A FUTURE OF HOPE FOR THE CATARACT BLIND

Transforming Lives through Innovation and Surgical Simulation

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

HelpMeSee #RestoreSight #RestoreLives
#RestoreSight  #RestoreLives
RESTORING SIGHT WITH TRAINING:
Innovative Simulator Platforms and Partnerships

While our vision and strategy have evolved to take us through the next decade, we still have the same mission since our founding in 2010.

MISSION
To be the world leader of innovative and scalable surgical eyecare simulation training solutions.

VISION
Restore vision to people living with severe visual impairment and blindness due to Cataract worldwide.
STRATEGY

PRODUCT INNOVATION

With our history of simulation expertise, HelpMeSee restores vision by developing innovative surgical simulation products and platforms.

EYE SURGERY SIMULATION-BASED TRAINING

The only way to address avoidable blindness is to change the paradigm of eye surgery education through training delivery.

PARTNERSHIP CHANNELS

Leveraging partnerships to promote the use of eye surgery simulation training is the only sustainable way to improve surgery performance sustainably and patient outcomes.
A DECADE OF RESTORING SIGHT

A Letter from Jim Ueltschi, Co-Founder and Director

My father, Al Ueltschi and I started HelpMeSee in 2010. We believed our long and successful experience, training commercial and military pilots to fly safely at FlightSafety International, could be adapted to the massive training of cataract specialists.

In the late 1970s, my father co-founded Orbis International, known for its "Flying Eye Hospital," where he served as its chairman for over 30 years. I served on the Orbis Board of Directors and was its Treasurer for a time. Our experience at Orbis taught us that the greatest single cause of blindness and visual impairment is untreated cataracts. Unfortunately, the situation is getting worse. The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness says the number of blind and visually impaired will grow to 1.8 billion by 2050.

We always understood the problem. There were just not enough cataract providers, especially in the developing world. In too many poor countries, there are only 1 or 2 ophthalmologists per million people. As a result, the numbers with cataract blindness and visual impairment continue to multiply in many parts of the world because there is no access to affordable, high-quality treatment. This lack of access was the cause of all the suffering.

Experts estimate that once 30,000 additional cataract specialists are trained and deployed back to their communities, cataract blindness could be gone in short order leaving cataract visual impairment to be treated before blindness occurs. So how can you rapidly train 30,000 cataract specialists? By relying on the proven training methods developed in commercial and military aviation training, large-scale standardized simulator-based training.

The tenth anniversary of the founding HelpMeSee, 2020, was the year we completed all simulated steps of the cataract procedure. It has been a massive engineering and software design and delivery effort with many bumps in the road. Despite everything going on with the COVID-19 pandemic, Saro Jahani, the CEO and President and all the HMS family on four continents completed the full MSICS Simulation-based Training Course (MSTC) as scheduled. There is much more to accomplish. My father, I know, is as pleased as I am that the poor who are so unfairly afflicted by cataract blindness now have real hope for sight restoration. The dream of sight is within reach.

By partnering with the best organizations, institutions, and especially governments, our mission becomes stronger. We can accomplish much more with committed partners who share our same dream of ending treatable cataract blindness.

My father taught me that hiring the best people is one of the keys to success. So I am extremely proud of the HelpMeSee team and their accomplishments this year. Through their expertise, effort and dedication, 2021 was a source of great hope amid times of challenge.

With gratitude,
Jim
INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY DELIVERS HOPE FOR THE CATARACT BLIND

A Letter from Saro Jahani, President and CEO

In a world where 100 million people are blind or visually impaired due to cataract, HelpMeSee works to eradicate cataract blindness by training cataract specialists using virtual reality, simulation-based training.

For millions of people in developing nations, access to care is dramatically limited – or simply nonexistent.

Untreated cataract blindness can accelerate poverty and hold people back in heartbreaking ways. For too many, this can mean a parent who cannot work, or even see the face of their own child or grandchild.

Without a doubt, treatable cataract blindness leads to a life of unnecessary limits.

At HelpMeSee, we believe in solutions and the power of innovative technology to restore sight in new ways. Because visual impairment and blindness due to cataract is treatable – and everyone has the right to sight.

Working with our global partners, we’re focused on solving a public health and humanitarian crisis that has brought unnecessary suffering to millions of people. Working with our supporters, partners and employees, the sky is the limit!

With thanks,
Saro
RESTORING SIGHT THROUGH EYE SURGERY SIMULATION TRAINING

100 million are blind or visually impaired due to untreated cataracts

The issue is a shortage of cataract surgeons

The solution is the HelpMeSee Simulation-based Eye Surgery Training

Poor vision impacts people from getting an education, earning a living and maintaining their physical and mental well-being.

Many communities in the developing world countries of Latin America, Africa and South and Southeast Asia have only one ophthalmologist per million in a population. Many advanced countries have 100.

This training builds competency, reducing cataract surgery training time from months to years with better patient outcomes than traditional surgery training methods.
For every 1,000 surgeons HelpMeSee trains, 100,000 more cataract surgeries are possible each year.

"There are roughly fifteen ophthalmologists in Burundi for a population of 11.5 million people who can treat eye disease and remove cataracts for everyone."

Dr. Vianney Ntakirutimana
HelpMeSee Trainee.
Eye Hospital of Wenzhou Medical University
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships, Simulators, Instructors, Courses, Trainees

HelpMeSee works globally, providing surgery through partnerships with governments, universities and innovators to restore the gift of sight.
HelpMeSee conducts programs for regularly soliciting contributions connected with the organization’s mission from various sources, including local and international corporations, foundations, non-government organizations, governments and private institutions. These activities include the solicitation of corporate gifts and grants and appeals from individuals in the form of recurring donations, single gifts or planned giving bequests. Summarized financial statements for 2020 are as follows:

### 2021 END OF YEAR

**NET ASSETS**

$18,238,874

**MANAGEMENT & GENERAL EXPENSE RATIO**

6.79%

**OUR COST TO RAISE $1 IN 2021**

9¢

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**Public Support**

- **Individuals**: $423,300
- **Corporations**: 4,850
- **Foundations**: 6,112,660
- **Bequests**: 59,460
- **Government**: 10,077
- **PPP Grants**: 869,865
- **ERC Credit**: 648,593
- **Investment Income**: 211
- **Training Income**: 119,840

**Total Revenue & Other Support**: $8,248,856
KEY TO OUR SUCCESS

2021 Board of Directors and Principal Staff

Board of Directors
James Tyler Ueltschi
Co-Founder, Chairman & Treasurer
Saro Jahani
President & Chief Executive Officer
Jeffrey Mullen
Board Member

Corporate Officers
Saro Jahani
President & Chief Executive Officer
Aileen Chang
General Counsel
Jon Pollack
Chief of Training Operations
Tammy Buck
Chief of Administration
Van Charles Lansingh, MD, Ph.D., FICO (Hon)
Chief Medical Officer

Medical Officers
Jean-Marie André, MD
Medical Officer, Africa
Yang Xiao, MD, MSc
Medical Officer, China

Instructors and Subject Matter Experts
Ashish Bacchav, MBBS, DNB (Ophthalmology), FAEH (Cornea, Cataract and Refractive Surgery)
Chief Instructor & SME
Chetan Ahiwalay, MS
Lead Instructor & SME
Tejas Sheth, MBBS, MS
Senior Instructor & SME
Akshay Gopinathan Nair, MBBS, DNB (Ophthalmology), FLVPEI (Ophthalmic Plastic Surgery & Ocular Oncology)
Regional Medical Doctor & SME
Minal Shahbaldota, DO (India), FLEI (Phaco)
Instructor & Ophthalmology Simulator SME
Jean-Marie André, MD
Instructor
Daniel Hutter, MD
Instructor

Business Development
Matthew Walden
Assistant Director Business Development, Americas
Jean-Marie André, MD
Director Business Development, Africa
Kayode Odusote, MD
Assistant Director Business Development, Africa
TO DONATE

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TO ENROLL IN HELPMESEE TRAINING

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