



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Optometry Giving Sight Hosts First Brien Holden Founders Award Dinner

GOLDEN, COLO., October 15, 2025 – Members of the optometry community came together in Boston recently to remember and honor the legacy of Professor Brien Holden, PhD. Holden was the founder of Optometry Giving Sight (OGS). He was a leader in expanding access to vision care worldwide and passed away in 2015. Holden established OGS in 2003 in collaboration with the World Council of Optometry and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness as a fundraising organization to support programs globally to end uncorrected refractive error.

During the evening, OGS presented the inaugural Brien Holden Founders Award to Dr. Greg Pearl and to CooperVision for their longstanding efforts to continue the work that Holden did during his lifetime to expand access to vision care and for their ongoing and generous support of OGS.

In his opening remarks, OGS U.S. Board Chair Dr. Juan Carlos Aragón remembered Holden as “a man of action and a man of passion. He was a fearless colleague, a passionate friend, and a tireless leader in the fight against uncorrected refractive error.”

He continued by reminding attendees that “your belief in the work carried forward by OGS has made a profound difference. Your support has helped us tackle the underlying cause of preventable blindness and vision impairment – lack of access to vision care.

Since its inception, OGS has helped establish 14 optometry schools, trained more than 8714,000 optometrists and paraprofessionals, and built over 200 vision centers for clinical training and patient care.

“With your support,” Aragón told attendees, “we have provided desperately needed vision care to over 15 million people in more than 70 countries.

“As I remember my friend and colleague, Brien, I can’t help but think how proud he would be of what we have accomplished – together – in his memory.”

Optometry Giving Sight is a non-profit organization that raises funds from optometrists, optometry practices, and optometry-related businesses and corporations to award grants for sustainable, impactful projects that expand the profession and improve access to vision care in underserved areas of the world. For more information about OGS and its work, visit givingsight.org

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Photo 1 - Dr. Greg Pearl (second from right) accepts the Brien Holden Founders Award from (l to r) OGS Canada Chair, Dr. Susan Cooper, OGS U.S. Board Chair Dr. Juan Carlos Aragon, and OGS Executive Director, Donna J. Mikulecky



Photo 2 - CooperVision President Jerry Warner (second from right) accepts the Brien Holden Founders Award from (l to r) OGS Canada Chair, Dr. Susan Cooper, OGS U.S. Board Chair Dr. Juan Carlos Aragon, and OGS Executive Director, Donna J. Mikulecky



Photo 3 - Guests mingle during the reception during the Brien Holden Founders Award Dinner