Nominee Statement: Ryan Toews

# Position: IAPB Group C Trustee

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| **Nominee Job Title** |
|   | Chairman |
| **Nominee Organisation** |
|   | Fundacion Vision |
| **Nominating IAPB member organisation** |
|  | Visualiza |
| **Represented by:** |
|   | Juan Francisco Yee |
| **Seconded by:** |
|   | Babar Qureshi |
| **Seconding IAPB member organisation:** |
|   | CBM |
| **Seconding Statement** |
|   | CBM Christian Blind Mission is an organization that has worked with Fundacion Vision since its birth. We are well aware of the history of this organization, which has played from the beginning a prominent role in its efforts to prevent blindness both in Paraguay and in Latin America.We know that Fundacion Vision has always promoted positive leadership, based on the highest values with the aim of providing high-quality services available to everyone. This is why it seeks to work with people who are eminently identified with these values. Mr. Ryan Toews, current Executive Director of Fundacion Vision, is no exception in this regard. In the time that we have worked with him we met him as a person who promotes guidance and empowers leaders by sharing his knowledge and fostering teamwork.We also know that Mr. Toews is a business-trained person who at the same time has worked in Christian and volunteer organizations. This brings an ideal complement to his professional training and has led to outstanding leadership at Fundacion Vision. He started working at Fundacion Vision at a very challenging time (at the beginning of the current pandemic) and has been able to motivate, empower and encourage the workforce; he also was able to generate new partnerships and kept the existing ones with highly encouraging results.We noticed Mr. Toews' very good management skills combined with human value, skills that we consider important virtues for an IAPB Board Member. We have also seen his ability to work as a team player, guide the organization's effort and articulate alliances that impact to proposed goals, both in Paraguay and in the Latin American region.We second Mr. Ryan Toews' nomination because we believe that even though he is still a young person, he has the strength to guide and promote positive leadership. We consider this as fundamental to this position within the IAPB. In addition he is a result-oriented person but always guided by high principles of honesty and integrity. In other words he has the best ethical-moral values to be part of the Board of IAPB and collaborate there as a Trustee. We believe he fully fulfills the functions and objectives of the Board and, in our estimation, we also consider that this involvement would be an opportunity for him to continue developing his leadership skills. |
| **Nominee Statement** |
|   | My name is Ryan Toews, current Executive Director of Fundacion Vision, Paraguay. I have Bachelor's and Master's degrees in business and I have been working in eye health and prevention of blindness for over 10 years. As an entrepreneur, during my professional career I have had the opportunity to work first on issues related to international trade and later on issues related to eye health and blindness prevention, as well as in Christian organizations, serving on the board of several of them.I got acquainted with IAPB and its work mostly through Dr. Rainald Duerksen who has been Latin American Chair for several years and who taught me through example the importance and privilege of using one's professional skills to serve.I am aware of the responsibilities entailed by being part of the IAPB Board and I would like to have the possibility of being part of it because I have the support of Fundacion Vision and other institutions; and also because I believe that I can contribute a lot with the experience I have had in companies and social organizations in which I have been able to work as a staff, advisor and member of the board of directors. Serving in such capacities, I have been able to generate partnerships between different types of organizations, helping to achieve integration and honest work between the parties.During my professional career, I was able to learn a lot about the international reality in relation to blindness, and especially in the Latin American and European region. I also was able to learn about emerging techniques and technology with the purpose of reducing and avoiding blindness.Assuming this commitment on the IAPB Board will be a challenge that I would take with great pleasure, with the idea of supporting the work that is being done, helping to generate new initiatives to serve the growth of the IPAB, its members; but mainly, the achievement of its objectives, ensuring that everything is carried out with ethical values, respect, honesty and the pursuit for excellence in everything that is undertaken. |