



Faces of Hope Faces of Hope

July 2022



People making a difference on Hopeful Ways Projects.

"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."

Providing Hope. Enriching Lives.

President's Message

Life is hard for the people in Nicaragua, and new government rulings impose more restrictions on a regular basis. The people need our help and support more than ever, but our volunteers and partner organizations have not been deterred. They continue to work within (and sometime around) the imposed limitations. While large Eye Care Clinics are not possible within Nicaragua at this time, small clinics and eye surgeries groups continue. So with the government restrictions, how does Hopeful Ways move forward?

1. Continue the Nicaragua Eye Care Mission to the greatest extent possible with small scale activities.
2. Investigate new non-eye care opportunities to help the Nicaraguan people. One possibility is to build low-cost basic houses using a successful process developed by the nonprofit 4 Walls.
3. Investigate taking Eye Care Missions to other Latin American countries. We are currently working with a Lions Club in Costa Rica to make that a reality.

Read this newsletter for more details

The Hopeful Ways Endowment Program has been well received and supporters have already provided donations to bolster the fund. Any donation amount is appreciated. For those who are financially able, the anonymous matching grant is still available for a donation of \$1,000 or more (which can be made in installments). More details are included with this newsletter.



Many thanks to the loyal Hopeful Ways supporters and volunteers who have kept this mission going strong and enhanced the lives of the deserving Nicaraguan people.

Always in service,

Jim Carlins, President
716-909-8942
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"What is the use of living, if it be not to strive for noble causes and to make this muddled world a better place for those who live in it after we are gone?"
— Winston Churchill, former Prime Minister of United Kingdom

Free Eye Surgeries Prevent Blindness as Costs Surge

Supply shortages due to the pandemic followed by inflation has increased the cost of surgical supplies and medications. Nevertheless, Hopeful Ways has maintained the per patient cost for a cataract surgery at only \$180, which is paid by Hopeful Ways.

The Eye Care Mission continued strong during the first half of 2022. Eye care clinics were conducted to identify potential eye surgery candidates, and 26 patients from Boaco, El Sauce and Juigalpa received cataract surgery with another 35 patients on the waiting list.



Two women identified to receive cataract surgery also had other serious eye complications. Both women required additional eye surgeries before the cataract surgery could be performed, which increased the patient costs to \$1500 and \$1800. Without the surgeries, both women would have been permanently blind. The Hopeful Ways "Gift of Sight" program stepped in and funded the multiple surgeries required for each patient. Both women are very grateful for having received the surgeries.

Finally, another 32 people have been identified as eligible for cataract surgery but are hesitant to have it performed. This type of fear is not uncommon with the poor clientele that we serve. Some of these people have never seen any doctor before in their lives, and they need to be educated on the tremendous benefits and minimal risks of the procedure.



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.

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

– Mahatma Gandhi

New Initiatives

The Nicaraguan government has progressively increased restrictive policies that hamper, and in some cases prevent, nonprofits from helping the poorest people. Despite these restrictions, Hopeful Ways has continued Eye Care Clinics and eye surgery services for the poor by partnering with local Nicaraguan nonprofits.

However, Eye Care Mission teams cannot travel to Nicaragua. Therefore, Hopeful Ways must evolve and adapt to the changing social and political environments to maximize the benefits delivered to the poor. To quote Oliver Wendell Holmes: *“A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions.”* So Hopeful Ways is investigating new opportunities for mission teams, both within Nicaragua and in other countries. Two possible opportunities are currently being investigated:

1. Building basic housing in Nicaragua in partnership with the nonprofit *4 Walls / Curatro Paredes*, which has already built 200 houses in northern Nicaragua. Each mission would complete one house and would include 4-5 Hopeful Ways volunteers working for a week alongside 4 Walls craftsmen and the Nicaragua family receiving the house. During these missions, Hopeful Ways intends to learn the 4 Walls process and replicate it in areas of Nicaragua where Hopeful Ways currently works. This work is still possible because it doesn't require any government oversight like medical missions, it only requires a small group of mission travelers carrying minimal supplies, and it only uses local materials. The pictures depict a family's previous house and the basic house built for them.



2. Partnering with a Costa Rica Lions Club to bring an Eye Care Mission to Costa Rica. The 1 - or 2-week mission team would consist of 20–30 volunteers and be similar to the previous Hopeful Ways Nicaragua Eye Care Missions.

Hopeful Ways will continue to investigate mission opportunities like the examples above. Anyone interested in volunteering for these types of missions should contact Jim Carlins at jjcarlins@gmail.com or 716-909-8942.



Hopeful Ways Shines at Lions Convention

Hopeful Ways promoted its Nicaragua mission, goals and accomplishments at the MD-20 Multiple District Lions Clubs Convention in Niagara Falls, NY. Many Lions from across New York State stopped by to learn about the Hopeful Ways mission and to share their stories and personal mission experiences both in the US and abroad. Hopeful Ways service work in Nicaragua was well received by all. The hope is that more Lions Clubs will support Hopeful Ways and more Lions will volunteer for future Hopeful Ways missions.



*Loretta Carlins (Hopeful Ways Board Member)
with Lions Convention Attendee*



Bicycling to Restore Sight

The 6th annual Bicycling to Restore Sight Fundraiser will explore the Greater Niagara Peninsula in Canada, specifically around the Welland Canal connecting Lakes Erie and Ontario. The ride will be a visual journey of beauty that can only be fully appreciated without vision impairment. Cataract surgery and eyeglasses can lessen or eliminate vision impairment for many people. This event raises thousands of dollars annually to support our mission to improve and restore vision by providing free eye care services and eye surgeries to the poor.



Jim Carlins has set a **goal of \$3,000** so that at least **15 needy people** can have their vision **restored with cataract surgery**. The self-supported rider(s) on this multi-day trip pay their own expenses and carry their own clothes and supplies on their bikes. Follow Jim on this journey through his daily posts at www.facebook.com/jjcarlins.

Please consider helping during these times of rising costs for supplies and transport.

DONATE NOW to support this worthy cause

By Checks Payable to: **Hopeful Ways, PO Box 1037, Getzville NY 14068**

By Credit Card or PayPal: <http://hopefulways.org/hopeful-ways-donate/>

Hopeful Ways is an all-volunteer 501c3 non-profit organization.
100% of donations are used to deliver much needed and valuable services.

For more information, or to join Jim on the ride, contact:
Jim Carlins at jjcarlins@gmail.com or 716-909-8942





Remembering Kimberly Stribing

Hopeful Ways is honoring the life of Lion PDG Kimberly Stribing who passed during June. Kim traveled to Nicaragua in 2012 as one of the five founding members that formed Hopeful Ways. Kim was instrumental in guiding the first two Hopeful Ways Eye Care mission teams. She continued to promote eye care vision services for the poor through Hopeful Ways and the Lions Clubs. The photos capture Kim in action during the 2012 mission trip.



ABOVE: Kim and Loretta Carlins with Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity, who worked with the mission team as translators.



LEFT: Kim teaches Jaikel how to walk with a cane. Jaikel went blind at age 11 due to contracting and infectious disease.



ABOVE: Kim receives the Lion District Governor's pin for her volunteer work with the Nicaraguan poor.



LEFT: Kim sponsor Manuel (Jaikel's younger brother) so that he can stay in school.



Endowment Program Provides Hope

Hopeful Ways successfully launch the **Endowment Program**, which will grow and continually provide an annual infusion of funds to support mission programs. Many years of fundraising and growth will be required before it fully supports the mission, but it is off to a great start. No donation is too small to help ensure lasting support to the poor.

The Endowment Matching Funds offer is still available and has enticed some supporters to become early contributors to the program. The **anonymous donor will match up to \$20,000** by adding \$1,000 to pledges of \$1,000 or more, which doubles a supporter's donation impact. Pledges can also be completed in monthly installments, if desired.

More details about the Endowment Fund can be found in the 2-page tri-fold brochure included with this newsletter. To receive additional information, or to speak with an Endowment Program advisor, contact Jim Carlins at 716-909-8942 or jicarlins@hopefulways.org.

Make Hopeful Ways and helping the poor part of **Your Legacy!**



Set your Amazon account to support Hopeful Ways on 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 smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. Login to smile.amazon.com using your normal Amazon login and select "**Hopeful Ways Inc**".



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Hopeful Ways



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Our Mission

We proudly provide medical and humanitarian services and educational opportunities to impoverished people.

We do this with great love and a sincere desire to improve the quality of life for the impoverished.

Our Vision

To provide hope by enriching the lives of impoverished people.

Our Values

Humility
Outreach
Passion
Enthusiasm

Our Signature "Gift Of Sight" Program

To reduce preventable blindness and help preserve vision and visual function through refractive, medical, and surgical efforts

Pledge Levels

< \$ 1,000	Sustaining
\$ 1,000	Bronze
\$ 5,000	Silver
\$10,000	Gold
\$25,000	Platinum

Any amount provides for the future.

The Need is Great

- Medical care
- Clean drinking water
- Housing
- Education
- Disaster Relief



Leave a Legacy

**For Yourself
Your Family
Memory of a Loved One**

How Does it Work?

**Funds are invested.
Principal is maintained.**

**Earnings and growth
are used to support
mission projects.**

**The fund supports
the mission goals
which provides benefits
indefinitely for the needy.**



Disaster Relief

How Do I Get Started?

Consider a Pledge Level

Determine your Desired Donation Method

- Lump Sum Cash
- Stock/Securities Transfer
- Recurring Deposits
- Bequeaths / Estate Plan

***Our Endowment Advisors can help
create custom options tailored to
your needs.***

For More Information Contact:

Hopeful Ways

Jim Carlins
jjcarlins@hopefulways.org
716-909-8942

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www.hopefulways.org



Endowment Fund

**An impactful and
sustainable way to
provide hope and
enrich lives**

Become a Philanthropic Leader



Cataract Surgery Recipients

Providing Hope. Enriching Lives.

Join the Hopeful Ways Endowment

***Info is never shared without
your permission.***

Financial reports available for review.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Pledge Amount: _____

Amount Today: _____

☐ CHECKS payable to:
Hopeful Ways
PO Box 1037
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☐ DONATE by credit card at:
www.hopefulways.org

☐ Request more information

Providing Hope. Enriching Lives.