John Murphy has had an idea for many years. His ability to observe the human condition and his very creative mind combined to nurture, and ultimately develop, the concept for a series of documentaries about what John calls the “Turning Point.” Defined as the moment or experience that molds a person’s life, John sees a Turning Point for everyone. His fascination with how life decisions are made when people find themselves at a crossroads and the resultant benefits to mankind fueled his desire to bring stories of these decisive moments to the screen. His subjects are not motivated by power, financial gain, or other material rewards. These are, as John describes them, “Ordinary people who have who have seen a need and have done extraordinary things.”

“Two people can be at the same point, the same crossroads, and make different decisions,” John explains. “It is fascinating why they make the decisions they do.” These are people who don’t want recognition and celebrity. They have pure motives, often not knowing in advance what the decision is going to accomplish.

John’s idea coalesced with management and other creative minds at Cosmic Pictures in Salt Lake City, where John is employed. They took the proposal to BYU-TV and received a positive response and seed money for a pilot project. The first two documentaries to be produced are the stories of EagleEyes and its inventor, Boston College Professor Jim Gips and the Scott Clark Family.

In the course of his normal intellectual pursuits, Professor Gips created this technology that has had a profound effect on the severely disabled community. At the onset of his work, Professor Gips did not realize the incredible outcome EagleEyes could achieve. His decision to create the technology was compelling and has opened the doors of communication for many.

The response to the pilot episode has been overwhelming, for the Opportunity Foundation of America as well as
for Cosmic Pictures and BYU-TV. Many viewers have said it has totally changed their outlook about individuals with disabilities. The management of BYU-TV has inquired about how Cosmic Pictures is going to maintain the superior quality of the pilot throughout the entire series. BYU-TV has approved the series of documentaries that will begin in October of this year. John suggests that it isn’t easy to find stories like EagleEyes and the Clark Family because these are people who do not want to be found. They do what they do without regard for personal fame and fortune. The best stories come by word-of-mouth, as did the stories of Professor Gips and the Clark’s.

John Murphy had an idea. It flourished and grew into something that viewers can relate to. John’s dream is that people will be able to reflect on their own lives and find their own Turning Point to make a difference in someone’s life.

Thank you, John Murphy. The world is a much better place because of your humanity and creative talents.

Welcome to our new EE Volunteer Facilitators

Chad Holmes

Esteban Uboldi & Ruby

Judy Johnson

BIOMED Products

The Opportunity Foundation of America is proud to introduce our new EagleEyes Electrode Cable manufacturer, Biomed Products.

Biomed Products is the leading manufacturer of high quality, reusable, Sintered Silver Silver Chloride EEG, ENG, EMG, GSR, EOG and Evoked Potentials Sensors/Electrodes.

For over ten years they have specialized in custom products designed to fit your individual needs providing Researchers, Distributors, and OEM’s Custom Sintered Ag, AgCL Electrodes. Biomed’s Electrodes are compressed with a Silver Silver Chloride matrix which never needs rechloriding. At Biomed Products they manufacture their electrodes utilizing only the purest chemicals. Due to their proprietary methods and rigid quality control they are able to adhere to the tightest tolerance in the industry.

For more information on Biomed Products go to: www.BiomedElectrodes.com

Biomed Products Mission Statement:

To provide the highest standards in manufacturing, dependability and individual customization.
Reflections from Professor Gips

Written by: Professor Jim Gips
Boston College

My sincerest thanks to John Murphy and everyone at Cosmic Pictures for the wonderful job they did in featuring EagleEyes in the pilot for Turning Point.

I believe that there are thousands of children and young adults in the U.S. alone who are so disabled physically that they have no means of communicating with the outside world. Often, except for close family members, people don’t believe that they are cognitively and mentally there. They are trapped in non-functioning bodies and are treated by others as non-persons.

The Turning Point documentary gets the message out so effectively. EagleEyes can help children and adults who are locked in with no means of communication. The word spreads. Someone watches the show and knows someone whose child is severely disabled. They phone or email and the process begins. The documentary has had many other important benefits.

I have been enmeshed in the project for so many years that I just assume that relatives, colleagues, friends, and acquaintances know all about it. The response from people who watch the documentary has been overwhelming. My colleague literally in the next office appeared at my office door with tears streaming down his face; he had just watched the documentary on the web and realized what EagleEyes is about.

An engineer in Indiana watches the show and is working with a young man with cerebral palsy. He emails me to see if we can put a feature into EagleEyes to accommodate that the young man sits in his wheelchair with his head turned to the side. Now that he mentions it, a lot of individuals who use EagleEyes have their head turned.

For years, Professor Bill Ames, my colleague at Boston College, has very kindly volunteered his time to design and maintain the EagleEyes hardware and software. I spoke with him about this issue and he is now putting an elegant new feature in the EagleEyes 2012 software for a person to use EagleEyes with the head rotated to the side.

I know there are only so many minutes in the documentary and the folks at Cosmic Pictures had a story they wanted to tell, but there are many other people who work very hard for EagleEyes. Especially Debbie Inkley and the Opportunity Foundation of America. If it weren’t for Debbie’s extraordinary energy and skills and dedication, EagleEyes would have died five years ago. That we continue to help children and young adults with severe physical disabilities is a testament to Debbie and Bill and to all of you who volunteer and support EagleEyes in so many ways.

SAVE THE DATE: Aug 3rd-OFOA Dinner & Auction

OFOA will be hosting their annual Dinner and Auction at the Tavernacle Social Club in Salt Lake City on Wednesday, August 3rd at 6:30pm.

Salsa Leedos Restaurant will be providing a delicious dinner. Fajitas, enchiladas, rice, beans and dessert will be served.

The dynamic Dueling Pianos will provide incredible music and lots of fun.

A Silent and Live Auction will be held, and all proceeds will go towards manufacturing and distributing new EagleEyes systems.

Tickets can be purchased for $40 online at www.ofoa.net or call Debbie at 801-231-6691.

Please join us for a great cause and a great party!
Opportunity Foundation of America

Board Members:
Howard Sharpley — Board President
Debbie Inkley—Founder & Executive Director
Scott Allen, Steve Aston, Steve Bayans, Jim Finn, Ken Margetts
Cheri Laughridge, Mary Murphy, Ron Williams, Mike Schlappi,
Lonnie Adams, Linda Eller
Volunteers:

Opportunity Foundation of America:
Mike Carmody,
Chad Holme, Olga Sandovol, Kris Kuelpsne, Judy Johnson, Mike Carmody,

Daktridge School:
Dr. Richard Kay

Weber School District:
Sandi Rice

Jordan Valley School:
Mark Riding and Kat Wynch

Boston College:
Professor Jim Gips, Professor Bill Ames,

Maureen Gates, and Dr. Don Ricciato

Weber State University:
Sandi Rice

Opportunity Foundation of America:
Mike Carmody,

Chad Holme, Olga Sandovol, Kris Kuelpsne, Judy Johnson, Mike Carmody,

Daktridge School:
Dr. Richard Kay

Weber School District:
Sandi Rice

Jordan Valley School:
Mark Riding and Kat Wynch

Boston College:
Professor Jim Gips, Professor Bill Ames,

Maureen Gates, and Dr. Don Ricciato

Weber State University:
Sandi Rice

Opportunity Foundation of America:
Mike Carmody,

Chad Holme, Olga Sandovol, Kris Kuelpsne, Judy Johnson, Mike Carmody,

Daktridge School:
Dr. Richard Kay

Weber School District:
Sandi Rice

Jordan Valley School:
Mark Riding and Kat Wynch

Boston College:
Professor Jim Gips, Professor Bill Ames,

Maureen Gates, and Dr. Don Ricciato

Weber State University:
Sandi Rice

Opportunity Foundation of America:
Mike Carmody,

Chad Holme, Olga Sandovol, Kris Kuelpsne, Judy Johnson, Mike Carmody,

Daktridge School:
Dr. Richard Kay

Weber School District:
Sandi Rice

Jordan Valley School:
Mark Riding and Kat Wynch

Boston College:
Professor Jim Gips, Professor Bill Ames,

Maureen Gates, and Dr. Don Ricciato

Weber State University:
Sandi Rice

Opportunity Foundation of America:
Mike Carmody,

Chad Holme, Olga Sandovol, Kris Kuelpsne, Judy Johnson, Mike Carmody,

Daktridge School:
Dr. Richard Kay

Weber School District:
Sandi Rice

Jordan Valley School:
Mark Riding and Kat Wynch

Boston College:
Professor Jim Gips, Professor Bill Ames,

Maureen Gates, and Dr. Don Ricciato

Weber State University:
Sandi Rice

Opportunity Foundation of America:
Mike Carmody,