

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Center For Sight Restores Vision and Changes Lives With Mission Cataract 2016

It's hard to imagine how valuable your sight is until you begin to lose it. For patients treated at Center For Sight in July during the annual Mission Cataract program, they knew that feeling well.

For Robert Tuliback of Tavernier, Florida, his 40 years of experience as a high-end carpenter had to take a backseat when he developed a cataract. His work became more dangerous as he couldn't see clearly and lost his sense of depth perception. "I'd be painting a wall, and the brush would never reach the wall. Or I'd be on a ladder but would miss the bottom ring," he said. Because of his deteriorating vision, he halted his usual profession and performed menial jobs that did not pay as much.



For Patricia Brown, of Spartanburg, South Carolina, everything changed when cataracts began to cloud her vision. She stopped teaching as she couldn't see clearly. Driving became dangerous as she couldn't read signs on the road, so that also had to stop. Caring for a disabled husband, Brown found it hard to make meals and measure medicine. Even her hobbies—reading, writing and making jewelry—came to an end. "People don't always realize how devastating this can be," she said. To help patients like Tuliback and Brown, surgeons at Center For Sight, a leading eye care practice in the U.S., once again performed life-changing cataract surgeries

as part of its Mission Cataract program.

The surgeries took place on July 13 and 20 at the practice's state-of-the-art AAAHC-accredited surgery facility in Sarasota. Under the direction of David W. Shoemaker, M.D., Center for Sight's nationally acclaimed ophthalmologic surgeons, Williams J. Lahners, M.D., Joshua W. Kim, M.D., and William L. Soscia, M.D.—along with a team of ophthalmic technicians, nurse anesthetists, medical technicians, nurses, and administrative staff—donated their time and experience to Mission Cataract.



Changing Lives, Restoring Vision

"Center for Sight has been participating in Mission Cataract for more than 20 years and I consider it an honor to do so," said Dr. David Shoemaker, Founder and Director of Cataract and Lens Replacement Surgery at Center For Sight. "Our Mission Cataract patients are treated like all of our other patients, with care and consideration, and the use of our state-of-the-art LensAR laser. In the hands of our nationally renowned surgeons, the results derived from this technology are simply amazing." Mission Cataract is a national program and Center For Sight is the only practice in Florida to participate in the program.



To qualify for Mission Cataract 2016, patients had to have poor vision due to cataracts that was uncorrectable with glasses; have no Medicare, Medicaid, or third-party insurance coverage; and have no other means to pay for cataract surgery. "Every year, our surgeons and staff look forward to the chance to restore vision for our Mission Cataract patients," Dr. Shoemaker said. "Restoring the gift of sight to those in need and giving them the opportunity to lead meaningful and productive lives is a truly good thing. We are proud to offer this service and look forward to participating for many years to come."

Patients were grateful for the experience. Brown said she couldn't wait until surgery was finished so she could see her granddaughters' faces clearly. "They are the light of my life," she said. Brown was also impressed with Center For Sight's top-notch professionalism and facilities.



"Everything has been wonderful here. I feel blessed," she said.

(Photos from top) Robert Tuliback; Patricia Brown; staff member; Dr. Shoemaker operating; Dr. Shoemaker operating LENSAR Laser; CFS staff. ©Gene Pollux/Pollux Photography



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