



Faces of Hope Faces of Hope

April 2018



People making a difference
on Hopeful Ways Projects

"My gratitude is huge to all of you... I was practicing (English interpreting) and learning a lot, but most important I was helping to help my folk... From the bottom of my heart I tell you 'thank you' and you all are part of my life. God bless you everyone."

-- Doris Oporta
(Nicaraguan Spanish Interpreter)

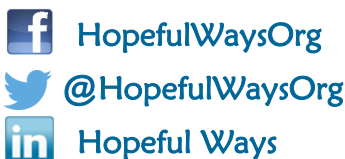


"It's a pleasure for me to help people that need it, and while it be possible I will always do it! And many thanks for letting me be part of Hopeful ways... all of you are parts of my heart! A lot of hugs for you..."

-- Merlys Aragon
(Nicaraguan Spanish Interpreter)



Connect with Hopeful Ways



www.hopefulways.org



Hopeful Ways Inc.
P.O. Box 1037, Getzville, NY 14068 USA

Providing Hope. Enriching Lives.

"We provide medical & humanitarian services and educational opportunities to improve the quality of life for the people of Nicaragua. We do this with great love, compassion, and a sincere desire to be of service to those living in impoverished conditions."

President's Message

During February 2018 the Hopeful Ways volunteers successfully completed the Nicaragua Eye Care Missions at 2 locations. The mission targeted the poor community of Teustepe and a Children's Home (orphanage) near Nandaime operated by the non-profit Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) – a wonderful organization. Adults and children in both communities benefited greatly from the free eye care services. This newsletter contains articles written by the volunteers that tell the real stories.

This year Hopeful Ways expanded support for eye surgeries for the poor with our partner FONIPRECE, a non-profit eye surgery clinic in Managua. FONIPRECE now screens people in poor communities year-round to identify cataract patients. The FONIPRECE equipment, operating room and surgical staff are donated free of charge and Hopeful Ways raises the funding to pay for medical supplies, medications and patient logistics. The Nicaragua Lions Clubs organize and coordinate the patients in the local communities. This 3-way partnership now provides year-round, low-cost, vision restoring, high quality eye surgeries for the poor that would otherwise not be possible.

Hopeful Ways has also expanded our prosthetic eye program, and this February another 52 people received artificial eyes. While the procedure does not restore vision, it allows the individuals to look normal again and gain social acceptance within their community. Hopeful Ways is also training Nicaraguan eye care professionals to learn this procedure so that it can also continue year-round.

The end goal for Hopeful Ways programs is self-sufficiency by the Nicaraguans (as much as possible) for eye care clinics, eye surgeries and prosthetic eyes. This will create the most future benefits for the Nicaraguan poor.

Always in service,

Jim Carlins, President
716-909-8942
jicarlins@hopefulways.org
Pendleton Lions Club





Teustepe Eye Clinic - Volunteer Thoughts

Eye Care Mission.

I spent the 10 days on an eye mission to Teustepe, Nicaragua. We provided eye health screenings, exams and eyeglasses to over 1600 local under-served people thru the non-profit Hopeful Ways from Buffalo NY. Our clinic was the local Catholic Church. We moved the pews and set up stations to determine patient needs. We worked 8 hour days, very tiring as the temperature felt like 95 and there was no air conditioning. Many folks were between 50-90 years old, and most never having worn glasses before. We had a stock of thousands of pairs of eyeglasses that were Lions Club donations, and we matched them as best possible with the patient's prescriptive needs. The church and the Lions Clubs are important parts in these people's lives. They are mostly agricultural workers, cowboys, and housewives. Next to Haiti, Nicaragua is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. They are extremely grateful for the services we provided as the government does not provide.

--- Ed Stoudemire (Hopeful Ways Optician)

The Eye Clinic.

Feb 6 - Day 2 - We've seen over 550 people. Many receive prescription eye glasses. Many receive eye drops & safety glasses. Many surgery candidates. All receive sunglasses. It's been a busy few days but so worthwhile.

Feb 8 - Day 4 - We helped 928 people so far. Hundreds already waiting to see us!

--- Alysha Bradley (Hopeful Ways Brigade Volunteer)

Enriched Lives in Teustepe.

Feb 10 - Day 6 –The 5 day clinic was a huge success – OVER 1600 PEOPLE HELPED! Thank you to the Hopeful Ways Eye Care Brigade, the Nicaraguan Lions Clubs, and the Nicaraguan volunteers and interpreters.

--- Loretta Carlins (Hopeful Ways Brigade Volunteer)





Nacho Brightens Brigade Experience at NPH

Although I had been an interpreter at a medical clinic at home for many years, I had never gone with a medical brigade to another country to interpret for the other volunteers. When I found out that we would spend our second week in Nicaragua at an orphanage, I was concerned that it would be overwhelmingly sad and depressing, seeing all the orphans in what I thought might be harsh conditions. But I was determined to go and help. Nothing could be further from the reality.

I was pleased to see that the children at Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) are some of the best educated and well-rounded children raised in Nicaragua, and, I suspect, in the other eight countries where they have facilities.

The children at NPH are provided with nice housing, a good education, and access to health care. Our brigade was going to examine the eyes of all the children, their teachers, and the entire staff of the facility. The children, all in their white shirts or blouses, and navy blue skirts or trousers, were well behaved, polite, and very excited about the clinic, all the Americans visiting and just experiencing something new and different in their daily routine.

We set up the clinic with an initial examination using a small machine that looks into the eyes of the children, takes a photo, and either passes them as having good eyesight or tells us they need to be examined further. In order to get the kids to look directly into the machine there is a smiley face on the front lens. Fortunately, most of the children passed and needed nothing further. This was not good news to them, however, as many of them wanted to experience the whole clinic and visit every station, and see what all the Americans were doing. We did identify quite a few children who needed eye glasses or other treatment.

One young man, about six years old, is a lively little guy that the school nicknamed Nacho. Nacho was determined to go through the whole clinic. The initial examination showed he had fine eyesight. He was very disappointed and wanted us to send him through the whole clinic, just to be certain and because he is so curious. We sent him back to school. Nacho did not give up easily. About twice a day for the next few days, whenever he had a break in his school day, he came back to the clinic, asked to see the “la carita feliz” (the smiley face) again. He just wanted to be sure nothing changed that might get him entry into the whole process, visiting all the stations and the optometrist.



Nacho has such an engaging smile, and was such a cutie, that each time he showed up, we pretended to check his eyes again as he grinned into the smiley face. We assured him that he was fine and there was no need to see the doctor. Although I am sure that he was very disappointed, that big smile never left his face.

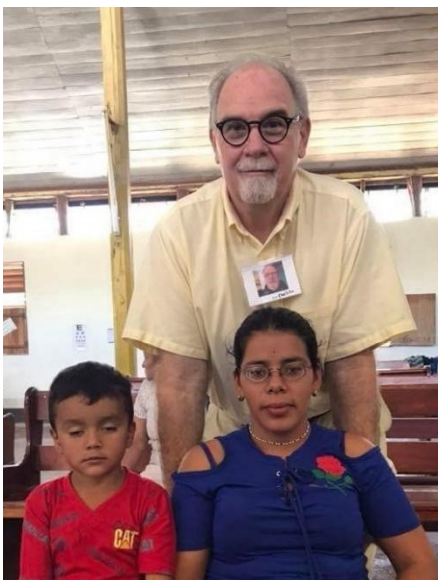
This really reminds us that, rich or poor, kids all over the world are the same and it was so rewarding to be a part of a brigade that can make such a difference in the lives of these children, who deserve every opportunity to live a healthy and rewarding life.

--- Cris Ryker – Hopeful Ways Brigade Volunteer and Interpreter

Eye Surgery Program Expands!

Hopeful Ways partners with the non-profit eye surgery clinic FONIPRECE to provide eye surgeries to the poor. The program has expanded and now provides eye surgeries year-round. So far in 2018, 42 patients have received cataract surgery, with 50+ more patients on the waiting list. Other eye surgeries are also planned including a corneal transplant for an 8 year old boy. FONIPRECE will continue to help these people with eye surgeries that are free to the patients due to the consolidated efforts of Hopeful Ways, FONIPRECE, Nicaraguan Lions Clubs and other Nicaraguan Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO).





The smiles make it all worthwhile.
20/Happy !!!

-- Joe Shiah – Hopeful Ways Optician

Thank You Donors !!!

While volunteers pay their own expenses, executing the Hopeful Ways 2018 Eye Care Mission incurs many other expenses plus logistics support for the eye surgery patients.

Hopeful Ways and the Nicaraguan people express their sincere **THANKS** to the many individual donors and organizations for the generous monetary support. Donations of \$1,000 or more were received from:

- John Newman Community
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- District 20-N Lions Clubs
- Kensington Lions Club
- Lockport Lions Club
- Veterinary Study Group
- Richard Crandall Jr
- Karen Kirst
- Jay Frantz
- Raymour & Flanigan Furniture, Amherst NY

Your generous support improved the lives of countless Nicaraguans and their families.



Volunteer!

Do you have a desire to help others?

Can you make some time in your life to make the world a better place?

It takes significant time and effort to organize the Hopeful Ways mission projects, fundraise and maintain the organization. You don't have to travel to Nicaragua to be a significant contributor. If you have a few hours to occasionally volunteer for a specific event or if want to become involved in our growing organization, call or email to discuss how you can help.

716-909-8942

jcarlins@hopefulways.org

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service to others." – Mahatma Gandhi

Do you shop on Amazon?

- 1) Go to **smile.amazon.com**
- 2) Select **"Hopeful Ways, Getzville"**

Amazon will donate a % of your purchases to Hopeful Ways at no cost to you!





Clear Vision - Miraculous Gift

The Triage station started the patient's day. The people of Nicaragua would start with Sue O'Brien and Rae Ann Van Pelt to determine if their eyes were damaged or diseased in any way. Unlike people in the USA, the eye problems that the Nicaraguans face can range from injuries working on farms to cooking on outdoor fires. However, to see how amazed the Nicaraguans are when, for the first time, they can see clearly, that is a joy and an experience I will never forget.

--- John Tasca



This lady came to the clinic presenting with headaches and thought it might be due to her eyes. After an eye exam we found her and her eyes to be quite healthy. Through an interpreter, we found that she had been having a difficult past few months. She was taking care of her long term boyfriend and he had been in and out of the hospital and that he had recently died. We concluded the headaches were probably stress related. I gave her one of the religious articles that I brought for people who could use them. She chose a cross. We hugged. Sometimes the work on an eye care mission does not have anything to do with eyes at all. Maybe it's about making someone's life happy even for just a little while.

---- Sue O'Brien (Hopeful Ways Optician)



Artificial Eye Program Expands

Hopeful Ways volunteer Jay Frantz completed his third trip to Nicaragua in 13 months to help people with artificial eyes. Abraham Delgado of the Nicaragua non-profit eye surgery clinic FONIPRECE organized a large group of patients for Jay to help. During 3 clinic days, Jay fitted 52 people with artificial eyes. During the past 3 trips, Jay has helped over 150 people. Jay is also teaching Abraham Delgado the techniques for fitting artificial eyes so that the program can continue year-round.

While the artificial eye does not restore vision, it allows the individual to regain a normal facial appearance and social acceptance. All of the patients were very grateful and tears of joy were shed by some. The result is dramatic and life changing for these individuals!





Fundraiser Supports Cataract Surgeries

On Nov 30 2017, Raymour & Flanigan Furniture in Amherst hosted the 1st Annual Hopeful Ways “Night-Out” fundraiser with live music by PA Line, Wine Tasting by Victorianbour Wine Estate, great food, basket raffles and more. The event raised over \$4,000 to support eye surgeries for the Nicaragua poor, including a \$1,000 donation by Raymour & Flanigan. Many thanks to all the vendors, volunteers and supporters who made this event a huge success.

We’re looking forward to the 2nd Annual Hopeful Ways “Night-Out” event this fall.



Corporate Sponsors

While volunteers pay their own expenses, the Hopeful Ways 2018 Eye Care mission must purchase many supplies and rent equipment to support the mission activities.

Hopeful Ways and the Nicaraguan people express their sincere **THANKS** to Alcon, Allergan and PlusOptics for the generous donation of pharmaceutical supplies and the loan of equipment. Your support enabled the 2018 mission to be possible, which improved the lives of many Nicaraguans and their families.

Thank You !!!

