



2017 Nicaragua Eye Care Mission



Members of the **Pendleton Lions Club** played lead roles in organizing the January 2017 **Hopeful Ways Eye Care Medical Brigade** that provided free eye care services to almost 3,000 of the poorest people in Juigalpa Nicaragua. The services included vision screening, eye examinations, eye surgeries (for cataracts, pterygium and strabismus), prosthetic eyes, and dispensing of prescription and reading eyeglasses, sunglasses, safety glasses and eye moisturizing drops.

Many of these people had never been seen by an eye doctor during their lifetime, and a pair of prescription eyeglasses could cost 6 months wages. Some cataract patients had conditions so severe that they were essentially blind in both eyes. Cataract surgery was a miracle that restored their vision. One woman began to cry while stating that she had never seen her grandchild's face before.

The medical brigade included 21 people from the USA, and worked very closely with the **Nicaragua Lions and Leos Clubs** as well as like-minded Nicaraguan community members. The Nicaragua Lions prepared the clinic site, provided for brigade logistics and clinic lunches, registered and coordinated patients, and were trained to staff the clinic stations. This project could not have been as successful without the tremendous support and dedication of the Nicaraguan Lions. On any given day, the clinic was staffed with over 75 volunteers working to improve the lives of the less fortunate.

The Nicaragua The mission report contains more details of the all the statistics. But the real accomplishments were seen on the faces of the people who received the free eye care services. The gift of clearer vision made a positive impact on their lives and provided hope for their futures.

2017 Nicaragua Eye Care Mission

Juigalpa, Chontales, Nicaragua

Program Objectives

- Provide free quality eye care services to the poor in Nicaragua.
- Train Nicaraguan Lions to provide basic eye care services without a USA brigade
- Through a series of projects, establish sustainable Eye Care Clinics to continue delivering free services after the medical brigade returns to the USA.
- Build relationships between Nicaragua and USA, especially among Lions Clubs.

Project Support

- Lions Clubs: District 20-N (Western New York) and District 5 (Nicaragua)
- Corporate sponsorship: Alcon, Allergan, Reichert
- FONIPRECE Ophthalmic Clinic

Medical Brigade

- 21 USA & Canada Brigade Members (+4 Nicaragua Eye Care Professionals)
- 2 Ophthalmologists (2 Nicaraguan)
- 2 Optometrists (1 Nicaraguan)
- 4 Opticians (1 Nicaragua)
- 4 Registered Nurses
- 13 Non-medical Volunteers (including 8 USA Lions, 1 USA Rotarian)

Patient Eye Care Services

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • 2954 Patients treated | • 2083 Eyeglasses dispensed |
| • 2917 Vision screening | • 2749 Sunglasses dispensed |
| • 1718 Auto-refractions | • 186 Safety glasses dispensed |
| • 771 Optometrist examinations | • 2823 Eye drops dispensed |
| • 31 Prosthetic Eyes | |

Surgery

<u>Surgical Condition</u>	<u>Candidates Identified</u>	<u>Surgeries Planned</u>
• Total Evaluated	• 219	• 170
• Cataract	• 109	• 72
• Strabismus	• 9	• 5
• Pterygium	• 33	• 18
• Other Conditions	• 18	• 0
• Non-Surgical	• 50	• 0

Providing hope. Enriching lives.

Sustainable Free Eye Care Services

Objective: The Hopeful Ways Eye Care Mission promotes sustainable free eye care services for the Nicaraguan poor with minimal to no support from outside Nicaragua, through training for Nicaragua Lions Club members, loans of ophthalmic instruments, surgery funding, and a coalition with FONIPRECE (a Nicaraguan non-profit eye surgery clinic).

- Developed the capacity for independent Nicaragua Lion Eye Care Brigades
 - Hopeful Ways
 - Loaned ophthalmic instruments to Lions Clubs for brigade usage
 - Trained Lions on all required brigade functions
 - Provides surgical medications & supplies thru donations and fundraising
 - Camoapa and Juigalpa Lions Clubs
 - Organize small brigades to provide free eye care services to the poor.
 - FONIPRECE
 - Participate in a Nicaragua Lions small eye care brigades.
- Established a coalition to deliver free eye care surgeries to the poor in Nicaragua.
 - Hopeful Ways
 - Organize / support eye care missions in Nicaragua
 - Identify surgical candidates for Regional Hospital and FONIPRECE
 - Raise funds to cover surgical expenses incurred by FONIPRECE
 - Nicaragua Lions Clubs
 - Support Hopeful Ways Mission projects in Nicaragua.
 - Coordinate patients at for surgical evaluation by FONIPRECE
 - Refer patients to Regional Hospitals for surgical evaluation
 - Coordinate patients scheduled for surgery at FONIPRECE
 - Organize a small eye care brigades without a USA-based medical brigade present by using Nicaraguan Lions and volunteer medical staff.
 - FONIPRECE Non-profit Eye Surgery Clinic
 - Evaluate surgical candidates identified by Hopeful Ways and Lions
 - Provide surgery (cataracts, strabismus) at cost with free medical labor.
 - Regional Hospitals
 - Evaluate surgical candidates identified by Hopeful Ways and Lions
 - Provide free minor eye surgeries (pterygium, etc.)

Goodwill Activities

- Hopeful Ways donated medications and surgical supplies from excess inventories to FONIPRECE Clinic to use on surgical patients identified during the Eye Care Projects.
- Hopeful Ways delivered donated medical supplies to the Juigalpa Regional Hospital for the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) to improve health care for premature birth babies and breast feeding mothers.
- A Hopeful Ways volunteer delivered donated baseball equipment to fully equip a Juigalpa baseball team, bats, balls, gloves, catcher's gear, hats, and helmets.
- All children entering the clinic received a small toy to comfort them and keep them entertained during their long wait for clinic services.
- Hopeful Ways volunteers distributed toys to children in an extremely poor roadside rural community. It was like Christmas morning for the children.