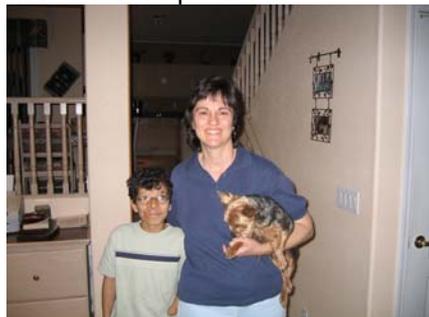


## Iraqi Boy Sees a Brighter Future

Hussein Yasser is an 11 year old boy from Iraq who was injured by a land mine explosion in 2003 while walking with his father on a visit to his grandfather's grave. The explosion left him with almost no vision and in critical condition. The doctor's in Najaf could only stabilize his condition and after several months and 10 surgeries, they had done everything they could for Hussein. He had lost his right eye, debris penetrated his left eye, second and third degree burns covered 30% of his body, and his left hand had to be amputated.



**Debra Karam and Hussein**

Johanna Ricketts, Executive director of the Phoenix chapter of Healing the Children, received a request for help. Healing the Children arranges for life-saving medical care for children around the world. Johanna, along with Debra Karam, a local nurse, began a letter writing campaign to

doctors seeking volunteer care. The response was overwhelming; 19 medical specialists have donated services. Through this care, Hussein underwent a corneal transplant that restored some vision, received a prosthetic eye, had reconstructive facial and dental surgery and received a prosthetic arm. Debra and her husband Raymond hosted Hussein for a year while he received follow up care.

Hussein received low vision rehabilitation through the doctors at the ViewFinder Low Vision Resource Center who provided glasses and other low vision devices that helped him better use his remaining vision. When Dr. Kevin Huff, one of ViewFinder's low vision doctors, saw how well Hussein was able to use a video magnifier (CCTV), he felt that it was necessary for Hussein to have one in order for him to reach his full potential in school. He contacted James Bailey, President of Optelec US, Inc.,



**Hussein Yasser reading with his video magnifier**

regarding a donation from their company. Optelec manufactures video magnifiers used worldwide by people with low vision. The video magnifiers help the visually impaired read, write, and perform many other tasks so that they may remain independent. When this situation was presented to Mr. Bailey, he did not hesitate. He arranged for a video magnifier to be shipped the next day. Hussein received training on how to set up and use his video magnifier which he will continue to use when he returns to his family in Iraq. Hussein is a bright, inquisitive and determined boy who has inspired everyone he has met.

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## BIOPTIC DRIVING ONE YEAR LATER



### ART, NIKKI AND JEFF SHOW OFF THEIR DRIVER'S LICENSES

On January 13, 2006 the Arizona Department of Transportation acted on the recommendation of the Medical Board and amended the Vision Standards Rule R17-4-503 to allow Bioptic driving. Arizona is one of 39 states that will grant a driver's license to some visually impaired people when they drive using a spectacle mounted Bioptic Telescope.

Now, one year later, Viewfinder has had the pleasure of assisting over 130 Bioptic users become successful in achieving their goal of driving. There have been many success stories.

#### Comments from our Bioptic Drivers:

"How I feel about my new bioptics, is incredible. I never thought in a million years as a low vision person that I would ever be able to drive. It has changed my life unbelievably"...**Donna, Sedona**

"Thank you. Now I can drive myself to work and not be on the bus for 2 hours"... **David, Phoenix**

"My wife is sick and I need to be able to drive to do the shopping and doctor appointments. I can't always ask my son to drive us. My bioptics will keep me independent"...  
**Mike, Scottsdale**

"It feels good to be independent again"...  
**Peter, Mesa**

"I live alone up here in a rural community. I need to be able to get into town to shop and see my friends".....**Bill, Paulden**

"Thank you. Seeing the look of pride on my son's face as he got his license was worth it. I never realized how trapped he felt not being able to drive"... **Kathy, Scottsdale**

"I am 52 and have always depended on others to drive. For the first time I feel that freedom of driving myself to work or to the store"..... This is great. **Linda, Peoria**

## Steps to Become a Successful Bioptic Driver

#### Step # 1:

**A Functional Low Vision Evaluation** which will include a Visual Acuity Test, a Visual Field Test, a Contrast Sensitivity Test and a dilated eye examination to rule out active pathology.

#### Step #2:

**Designing and fitting your Bioptic Telescope:** Bioptic telescopes are custom made for each patient and contain the patient's unique prescription. Your eye doctor will determine the correct telescope for you.

#### Step #3:

**Training in the use of your Bioptic Telescope:** A bioptic telescope alone does not make a person a safe driver. All potential drivers are evaluated and trained by our occupational therapist. The evaluation will include a Useful Field of Vision test and cognitive and perceptual testing.

#### Step # 4:

**Driving Evaluation:** While Arizona does not require Behind-the-Wheel Training for drivers who have previously driven, your doctor may refer you to a driving rehabilitation program. Many lighting and road conditions influence the ability of the low vision driver's performance. A driving evaluation will help prepare for the MVD test and increase safety behind the wheel.

### Miscellaneous News:

Join the Arizona Chapter of the Foundation Fighting Blindness on April 7, 2007 between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm at the Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (3100 East Roosevelt, Phoenix, Arizona). There will be informational speakers:

- Kean Oh, MD of Retinal Consultants of Arizona  
*Latest Research Breakthroughs*
  - Kevin Huff, OD ViewFinder Low Vision Resource Center  
*Why a Low Vision Examination is so Important*
- Please RSVP at 480.894.0712 Jacque Olsen, Chapter President.**

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Kevin Huff, OD

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