

Hannah Cho, OD
Irvine, CA



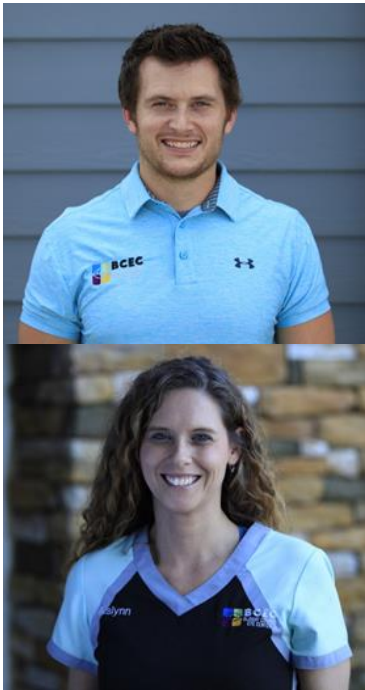
In her six short years as an optometrist, Dr. Hannah Cho has made an incredible impact. Her passion to help others began with a mission trip to Haiti, which inspired her to incorporate the goal of giving back to others into her normal work life. This vision became a reality when she established FLOE Charity, a charity that donates eye exams, frames, and lenses to the underserved community. Dr. Cho partners with the UCLA Latino Health Student Project by volunteering her time on quarterly mission trips to Mexico and donating custom-made prescription glasses through her in-office edging lab and Essilor's generous donations. Since starting her charity, she's seen over 1,500 patients, even learning Spanish to better communicate with them. In 2017, she partnered with the St. John's Well Child and Family Center in South Central Los Angeles to establish a sustainable optometry clinic, focusing to serve mainly the undocumented and uninsured population of Los Angeles. Not only does Dr. Cho have a passion for serving those in need, but she also works hard to see that it becomes a reality!

Sergul Erzurum, MD
Youngstown, OH



Dr. Sergul Erzurum brings a "can do" spirit to every aspect of her charitable efforts and medical practice. Dr Erzurum and her co-founder, Karen Segesto, started the non-profit Sight for All United to help bridge the disconnect in their community for vision services by helping each person achieve their best vision, educating the community on impact of poor vision, raising awareness of eye health, and lifting barriers for access to care (HEAL). To date, the organization has provided close to \$500,000 in services from \$100,000 in donations. Additionally, Dr. Erzurum has worked with the United Way and rallied together local opticians, optometrists, and ophthalmologists to ensure all K-4 school children in her hometown of Youngstown, OH receive annual screenings, eye exams, and eyeglasses for those in need. Thanks to her efforts, all K-4 students will receive a vision screening this year, and the roughly 500 who require correction will receive an exam and eyeglasses. Dr. Erzurum is a tireless advocate for vision care in her local community and beyond.

Will Tantum, OD & Aislynn Hall, Optician and Optical Director
Blount County, TN



In 2014, Dr. Will Tantum began LOVE Eyecare to help a friend from optometry school who was opening a mission clinic in rural Guatemala. When he took over his practice, he decided he would donate a new pair of glasses each time someone purchased a pair of glasses from his optical, and LOVE Guatemala was born. A year later he created LOVE Haiti, and to date, the programs have donated over 10,000 pairs of glasses to the partner clinics in Guatemala and Haiti. In 2016, Dr. Tantum turned to Optical Director and Optician Aislynn Hall to help those closer to his home of Blount County, Tennessee. By working with local partners, LOVE Eye Care is set to open its first free-standing, no-cost clinic to serve those in need. Additionally, in 2019 they will launch LOVE Little Eyes with the goal of providing no-cost eye exams and eyeglasses to every child in Blount County by the time they reach second grade. Dr. Will Tantum and Aislynn Hall are truly Difference Makers with an unwavering passion to help people who otherwise could not help themselves.

Essilor Employee #DifferenceMakers

Samara Monte, Human Resources Generalist
Northvale, NJ



For the past year and a half, Samara Monte has served as a Mission Ambassador, which has allowed her to participate in and promote the company's mission of improving lives by improving sight. In her role, she has been instrumental in developing opportunities for remote employees to participate in the mission. For instance, through her work, the Nassau OOGP Vision Group has participated in National Sunglasses Day, World Sight Day, and Around the World Day, where the organization celebrated the launch of the #DifferenceMakers campaign. Additionally, Samara often recognizes other employees who give back, regularly donates to Essilor Vision Foundation, and shares stories about Essilor's mission on her social media accounts. Samara is an enthusiastic advocate for healthy eyes and vision correction, and she is inspired to go the extra mile to help serve the millions of people around the world who don't have access to proper vision care.

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Darlene Ford, Lens Management Lead
Piney Flats, TN



Seeing the shock and smile on someone's face when they put on a pair of glasses for the first time is what inspires Darlene Ford every day. As the Lens Management Lead at Southern Optical in Piney Flats, Tennessee, Darlene works hard to ensure every order is right the first time it goes out the door. Along with other lab employees, she has worked with local schools to carry out two vision screening events to date. Additionally, the #DifferenceMakers program has given her the opportunity to help out over 300 kids and residents of a nursing home, some of which hadn't had a new pair of glasses in years. Of the 1,100 Essilor employees that participated in the #DifferenceMakers program, Darlene was the highest points earner. In her spare time, Darlene volunteers as the president of her county's girls basketball and softball programs, overseeing nearly 500 girls between the ages four and fourteen. Darlene is active in her church and helps out with its youth organization as well. Though she feels so many of her co-workers are just as deserving of the recognition, Darlene is honored and thrilled to be named a Difference Maker.

Kim Gromko, Program Manager
Greensboro, NC



"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." — Mahatma Gandhi. Kim Gromko lives by these words each and every day, both at work and in her personal life. Kim takes every opportunity she has to volunteer at local events with Essilor Vision Foundation and is developing a project plan to help Essilor labs effectively execute charitable events in their areas. Not only does she volunteer her own time, she regularly recognizes others who make a difference and donates a portion of every paycheck to charitable organizations. Outside of work, Kim is a steadfast advocate for children with disabilities and their families. She often shares her personal experiences through speaking engagements and has served on boards and committees of numerous organizations including InFocus Advocacy, Kopper Top Life Learning Center, Human Rights Committee, Special Olympics, March of Dimes, and the Autism Society of North Carolina. She and her son even started their own organization called H.O.P.E.L.I.V.E.S. (Helping Other People Enjoy Life in Varying Experiences Successfully), which connects volunteers with the local county special education department to promote a more inclusive environment in public schools.