the Woodfin/Chase Vision. At Woodfin/Chase they believe that they are responsible for helping to make the world we live in a better place. The Woodfin/Chase group is taking active steps to play their part, both socially and environmentally, which is why they developed Woodfin/Chase Vision: a combination of both charitable and environmental initiatives designed to make us better global citizens.

"Every day, from our eco-friendly laundry program, to our use of Fair Trade Certified coffees and teas, we work to keep our air clean, our waters pure, and our earth's precious resources sustained", says James Batt, COO of The Hardage

Group. But the Woodfin/Chase Vision has an eye on its communities, as well. It gives all of its employees paid leave to work with local charities; the company also donates all of its outgoing furniture and appliances to local agencies rather than liquidating them. Finally, Woodfin/Chase has launched a company-matched \$1 per stay donation program in order to grow funds for the VOC and for community projects. "We're doing our best to be good caretakers of our global home, and we will continue to strive for excellence," Batt said.

The Vision of Children Foundation is grateful for the continued partnership with The Hardage Group and looks forward to teaming with other extraordinary companies. ☺



TEE TIME

Most of us spend the month of January recuperating from the festivities of December. But not Robert and Annette Stasi! For this family, the post-Christmas season is spent kicking off the planning of their annual golf tournament. The well known Natalie's Way tournament was born when the Stasi's daughter was diagnosed with OCA. Now, the labor of love - which is held on Staten Island every year - brings in much-needed money for research. Last year, Natalie's Way Foundation kindly donated \$20,000 in proceeds from the tournament to VOC to support vision research. We would like to say a huge thank you to the Stasis, and their friends and family, for putting this event together every year. Together we will beat childhood blindness! For more information about this summer's event, happening Tuesday, June 24th at the South Shore Country Club in Staten Island, visit www.natalieswayfoundation.com. ☺



EAST COAST STYLE

Continuing the theme of creative ways to fundraise, we'd like to gratefully thank Feidhlim and Roben Boyle, who presented the VOC with \$1,000 after their annual East Coast Charity Ball. The Charity Ball exists to raise money for local children's charities, and to provide Atlantic Canadians and their friends a chance to have fun, "East Coast Style." Sounds like a great night out, all around – and thanks to the Boyle's! ☺

HIGH KICKS

It seems that living with OCA hasn't slowed down New Jersey's Sarah Kane at all – in fact, this future karate black belt had enough energy left over after class to help plan a fundraiser at her local YMCA. The "Fight for Sight" event, masterminded by Sarah's mother Nanci, raised money which was split between the VOC and the Michael Clapcich Fund. Michael, who has a rare retinal disorder, is also a student in Sarah's karate class. Local businesses donated raffle items to "Fight for Sight" and attendees paid a small entrance fee to attend the event. When the dust settled from the exhibition, the little fighters presented the VOC with a check for over \$2,000.00. Way to go! ☺

PAST EVENTS

FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION AT THE ANDREA BOCELLI CONCERT IN NEW YORK CITY

The Vision of Children Foundation teamed up for the seventh time with internationally renowned tenor Superstar Andrea Bocelli in New York City at Madison Square Garden on Friday, December 7, 2007. A very special feature of this year's festivities



included the presentation of two "Vision Heroes Awards" by VOC Founder and Chairman Sam Hardage. This was the second New York event hosted by VOC, under the leadership of George and Lorenza Triebenbacher and GMAC Corporate Finance, which featured a special guest appearance by Mr. Bocelli. Before the concert, VOC guests mingled at an exclusive cocktail reception at the Club Bar and Grill at Madison Square

Garden, featuring a live-auction, hosted by Sam Hardage. This year's fabulous line-up of luxury auction items including an Exquisite Wine Country Retreat for six featuring a three-day/two night stay in the private suites at Jordan Winery in Sonoma. At the post-concert champagne reception, Hardage presented VOC's highest honor, "The Vision Heroes Award" to Andrea Bocelli for his steadfast support of VOC, spanning eight years. "Vision Heroes Awards" were also given to Richard and Laura Saker for

their outstanding dedication to the VOC cause. Upon their departure, VOC guests were all treated to special Gift Bags, which included Bocelli's latest CD, *Vivere*.

The Vision of Children Foundation wishes to thank all of its generous supporters, sponsors, donors, volunteers, and family network members for their assistance in making the 2007 Andrea Bocelli event so successful! ☺



Lorenza Triebenbacher, George Triebenbacher and Samuel A. Hardage (from left)

Tommy Saker (from left), Christine Saker, Sherri Saker, Joe Saker, Richard Saker, Laura Saker and Samuel A. Hardage



CALENDAR



MARCH 9, 2008

Bocce Ball Tournament
Del Mar-Solana Beach Sunrise Rotary Club
Del Mar, CA

MAY 4, 2008

4th Annual Race for Sight
San Diego Alumnae Chapter of Delta Gamma
San Diego, CA

JUNE 22, 2008

Mainly Mozart Concert
California Center for the Arts
Escondido, CA

JUNE 24, 2008

Natalie's Way Golf Tournament Staten Island
Natalie's Way Foundation
Staten Island, NY

For information about these and other VOC events,
please contact Kristy Winters at 858-799-0745. 



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