

Angel Alvarez

Founder and Chairman of the Board

Angel Alvarez guides the strategic vision of **ABB OPTICAL GROUP** as the company's founder, former CEO and current chairman of the board.

Angel grew **ABB OPTICAL** from three staff members in a small warehouse room in 1989 to more than 1,000 employees across eight facilities nationwide today, establishing **ABB OPTICAL GROUP** as one of the leading distributors of optical products in the United States.

ABB OPTICAL supplies nearly two-thirds of eye care professionals across the country with brand-name contact lenses, specialty contact lenses, ophthalmic lenses and more. The company also provides business-building services for its customers such as pricing strategy tools, as well as performance dashboards through its Glimpse software division and practice management solutions through Primary Eyecare Network. **ABB OPTICAL's** DIGITAL EYE LAB Network utilizes cutting-edge technology to produce eyewear that is personalized to patients' needs and lifestyles.

Angel began his career in the optometry industry more than 30 years ago as a senior sales representative for CibaVision. With the advent of disposable contact lenses in the mid-1980s, he realized that as small business owners, optometrists would not be able to keep up with consumer demand, delivery and logistics. Angel saw the paradigm shift and knew he could help them increase efficiency, drive costs down and ultimately grow profitability. So in 1989, Angel purchased Co-Optics Distribution and formed Alvaco Trading Company, which became ABB Optical a year later.

Under Angel's leadership, the company experienced rapid growth and expansion in the 1990s and 2000s through the acquisition of several regional contact lens companies, most notably CON-CISE Contact Lens Company in California, which established ABB CONCISE as the largest contact lens distributor in the United States.

In 2012, private equity firm New Mountain Capital of New York recapitalized ABB CONCISE to support continued growth and expansion. Later that year, ABB CONCISE and Optical Distributor Group, the second largest contact lens distributor in the nation, merged to become **ABB OPTICAL GROUP**.

An acquisition of Diversified Ophthalmics, Inc. and partner company MidSouth Premier Ophthalmics in 2016 expanded **ABB OPTICAL**'s logistics support along the East and West Coasts into the central U.S., increasing the company's geographic footprint across several Midwestern states.

Angel is not only an industry leader but a community leader as well. **ABB OPTICAL GROUP** proudly supports industry-related organizations including Optometry Giving Sight as well as educational and human services organizations including the American Cancer Society and the United Way, among others.

Angel earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Miami and is an active supporter of the national Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship.