

# Center For Sight hits Mission Cataract mark

Center For Sight completed 100 surgeries as part of its annual Mission Cataract event July 25 and Aug. 1 at its Sarasota surgery center.

Cataract surgeons Dr. David Shoemaker, Dr. William Lahners, Dr. Joshua Kim and Dr. William Soscia performed the free life-changing cataract surgeries.

Aaron French, a cataract and glaucoma patient from Fruitland Park, said, "I was a network engineer before I went legally blind. Prior to surgery with Dr. Kim, I had  $\frac{20}{400}$  vision. It was so bad I couldn't work or drive.

"I looked far and wide for help and there was nothing out there, and then I found this program. What they're doing is an absolute blessing," he added. "It's given me my life back.

"Following the surgery with Dr. Kim, I dropped to  $\frac{20}{15}$  vision within a week on my right eye. It couldn't have gone to the farther end of the spectrum. It's just a blessing."

French's case is a unique one. He also had a Glaukos iStent inserted at the time of his cataract surgery.

The iStent is used for



**Center For Sight cataract surgeons, from left, Dr. Joshua Kim, Dr. William Lahners, Dr. David Shoemaker and Dr. William Soscia.** [COURTESY PHOTO]

those with glaucoma that are undergoing cataract surgery. It helps control eye pressure and decreases the patient's dependence on glaucoma medications.

The iStent is the smallest implantable device in humans and normally

costs thousands of dollars but iStent manufacturer, Glaukos, donated iStents to all 2018 Mission Cataract patients in need.

Another Mission Cataract patient, Gail McPherson of Bradenton, said, "I am just incredibly grateful to you

all, and to the company who donated (the lenses), for the chance to keep my eyeballs.

"This is going to be a life-changer for me and I'm more grateful than I can express."

*Submitted by  
Marissa Rossnagle*