



NORTHERN PLAINS EYE
FOUNDATION

Winter 2013

The Eye Opener

*Enhancing
eye health
through
education,
research and
community service
for people of the
Northern Plains.*



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Associate Director

Shana Pourier,
Project Coordinator



623 Quincy Street
Suite 101
Rapid City, SD 57701
Phone: (605) 716-6733
Fax: (605) 721-4633
www.npef.org

Christmas is filled with many enduring visions. There is the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas," where "visions of sugar-plums" danced in the heads of children nestled asleep in their beds, visions of a baby lying in a manger, beautiful twinkling lights on a festively decorated tree, and happy children on Christmas morning.

Northern Plains Eye Foundation works to protect and preserve vision and restore sight to ensure those around us will continue to experience the sights of Christmas. Our visions include providing thousands of free vision screenings annually to pre-school and elementary age children in the Black Hills region, sight-saving surgeries to help individuals in need regain not only their vision, but more importantly, independence, mobility and quality of life, scholarships for future eye care professionals and training for the construction industry on how to protect against injuries resulting in temporary or permanent vision loss in the workplace.

Through these programs, we literally touch thousands of individuals. In the next paragraphs, you'll meet one of them, Tim McCraney, a recipient of sight-saving surgery. Inside are the stories of a few of the other individuals whose lives were touched by the work of our Foundation.

Tim McCraney's life was severely altered when his father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Tim was his father's sole caregiver, and as the disease progressed, Tim made the tough decision to retire from his full-time job in order to care for his father. To continue to make ends meet, Tim took a part-

time position that allowed him to bring his father to his job in order to keep him safe. Due to cataract disease, Tim began experiencing vision problems. Over time, due to progression of his cataracts, it got to the point where Tim had no vision remaining in his left eye, and his right eye was nearing the same. The condition threatened his job, which required him to drive during his shifts. Without employment,

Tim worried about how he would be able to take care of his family, home, and bills. Due to his early retirement, continued part-time employment and caring for his father, financial assistance was unavailable. Through Dr. Gail Bernard, his ophthalmologist at The Eye Doctors at Rapid City Medical Center, Tim learned of Northern Plains Eye Foundation's Christmas Gift of Sight program. Making the application was difficult for Tim, as he was not one to ask for help, but he was finding at this point in his life, it was needed. Thankfully, help came for Tim when he was awarded the Christmas Gift of Sight last year and received sight-saving surgery earlier this year. Tim is pictured at left, post-

surgery, with Dr. Gail Bernard.

Since 2008, Christmas Gift of Sight has provided twenty sight-saving surgeries to individuals like Tim, who were without resources and felt as though there was nowhere to turn.

Your gifts help our Foundation ensure people like Tim and his fellow Christmas Gift of Sight recipients remain active members of our community, and can again celebrate the joyous visions of the Christmas season. Please continue to give generously.

Christmas gift of Sight

HELP SOMEONE SEE CHRISTMAS
IN A WHOLE NEW LIGHT



*Dr. Gail Bernard and C&OS recipient,
Tim McCraney*



EYE TO EYE: THE DIRECTOR'S VIEW



Cris Mathews, PA-C, with a patient at Wright Vision Center

The leadership provided by its Board of Directors is vital to any nonprofit. Northern Plains Eye Foundation (NPEF) is blessed with a very dedicated group of individuals who commit their time, expertise and

talents to our organization. One of NPEF's long-time Directors, Cris Mathews, PA-C, steps down this month, after serving on our Board for over nine years.

Cris' history with NPEF is long-standing, dating back to NPEF's origin, as one of the group of visionary individuals responsible for bringing NPEF into being. She has seen many changes and has been a constant in her commitment to our Foundation's mission to preserve and protect vision and restore sight. Her

compassion, kindness, dedication and generosity inspire not only her colleagues on our Foundation Board and our Foundation staff, but the patients whose lives she touches.

On behalf of the Northern Plains Eye Foundation Board of Directors and staff, our deepest appreciation, Cris, for the very important role you played, and will continue to play in support of our Foundation.

As we say goodbye to 2013, on behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Northern Plains Eye Foundation, may your holidays be bright and your New Year be filled with health, happiness and prosperity.

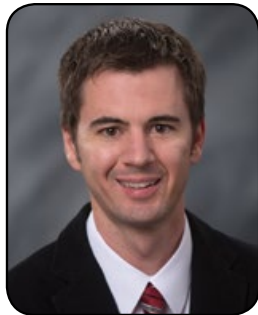
Executive Director
Northern Plains Eye Foundation



WELCOME TO NPEF'S NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS



Ted Fromm, M.D.



Brian Gill, O.D.



Jared Pearson, O.D.



Ryan Scarborough, O.D.



Dylan Yu, M.D.

Dr. Ted Fromm is an ophthalmologist at Slingsby and Wright Eye Clinic. He received his medical degree from the University of South Dakota, and underwent ophthalmology training at the University of Nebraska, followed by a fellowship in cataract and refractive surgery at Nebraska Laser Eye Associates. Originally from Rapid City, Dr. Fromm returned in 2012, with his wife, Linda, and two-year old twins, Maxwell and Oliver.

Dr. Brian Gill, a native South Dakotan, received his bachelor's degree from the University of South Dakota, then moved to Chicago to pursue a degree in Optometry at the Illinois College of Optometry where he received his doctorate. Dr. Gill and his wife, Mariah, reside in Spearfish with their children, Ava, Cora and Mason, where his practice, Spearfish Vision Works, is located.

Dr. Jared Pearson relocated his optometry practice, Premier Eyecare P.C., to Rapid City in 2009. He received his bachelor's degree from North Dakota State University, and his doctorate from Pacific University College of Optometry. His preceptorships include Hot Springs VA, private practice in Virginia and a surgical facility in Arizona. Prior to arriving

in Rapid City, he practiced in Aberdeen, Custer, and Hot Springs.

Dr. Ryan Scarborough recently returned to South Dakota after practicing with the Indian Health Service in Arizona. He received degrees from both South Dakota State and Ohio State, and served as an AmeriCorp VISTA member. Dr. Scarborough obtained fellowship with the American Academy of Optometry and is certified with the American Board of Certified Medical Optometrists. He and his wife, Patricia, and their two year old, Marlin, enjoy spending time on the family ranch near Pierre where he grew up.

Dr. Dylan Yu is a Kansas City native. After graduating from the University of Kansas, he obtained his medical degree from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. His medical internship was at Greater Baltimore Medical Center and ophthalmology residency at the Doheny Eye Institute, University of Southern California, Los Angeles. He is a fellowship trained oculoplastics surgeon and a diplomat of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, who before joining Black Hills Regional Eye Institute, practiced at the University of Kansas Medical Center and in Eastern Kansas.

DR. PAUL L. ZIMMERMAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Northern Plains Eye Foundation has pledged to give \$7,500 in scholarship awards to fourth year medical students with an expressed interest in ophthalmology through the Northern Plains Eye Foundation Dr. Paul L. Zimmerman Memorial Scholarship, given by The University of South Dakota Foundation for award by the Sanford School of Medicine.

The 2013 recipient is David Somsen. David is a graduate of Yankton High School, and is now attending the Sanford School of Medicine at the University of South Dakota. He initially attended the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities majoring in Genetics, Cell Biology and Development. His love for "fringe" subjects like genetics brought him to become interested in ophthalmology. Upon graduation from the University of South Dakota medical school, he is

considering a residency in ophthalmology as well as perhaps a fellowship in one of the subspecialties.

The Dr. Paul L. Zimmerman Memorial Scholarship was created in 2011 to honor Dr. Paul L. Zimmerman, a respected partner in ophthalmology at Black Hills Regional Eye Institute and much-loved member of our Foundation's Board of Directors, who passed away in January 2011 after a courageous battle with malignant melanoma of the eye. The scholarship is awarded to a scholar with a passion for the eye care field who most embodies Dr. Zimmerman's legacy of leadership, service and kindness.



General Beadle Elementary School Nurse, Susan Kelts, and CVSI screening recipient, Kimora

"School nurses love CVSI! It is an excellent resource for school health services. Accurate vision screenings are done with referrals for needed vision care leading to a higher number of students getting a full exam and glasses. The ultimate benefit is for our children who have better school performance because they have corrected visual acuity."
- Susan Kelts, School Nurse, General Beadle Elementary

Since its launch two years ago, the Northern Plains Eye Foundation Western South Dakota Lions Children's Vision Screening Initiative (CVSI) has provided almost 3,000 free vision screenings to children in Western South Dakota. Our thanks to Rapid City Downtown, Rapid City Rushmore, Rapid City Metro, Piedmont Valley and Hill City Lions Clubs for their partnership in CVSI.

If you would like to join our effort to ensure vision screenings are accessible to more children, please contact us at (605) 716-6733 for more information!



CASINO ROYALE CHARITY AFFAIR



On September 27th, Northern Plains Eye Foundation hosted its 1st Annual Casino Royale Charity Affair, an evening of socializing, elegant hors d'oeuvres, casino-style fun, silent and live auctions and more with all proceeds benefiting the sight-saving programs of Northern Plains Eye Foundation.

Thanks to our event sponsors, promotional partners, auction donors and guests, our "Party with a Purpose" was an event to remember. Over \$14,000 was raised to support Northern Plains Eye Foundation programs to protect and preserve vision and restore sight. Equally important, Casino Royale offered a wonderful opportunity to showcase our Foundation to old friends

and associates, as well as introduce ourselves to new acquaintances, and share the story of our important and worthwhile work throughout our community.

We invite you to join us for the 2nd Annual Casino Royale in September 2014. Look for more information at www.npef.org.

CASINO royale Presented by



and supported by



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FOUNDATION

623 Quincy St., Suite 101
Rapid City, SD 57701

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