



Faces of Hope Faces of Hope

Spring 2024



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



Recent months have been a trying time for Hopeful Ways mission volunteers filled with anticipation and disappointment. Prepping for a mission trip takes a lot of physical and emotional energy. The team overcame many obstacles, but in the end, the Nicoya Costa Rica mission trip was postponed to a future date. The final straw occurred 4 days prior to the travel date. An administrative omission by the local hospital resulted in the lack of a permit for Hopeful Ways to operate a clinic. With the potential that the Central Health Ministry could shutdown the clinic at any time, the decision was made to postpone the clinic.

This caused much disappointment, among the mission volunteers, Nicoya Lions and the prospective patients. Fortunately, no one has been deterred by these recent events. The 900 pound of medical supplies, including 6000 pairs of eyeglasses, are securely stored with the Nicoya Lions. Plans are already underway to prepare for the next clinic opportunity, which will probably be in January 2025.

The true test of an individual or an organization is how they respond to adversity. I am proud how the Hopeful Ways mission volunteers and partners rallied from disappointment and are re-energized for a future mission. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, the Nicoya Eye Care Clinic mission project is still very much alive.

Always in service,

Jim Carlins, President - 716-909-8942 | jjcarlins@hopefulways.org

"Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right & doing it all for love." ~ St Thérèse of Lisieux

Costa Rica Eye Care Brigade Postponed

Recent months have been busy and trying times for Hopeful Ways mission volunteers, which was filled with anticipation and disappointment. Prepping for a mission trip takes a lot of physical and emotional energy. The team overcame many obstacles, but in the end, the Nicoya Costa Rica mission trip was postponed to a future date. The final straw occurred 4 days prior to the travel date. An administrative omission by the local hospital resulted in the lack of a permit for Hopeful Ways to operate a clinic. With the potential that the Central Health Ministry could shutdown the Hopeful Ways clinic at any time, the decision was made to postpone the clinic until the proper authorizations could be obtained.

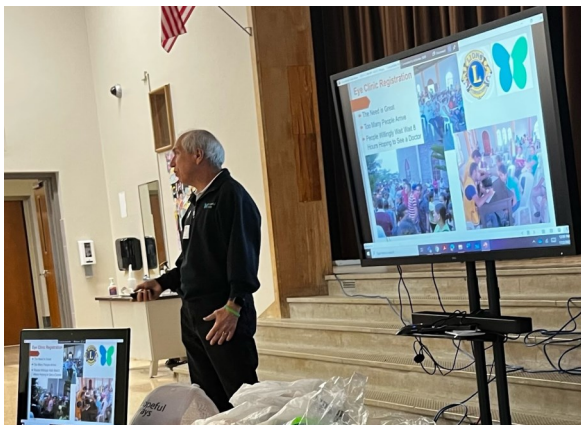


The postponement caused much disappointment, among the mission volunteers, Nicoya Lions and the prospective patients. Fortunately, the volunteers have not been deterred by these recent events. Two pallets totaling 900 pounds of medical supplies, including 6000 pairs of eyeglasses, are securely stored with the Nicoya Lions. Plans are already underway to prepare for the next clinic opportunity expected to be January 2025. Board members Jim & Loretta Carlins will travel to Costa Rica in May to meet with hospital and Health Ministry Officials to ensure that all authorizations have been obtained for the January 2025 mission.

The true test of an individual or an organization is how they respond to adversity. The Hopeful Ways volunteers and Nicoya Lions have rallied from disappointment and are re-energized for a future mission. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, the Nicoya Eye Care Clinic mission project is still very much alive.

BOCES Students Recycle Eyeglasses

The Erie 1 BOCES Students help the Western NY Lions Clubs Recycle eyeglasses. Eyeglasses donated through local Optometry businesses and other methods are delivered to Erie 1 Boces on the Maryvale campus. Special Education students sort eyeglasses for delivery to Hopeful Ways and New Jersey Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (NJLERC). This activity also helps to prepare them for meaningful employment in the workforce after high school. The students attentively listened to how their work benefits needy people worldwide.



Reading eyeglasses, non-prescription sunglasses, cases and accessories are delivered directly to Hopeful Ways for use on eye care mission projects.

Prescription eyeglasses are delivered to Walmart. Walmart who transports them for free to NJLERC. These prescription eyeglasses are processed by NJLERC and used to support eye care missions around the world. Hopeful Ways typically requests 4000 to 6000 eyeglasses per project from NJLERC for each mission project.

Santo Tomas Eye Care Impacts Lives

Santo Tomas is a small town 2 hours from the FONIPRECE Eye Clinic in Managua and many people were experiencing serious vision issues. On March 2, 2024, the Santo Tomas Lions coordinated with FONIPRECE to hold an eye care screening clinic in Santo Tomas. 70 people with vision problems were registered and examined by the FONIPRECE doctors. The screening identified 25 people with severe cataracts such that they were nearly blind, i.e. 20/400 or worse in both eyes.



On March 15, the Santo Tomas Lions transported these 25 people to Managua for Cataract surgery at FONIPRECE. All 25 patients obtained excellent results and were ecstatic to regain their eyesight. After being seriously vision impaired for years, many of them viewed the surgery as a miracle gift that will change their lives. And indeed it will also enhance the lives of their families and the communities in which they live.



Thank You WNY Lions

The WNY Lions Clubs (District 20-N) have been strong supporters of Hopeful Ways and the eye care mission projects for almost a decade. In recent years, over half of the 20-N Clubs respond to the annual challenge letter with a donation. A special thanks to the Lockport Lions Club for donating \$2,000 each of the last 2 years, and to the Akron Lions Club who stepped up with a \$1,000 donation this year. Regardless of the amount, every dollar is extremely important to battling poor vision. Each \$200 provides free cataract surgery for a needy person who is nearly blind with severe cataracts (i.e. 20/400 or worse in both eyes). Through the Hopeful Ways "Gift of Sight" Program, these people are able to see again, greatly enhancing their lives and the lives of their families.

WNY Lions Clubs support goes beyond financial aspects. Over a dozen 20-N Lions from at least 5 different Clubs have traveled with Hopeful Ways on eye care mission projects. Also the Lions Eyeglass Recycling program delivers hundreds of reading glasses and sunglasses to support Hopeful Ways missions.



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Hopeful Ways

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Our Values

Humility

Outreach

Passion

Enthusiasm



Many thanks to Hopeful Ways' Partners and Sponsors for their continued cooperation and support. The success of our mission is a credit to their commitment and generosity.

Partners



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Costa Rica



Nicaragua Mission Project

PROVIDING HOPE. ENRICHING LIVES.

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