



Faces of Hope Faces of Hope

February 2020



People making a difference
on Hopeful Ways Projects

“The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen.”

– Elisabeth Kübler-Ross

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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

The Hopeful Ways initiative to help the Nicaraguan poor delivered substantial value to the people during 2019. Restrictions on public gatherings by the Nicaraguan government have limited event activities, but the Nicaraguan people are dedicated and have persevered to deliver services with a significant positive impact.

The Nicaraguan Lions Clubs conducted a number of weekend eye care clinics to service the poor in 2019 using the Hopeful Ways eyeglasses inventory and eye care equipment. Over 1,500 people received free services including eye exams, eyeglasses and antibiotic drops. In addition, Hopeful Ways purchased a new autorefractor for the Rivas Lions Ophthalmic Clinic to increase the quality and capacity of eye care services.

The FONIPRECE eye surgery clinic identified people who were nearly blind due to severe cataracts and over 50 people received free sight-restoring cataract surgery at FONIPRECE in 2019 through the Hopeful Ways “Gift of Sight” program.

Hopeful Ways would like to resume sending Medical Mission Teams to Nicaragua. The leadership team continually monitors the political climate to assure the safety of our mission volunteers, which is our # 1 priority. During the hiatus, a number of these dedicated volunteers are continuing to travel and provide first-hand assistance to the poor by partnering with other organizations to provide medical and humanitarian services to the poor in other Latin American countries as well as within the USA.

2019 delivered significant results and the Hopeful Ways goals have been expanded for 2020, including more weekend clinics and exceeding 100 cataract surgeries. To achieve these results, additional funds must be raised. The Nicaraguan people appreciate the generosity of the Hopeful Ways supporters and the efforts of the Hopeful Ways volunteers. Thank you for your continued support.

Always in service,

Jim Carlins, President
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New Autorefractor Enhances Eye Clinic

In September 2019, Hopeful Ways purchased a new autorefractor for the Nicaraguan Rivas Lions Ophthalmic Clinic. The autorefractor will be available for use by the Hopeful Ways Eye Care Mission Team. For other times, the autorefractor will enhance the quality of care and the patient capacity of the Rivas Lions Club's eye clinics. The potential exists to provide services to more patients during 2020.



2019 Nicaragua Lions Eye Clinics

During 2019, the Rivas and Juigalpa Nicaraguan Lions Clubs conducted numerous weekend eye clinics to help the poor in their communities. The clinics provided free eye care services including eye examinations, prescription eyeglasses, reading glasses and screening people with severe cataracts as potential eye surgery patients. Using equipment and eyeglasses provided by Hopeful Ways, and eye care professional assistance from FONIPRECE, over 1,500 people received eyeglasses.

The appreciation felt by the people is obvious by the smiles on their faces. The eyeglasses will enhance the quality of life for themselves and their families.

Many thanks to these dedicated Lions and FONIPRECE volunteers for their service.



Chart Eye Exam



Many People Wait for Services



Patient Registration

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What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from over one million organizations to support. Login to smile.amazon.com using your normal Amazon login and select "Hopeful Ways Inc" in Getzville NY as your charity to support.

2019 Cataract Surgeries Restore Vision

During 2019, the Hopeful Ways “Gift of Sight” Eye Surgery Program restored vision to over 50 and nearly blind and poor Nicaraguans. The cataract surgeries were made possible through a partnership with the non-profit eye surgery clinic FONIPRECE (Fundación y Clínica Ojo Sano).

The lives of these 50+ people from, Juigalpa, Rivas, Teustepe, and Boaco have been substantially improved by their ability to see again. Some of them can now find meaningful employment to help support their family in this struggling economy. Others are overjoyed with finally seeing the faces of their grandchildren again, or for the first time. The pure emotion with smiles and tears of joy from the patients when the eye bandage is removed after surgery is hard to express in words. To them, the surgery is a miracle and they are very grateful.

Thank you to everyone for supporting the **Hopeful Ways “Gift of Sight” Program**.

2020 Goal: 100+ cataract surgeries for the poor.

Right: Pre-surgery exam

Below: FONIPRECE Staff



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 you want to become involved in our growing organization, call or email to discuss how you can help.

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Nicaragua – A New Normal

The violence has subsided and there is a new “normal” in Nicaragua society. But life isn’t the same as it was prior to April 2018. Freedom to assemble in groups has been restricted, and freedom of speech has been curtailed. The independent newspapers La Prensa and Nuevo Diario have been shut down, along with independent radio stations.

Only government-controlled news outlets provide information to the population. Also, over 100 foreign shipping containers with donations of food, medical supplies and household goods have been detained by Nicaraguan Customs for over a year, which causes additional hardships for the poorest of the people. Hopeful Ways has significant eye care equipment, supplies and eyeglasses among these containers.

Otherwise the country is relatively calm. People go about their daily routines and have accepted the new restrictions – a new “normal”.

Volunteer Remembrance

Hopeful Ways remembers the contributions of volunteer Al Moador who passed away suddenly during 2019. Al was an avid supporter and he participated in organization and execution a number of Hopeful Ways successful fundraisers, especially the events at Raymour & Flanigan. Al’s good nature and pleasant demeanor always brightened a room. Kathy, Al’s wife of 50+ years, continues to volunteer with Hopeful Ways, and she designated Hopeful Ways to receive donations in lieu of flowers at Al’s wake and funeral. Thank you, Kathy, and many thanks to Al for his contributions of time and talents to help the Nicaraguan people.



Welcome Volunteer Grant Writer



Hopeful Ways must continually look for new sources of funds to support the mission programs. We have often lamented not having an experienced grant writer. Now we have one.

A big welcome to Carolyn Keller as the new Hopeful Ways Grant Writer. Carolyn is Operations Manager for Carnegie Project on Education Doctorate, a nonprofit housed at the U of Pittsburgh. She is a violinist and former Board President for the Pittsburgh Philharmonic, and she recently launched her own business, Curio412.

Carolyn was also a 2019 Pittsburgh Business Times “30 Under 30” Award Winner.

Grant writing is a challenging. The competition for grants is fierce and rejection is often the norm. Carolyn has already submitted one grant application and has researched other foundations for future applications. Good luck, Carolyn, and welcome to the team!