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CENTRAL FLORIDA DOCTOR TO GIVE THE GIFT OF SIGHT TO LOCAL RESIDENTS IN NEED

ORLANDO, Fla. – David B. Auerbach, D.O., of [Eye Physicians of Central Florida](#) is holding his second annual “Gift of Sight” program this month, a Thanksgiving initiative that provides free cataract surgery to a select group of patients who lack insurance. He has reached out and identified four patients who are now scheduled for surgery on November 23, 2010.

“We continue to see and feel the negative impacts of the economy throughout our community,” said Dr. Auerbach. “Personally, I am moved when I hear of people suffering vision loss from cataracts, yet they are unable to pay for the surgery because they are too young for Medicare or cannot afford health insurance. This is how our practice helps to make a difference and give back during these tough economic times. It is our Thanksgiving gift.”

Once again, Dr. Auerbach has secured commitments from the Lake Mary Surgery Center, Alcon, anesthesiologist David Nussear, M.D., and operating room personnel who will donate their products and services to help make this year’s effort possible.

One of the patients benefiting from this year’s Gift of Sight program is 29-year-old Casselberry resident John Wilkinson. Wilkinson has suffered blindness in his left eye since age 15 due to a sports injury induced retinal detachment. However, he learned to adjust, maintain independence and continue on with his life. Until recently, he worked as a tree trimmer, and then about five months ago, began experiencing blurriness in his right eye which continued to worsen to the point of complete vision loss. He is now legally blind. This has caused him to lose his job and as a result, his home as well. A determined, hard-working and independent man, Wilkinson suddenly found himself completely dependent on the generosity and assistance of friends.

One of these friends, Jennifer Hicks, took Wilkinson in and also connected him with the Lion’s Club who helped him secure an eye exam where it was determined that the blindness in his right eye was the result of a cataract that could be corrected with surgery. However, Wilkinson lacks health insurance and wasn’t sure where to turn until he was connected with Dr. Auerbach’s Gift of Sight program. Now he looks forward to regaining his sight in that eye along with his independence.

“In the past few months, I have lost everything,” said Wilkinson. “You have no idea what a blessing your sight is and how much it means to you until you lose it. I am so grateful to Dr. Auerbach and to my friends who have helped get me to my appointments. I can’t wait to get back to work again – something safe and inside this time. I want to enjoy the simple things in life again – going for a walk, cooking, playing with my little girl. I also want to give back to all of those who have helped me through this.”

Dr. Auerbach joined Eye Physicians of Central Florida in 2001 and specializes in general ophthalmology, refractive small-incision cataract surgery, neuro-ophthalmology and oculoplastic surgery. He earned his

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medical degree from the State University of New York at Stonybrook. Dr. Auerbach completed his residency in ophthalmology at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and his medical internship at Mount Clemens General Hospital. He also completed a fellowship in oculoplastic and reconstructive surgery at The Pavilions of Voorhees in New Jersey and a second fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia. An Osteopathic Fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, Dr. Auerbach is certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Ophthalmology. He serves as a member of the North American Neuro-ophthalmic Society, the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons, the Florida Society of Ophthalmology and the Central Florida Society of Ophthalmology.

Established in 1981, Robert S. Gold, M.D., F.A.A.P., David B. Auerbach, D.O., Louis C. Blumenfeld, M.D., F.A.A.P., Victor B. Thomas, M.D., Jamie L. Ikeda, M.D., Lynda Z. Kleiman, M.D., and optometric physician Larry S. Lewis, O.D., of Eye Physicians of Central Florida care for children and adults of all ages, providing routine examinations, glasses, contact lenses, ophthalmic evaluation, treatment and surgery. They also specialize in pediatric ophthalmology, adult eye muscle disorders, cataract and laser surgery, neuro-ophthalmology, cornea and external disease, and oculoplastic, reconstructive and cosmetic eyelid surgery. The practice is a division of Florida Pediatric Associates, LLP, and accepts most major health insurance plans. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 407-767-6411 or visit www.eyephy.com.

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