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**Caption:** from left to right – SEE International Board Chair Scott Groff; President of The Eyeglass Factory Greg Feldman; SEE President/CEO Randal Avolio; and Dr. Primbs

## **SEE International’s New Local Free Eye Clinic Dedicated to George B. Primbs, MD, FACS**

**September 2, 2015 - Santa Barbara, CA** - Local nonprofit SEE International celebrated the reopening of its Santa Barbara Vision Care Program last night by holding an open house in its new clinic space. The clinic was dedicated to the program’s founder George Primbs, M.D., F.A.C.S., and offer free eye care to low-income individuals in Santa Barbara County. Its new proximity to the main office has greatly increased program capacity and flexibility, as well as staff efficiency.

Approximately sixty community members crowded into the new clinic to toast Dr. Primbs, enjoy delicious food and wine, and tour the office that will restore sight to thousands of under-privileged residents of Santa Barbara County for years to come.

“For more than 30 years, the Santa Barbara Vision Care Program has been the safety net for those in need,” commented SEE President & CEO Randal Avolio. “When there is a child



or adult has a concern regarding their sight, we are there to support them, regardless of their ability to pay.”

Dr. Primbs has been a key figure at SEE International since its inception in 1974. As an ophthalmologist and eye surgeon, Dr. Primbs specializes in the diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy. He provided free eye examinations for people with diabetes, and the medically underserved, through SEE’s Santa Barbara Vision Care program since the early 1980’s until his retirement in late 2014. Dr. Primbs received his medical degree from UCLA School of Medicine. After serving as an eye surgeon and Captain in the U.S. Air Force, he earned his ophthalmology degree from UCLA. He remains active with community non-profits, as reflected by his continued involvement as a board member of SEE International. Dr. Primbs has received many prestigious awards, including: the Lions Sight and Hearing Award, in 1994; the Jules Stein Eye Institute Teaching Award at UCLA, in 2003; the W.D. Sansum Award for distinguished service to the community, in 2013; and the SEE International Lifetime Achievement Award, in 2014.

Since the founding of the Santa Barbara Vision Care Program in the mid-1980’s more than 55,000 community members have received free eye care. By the end of 2015, SEE expects that the program will serve more than 1,400 low income individuals. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Lara Rich, Santa Barbara Vision Care Coordinator at 805-963-3303 or at [lara@seeintl.org](mailto:lara@seeintl.org).

### **About SEE International**

SEE International is a nonprofit, humanitarian organization that provides medical, surgical, and educational services by volunteer ophthalmic surgeons with the primary objective of restoring sight to disadvantaged blind individuals worldwide. Since 1974, SEE has examined over 3.6 million men, women, and children, and performed more than 440,000 sight-restoring surgeries. [www.seeintl.org](http://www.seeintl.org)