



## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Media Contact:  
Gena Pratt  
(805)963-3303  
gena@seeintl.org

### Help Restore Sight this October

*Denver Ophthalmologist Asks Area Residents to Help Give Sight to the Blind in Mexico*

**Denver, Colorado, September 8, 2010** – Dr. Jim Conahan of United Eye Center will travel to Mexico for a humanitarian cataract surgery mission this October with Surgical Eye Expeditions (SEE) International, and is asking for help supporting this expedition to restore sight to the impoverished blind of Zihuatanejo, Mexico.

“The most rewarding part of an expedition is seeing the patients’ faces post surgery when you remove the protective eye patch,” says Dr. Conahan. “During one clinic, I was able to take the patch off of a 50-year-old farmer who was blind in both eyes. He had a seven-year-old daughter and had never seen her due to his blindness. We changed that. It’s just a humbling experience to be able to give back and then share these experiences with others.”

Along with three other traveling surgeons and an expedition team, Dr. Conahan will work in Zihuatanejo, Mexico, with area ophthalmologist Dr. Miguel Berdeja. During the five day clinic, the team will perform 150 sight restoring surgeries for patients who would not otherwise receive treatment.

“It’s a truly miraculous moment when the bandage is removed and the patient sees again, for the first time in five, 10, or even 20 years,” says Kim Welton, Director of Programs at SEE International. “Knowing that you are a part of making these moments happen makes everything worth it.”

Through the generous donation of medical supplies by corporate sponsors and professional skills by talented surgeons, SEE International is able to provide supplies and other materials for all but \$5,000 of the cost of this surgical expedition. Dr. Conahan and SEE International are asking for the support of the local community to raise this needed \$5,000 by September 31 to make this expedition successful.

To donate to support this expedition, please visit [www.globalgiving.org/6090](http://www.globalgiving.org/6090) by September 31. Donations will be included in GlobalGiving.com’s Open Challenge, a fundraising challenge for non-profits. Through the challenge, SEE International has the opportunity to receive additional funds as well as earn a permanent spot on the GlobalGiving website.

#### **About SEE International**

Founded in 1974, SEE International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit humanitarian organization that utilizes volunteer ophthalmic surgeons to provide sight-restoring surgery to blind individuals worldwide. Based in Santa Barbara, California, SEE International provides the link between hundreds of volunteer eye surgeons and thousands of patients and doctors in over 75 countries every year. SEE International has helped perform more than 384,000 surgeries worldwide that have enabled blind patients to see. And for every \$1 donated to SEE International, more than \$30 in medical services and supplies are delivered. To learn more, please visit [www.seeintl.org](http://www.seeintl.org).

#### **About Dr. Conahan**

Jim Conahan, M.D. is a Board Certified Ophthalmologist, voted Denver’s Top Ophthalmologist in *5280 Magazine* by his peers in medicine. Practicing in the Denver area since 1993, he works at the United Eye Center and has advanced training in refractive surgery and micro-surgery of the eye. Throughout his career, Dr. Conahan has performed more than 1,500 free cataract surgeries in Mexico and elsewhere while doing humanitarian work, including with a nonprofit he founded with his wife – The Mission of Healing Eyes. He lives in Highlands Ranch with his family.

SEE International | Restoring Sight. Transforming Lives  
6950 Hollister Avenue, Suite 250 | Santa Barbara, CA | 93117-2807  
Phone: 805-963-3303 | Fax: 805-965-3564 | [www.seeintl.org](http://www.seeintl.org) | [seeintl@seeintl.org](mailto:seeintl@seeintl.org)