



“YOU CAN LOOK AT DR. BARTHELOW AS THE PICASSO OF CATARACT SURGERY”

—JIM HAUENSTEIN

with Dr. Isaac Barthelow of North Valley Eye Care. During his long career in the healthcare industry, he found that many physicians turned away Medi-Cal patients to ensure that they wouldn't lose money on treatment. Even in Northern California, Dr. Barthelow was one of the few doctors who took non-paying patients, but even more surprising, specifically advertised to invite them in. His strong belief in the importance of always helping others struck a chord with Jim and the two quickly became friends.

It was no surprise that Jim visited North Valley Eye Care when his eyesight began to wane in 2009. Dr. Rudick checked his eyes and found that the changes in Jim's vision were due to cataracts, a slow clouding of the eye's natural lens. Jim scheduled his surgery for July, and though he was perfectly comfortable with Dr. Barthelow as his surgeon, he was understandably uneasy as it was the first surgery he ever had. He decided not to ask questions and simply take the plunge.

Upon leaving the surgery on his first eye, he didn't remember much, other than how quickly the procedure was completed. He decided to be more inquisitive on the second surgery and wanted to know exactly what was going on. He was surprised at how straightforward the procedure was, and the opportunity to have his questions answered in full by Dr. Barthelow relieved the apprehension he had toward the surgery. Jim had his second surgery a few short weeks later and couldn't have been more happy with the results. As he put it, “I couldn't believe how fast it was over. You're in one minute and you're out the next. It was a great experience. I didn't even do laser surgery, which I hear is even easier. When I had my first eye done and took off the patch it was like going from an old grainy TV to 4K Ultra-High Definition. It was unreal. The things I thought were bright and clear—I just had no clue. I knew the leaves on the tree were green because I knew they were supposed to be, but with this level of clarity, my idea of green became so different.”

With eyesight restored to near 20/20, Jim couldn't be more thankful for his newfound vision, or the need to only wear glasses for close up reading. “It's like I have a new life that I didn't even know I needed,” Jim said. “I've lived with blurriness and fading vision for so many years—the difference is just amazing.” When asked about the importance of eye care for seniors, Jim responded, “The older you get, the more you're at risk for stumbles and falls that can lead to major and costly medical intervention. Impaired vision only increases the chances of experiencing such an event. Cataract surgery and proper eye care make a world of difference for older people. From a health standpoint, correcting those issues makes you healthier and less prone to accidents. I think about it as an investment in a healthy lifestyle and an investment in reducing healthcare costs. I would recommend cataract surgery for anyone. There's no pain to the surgery whatsoever and the results will blow you away!”

IF YOU'RE LIKE JIM AND HAVE EXPERIENCED CHANGES IN YOUR VISION, CALL NORTH VALLEY EYE CARE TODAY AT 530.891.1900. AS HE'LL BE THE FIRST TO TELL YOU, IT'LL BE THE BEST DECISION YOU'LL EVER MAKE.

— NORTH VALLEY EYE CARE: —

Jim Hauenstein

Originally from North Tonawanda, New York, Jim Hauenstein moved to California in the late 1960s after completing his contract with the US Army and a stint at Eastman Kodak. Tired of brutal East Coast winters, he moved in with his uncle in Fullerton, California and his cousin arranged an interview at McDonnell Douglas' IT department. Jim was hired at McDonnell Douglas and within a few short years, he earned a manager position overseeing one of their top software processing systems.

Jim's training at McDonnell Douglas exposed him to a world of new opportunities, including an offer from Long Beach Memorial Hospital to serve as Director of IT, which he accepted in 1983. The position was Jim's first foray into the world of healthcare, and he quickly realized that he was perfectly suited for the field. He held the position for five years before transferring to Renown Health in Reno for another five years, California Hospital System in the Bay Area for two years, and finally the McKesson Corporation in Atlanta, Georgia. When McKesson signed a multi-million dollar software deal with Mt. Sinai Hospital in Miami Beach, Jim was sent to oversee the transition. It was there that he met his wife, Yasmin, who was the hospital's director of rehabilitation.

Eventually, the CEO of Quorum Technologies reached out to Jim and invited him to Chico to help with a system conversion at Enloe Hospital. He agreed and worked on the conversion for three months in 2006 before Enloe's CFO asked him to temporarily fill in for the recently vacated CIO position. He found himself right at home and remained in that position until retiring in 2014.

During Jim's tenure at Enloe Hospital, he met and worked with the majority of Chico's doctors and found himself especially impressed