



# Faces of Hope Faces of Hope

## April 2019



People making a difference  
on Hopeful Ways Projects



*"If you want happiness for an hour – take a nap. If you want happiness for a day – go fishing. If you want happiness for a year – inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime – help someone else."*  
– Chinese proverb



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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 Mission in Nicaragua continues to be vibrant and active. The February 2018 mission trip was highly successful and helped thousands of Nicaraguans by improving or restoring their vision. Unfortunately, the government's response to demonstrations has restricted movement within the country and slowed Hopeful Ways activities during the second half of 2018. While a new "normal" social environment exists within Nicaragua, the country is still not safe for our volunteers to travel there in 2019. However, this new "normal" is allowing Hopeful Ways in-country partners to continue providing services to the poor with our support. Advance planning by the Hopeful Ways leadership has put supplies and relationships in place that will keep the mission moving forward during 2019.

The Nicaragua Lions Clubs are planning weekend eye clinics to distribute eyeglasses and organize cataract screenings. FONIPRECE, the Hopeful Ways non-profit eye surgery partner, has been conducting cataract screenings and already has 53 patients on the cataract eye surgery waiting list. With funding and supplies provided by Hopeful Ways, FONIPRECE surgeries will soon begin the task of restoring sight to these people. Hopeful Ways intends to exceed 100 eye surgeries during 2019. Fortunately, the 2018 fall fundraisers were very successful thanks to the generosity of Hopeful Ways supporters resulting in sufficient funds to support these efforts.

While this is all good news, there is no time to relax. There is still much work required to coordinate the activities with the Hopeful Ways partners in Nicaragua. Also, additional fundraisers must be planned during 2019 so that this mission can continue through 2020 and beyond.

Many more poor Nicaraguans still need help and have nowhere else to turn. In reality, this need has increased due to the financial decline of the economy due to the political climate. The Nicaraguan people appreciate the generosity of the Hopeful Ways supporters and the efforts of the Hopeful Ways volunteers. Thank you all!!!

Always in service,

**Jim Carlins, President**  
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## Successful Fall Fundraisers

Hopeful Ways completed 3 successful fundraisers during Fall 2018 to generate funds that will restore eyesight to nearly blind people through severe cataracts.

In September, Hopeful Ways volunteer Jim Carlins bicycled **360 miles** on the Erie Canal Trail from Albany to Buffalo to highlight the plight of poor needing cataract surgery. Many thanks to all the supporters who donated during this successful event.

The annual Fall request for donations from District 20-N Lions Clubs, spearheaded by the Pendleton Lions Club, was answered by many of the Western New York Lions Clubs. **The Lions truly live their motto: “We Serve”. Thank you, Lions!**

Then in November, the “2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Evening Out” was held at Raymour & Flanigan Showroom on Walden Ave with wine tasting by Victorianburg Wine Estates, delicious food, and live music by PA Line. It was a fun evening for all. Thanks to everyone who attended and to all the volunteers who helped organize the event

100% of the proceeds from these 3 fundraisers are dedicated to providing cataract surgeries to the poor. Thanks to the generosity of Hopeful Ways supporters, the funds are available to positively impact the lives of many people, not only the patients, but the families that they support. Severe cataracts are the leading cause of **curable blindness** in developing countries and **cataract surgery is the cure!** Cataract surgery is a tremendous gift that the Nicaraguan people appreciate immensely.





## Sight Restoring Cataract Surgery Expands during 2019

Hopeful Ways partners with the non-profit eye surgery clinic FONIPRECE and Nicaragua Lions Clubs to restore eyesight to people who are nearly blind due to severe cataracts. Cataract surgery is a common procedure in the USA, but not accessible to the Nicaraguan poor. **Severe cataracts are the leading cause of curable blindness** in developing nations around the world.

Hopeful Ways intends to expand delivery of cataract surgeries to over 100 poor people during 2019. FONIPRECE and the Lions Clubs have already begun cataract screenings to locate potential patients and 53 people have been identified. Scheduling for surgeries will begin in the near future.

Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers at Hopeful Ways, FONIPRECE and the Lions Nicaragua Clubs, as well as the generosity of Hopeful Ways supporters and District 20-N Lions Clubs for making this program a reality. Restoring eyesight is a tremendous gift that is immensely appreciated by the Nicaraguan people.



## Rivas Lions Conduct Eye Care Clinic

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 15 members of the Rivas Decano Lions Club traveled to Ometepe Island and conducted an eye care clinic for the people in the communities of Altagracia and Mogogalpa.

500 low income people received eyeglasses. This not only significantly improves the daily lives, but allows many of them to continue jobs that require detailed work like sewing and leather crafts. **This eye care clinic was made possible by the eyeglass collection donated by Hopeful Ways to the Rivas Lions Club.**



## Dorlan Studies Medicine in Canada

Dorlan has volunteered with Hopeful Ways as a language interpreter since 2013. In 2017 he started medical school in Managua and was awarded a semester scholarship to study medicine at University of Calgary in Canada. What a terrific opportunity for him to learn and associate with high quality Canadian instructors. Unfortunately, the cost of airfare was a significant obstacle for him accepting this award. This obstacle grew larger after the political unrest began and the US government did not allow Nicaraguan citizens to fly through US airports, which more than doubled the cost for Dorlan's airfare.

Part of Hopeful Ways' mission includes providing educational opportunities to those in need. Over the years, Dorlan has worked diligently as a Hopeful Ways volunteer and as a student to earn this educational opportunity. Especially with the disruption of classes at the University of Managua due to the political unrest, Hopeful Ways did not want Dorlan to miss this opportunity. Hopeful Ways purchased Dorlan's roundtrip airline ticket, and Hopeful Ways volunteers met Dorlan in Canada to deliver winter clothes, jackets, hats and gloves. The winter months were a new experience for Dorlan and his Nicaraguan wardrobe was not suitable for the climate. While Dorlan loved the beautiful Canadian landscapes, he much prefers the warmth of the Nicaraguan sun versus the bone chilling temperatures in Calgary.

Dorlan returned to Nicaragua at the end of December after a wonderful experience at the University of Calgary. He will take these educational experiences with him as he continues his studies at University of Managua. Dorlan's medical expertise and his giving nature will make him a valuable asset to the Nicaraguan community for many years to come.



## Nicaragua Friends in Costa Rica

The political unrest in Nicaragua has been socially, educationally and economically disruptive for the country. Some of the Nicaraguan Hopeful Ways volunteers have opted to leave their homes for opportunities and safety in Costa Rica. During a recent trip to Costa Rica, Jim and Loretta Carlins took the opportunity to visit one of their longtime Nicaraguan friends, who has volunteered continuously as an interpreter for Hopeful Ways since 2012. She is an integral part of the mission team, and a cherished friend. She is now living with relatives in Costa Rica. We met her for lunch prior to our flight home. She is doing well and plans to continue her university education in the future. We wish her continued good fortune in her future endeavors and look



forward to see her again during future travels.



## Smile Amazon Introduces their new “Charity Lists” Program



Many people are familiar with Smile Amazon and the donations that non-profits receive due to everyday purchases by their supporters. Amazon has now introduced a NEW way for supporters to donate to charities. Instead of receiving money, when supporters make purchases, Supporters can now purchase products from a “Charity Wish List”. Amazon will then deliver these products directly to the charity.

### 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](https://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.”

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Many supporters already help Hopeful Ways by logging into [www.Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.Smile.Amazon.com) instead of [www.Amazon.com](https://www.Amazon.com) for their shopping experiences. If you haven’t, simply login to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) using your normal Amazon login and select “**Hopeful Ways Inc**” in Getzville NY as your charity to support.

The new SmileAmazon program now also allows people to purchase products as a donation to Hopeful Ways. Simply place your cursor over a link for “Supporting Hopeful Ways” and a popup window will appear. Click on “Charity List” and products needed by Hopeful Ways will appear. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

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