



# Faces of Hope Faces of Hope

June 2025



## ***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**



After the HUGELY successful mission trip in January 2025, many people may think that there is a lull in the Hopeful Ways workload. That is far from the truth. Work has already begun on planning the mission trip for 2026. Two additional countries have requested eye care clinics from Hopeful Ways. However our current resources still limit us to one mission trip per year. After some investigations, the decision has been made to return to Nicoya, Costa Rica for a second year. Many more people are in need of our services.

In addition, Nicaragua eye care coordination continues in partnership with the FONIPRECE / Ojo Sano Eye Surgery Clinic and multiple Lions Clubs. This partnership delivers much needed cataract surgeries to restore sight for people nearly blind with severe cataracts. And the rate that cataract surgeries are being provided is increasing at a record pace. The need is great!

To partially fund these services, the 9th Annual Bicycling for Sight will be held this summer. Watch future announcements and check the Hopeful Ways Facebook Page and website for future details.

Many thanks to all of Hopeful Ways volunteers, partner organizations, sponsors, and donors. You are making a HUGE difference by significantly enhancing the lives of people we serve.

~ Always in service, **Jim Carlins, President**, 716-909-8942, [jjcarns@hopefulways.org](mailto:jjcarns@hopefulways.org)

*"Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you." – Princess Diana*

## Hopeful Ways Ophthalmic Clinic Receives Accolades in Costa Rica Newspaper

**Patients at La Anexión Hospital received specialized care in optometry and ophthalmology**

February 18, 2025 by **GUANACASTE**



Patients on the waiting list for optometry and ophthalmology specialties at La Anexión Hospital in Nicoya received specialized care thanks to a public-private partnership between this Costa Rican Social Security Fund facility, the Municipality of Nicoya, the Lions Club of Nicoya, and the Lions Club of the United States.

Dr. Anner Angulo Leiva , director of the Nicoyan hospital, explained that the local government, interested in collaborating with the care of the waiting lists, arranged this alliance. "Thanks to the public-private alliance with the Municipality of Nicoya and the Nicoya Lions Club, which in turn arranged the support of the Lions Club of the United States, American specialists in optometry and ophthalmology attended to our patients," he explained.

Over a five-day period, American specialists assessed 854 patients in optometry, 450 in ophthalmology and 850 people in eyeglass optics. "There was a great turnout of most of the patients who had been previously called to attend the consultation for this optometry and ophthalmology day, and it was very satisfactory. In such a way that the patient was seen first in optometry and, if he required ophthalmological attention, he went to that consultation," explained the doctor.

Patients who did not require ophthalmological care, after the evaluation in optometry, went to the optics area, where they were given glasses. In coordination with optometry, a prescription was made and, according to the prescription they needed, the glasses were given to them.

To facilitate the care of users, translators were available at all times, which helped during the consultation, since patients could explain their visual problem to the specialists.

"It was a very comprehensive service, because it included optometry, ophthalmology and the optics area. The patients left very grateful; some had waiting times until 2027. Priority was given to the care of patients with the longest waiting list, managing to shorten the waiting times and providing great satisfaction to all the users who benefited from this campaign," concluded Dr. Angulo. This satisfaction was reflected in the surveys carried out by the Health Services Comptroller of the health facility.

## 2026 Eye Care Mission

Three (3) countries have asked for Hopeful Ways to provide eye care services in 2026. After investigation of options, the decision has been made to return to Nicoya, Guanacaste, Costa Rica in 2026. The people there are in much need of optometric services. Future mission teams may be sent to the other countries.

The clinic will build upon last year's successes and once again partner with the Nicoya Lions Club and Hospital La Anexión. If interested in participating, or for more information, contact: Jim Carlins, 716-909-8942  
[jicarlins@hopefulwyas.org](mailto:jicarlins@hopefulwyas.org)

**SAVE THE DATE !!!**

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Eye Care Mission  
Nicoya, Costa Rica  
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**Jan 24 - Feb 1, 2026**

## 64 People Have Eyesight Restored

During January through April, FONIPRECE / Ojo Sano Eye Care Clinic screened 279 people in 3 towns for eye diseases. 64 people were diagnosed with cataracts so severe that they were nearly blind. These people had their eyesight restored with cataract surgery through the Hopeful Ways Gift of Sight Program partnership with the FONIPRECE / Ojo Sano Eye Care Clinic in Managua, Nicaragua that delivers high quality eye surgery procedures.



**CATARACTS** are the leading cause of **CURABLE BLINDNESS** in the world!

Some of these people have been nearly blind for many years, and required assistance during their daily lives. The lives of these people and their families have been greatly enhanced as these people can now live independently and once again be a productive member of their community.

As all-volunteer organizations, the Hopeful Ways Gift of Sight Program delivers an **Eyesight Restoring Cataract Surgery for under \$200**. Consider sponsoring someone to have their eyesight restored. **They need your support!**



Sponsor <b>CURABLE BLINDNESS</b> for a Needy Person			
Each \$200 Sponsors a Sight Restoring Cataract Surgery		Mail checks to: Hopeful Ways	
Amount	\$ _____	Any Amount Helps	PO Box 1037 Getzville NY 14068
Name:	_____		Donate by Credit Card to:
Address:	_____		<u>"Gift of Sight" Eye Surgeries</u>
Email:	_____		or: <u><a href="http://www.hopefulways.org">www.hopefulways.org</a></u>
Phone:	_____		Note: Contact information is only used if questions arise.



## Mission Presentations

Hopeful Ways frequently provides presentations to “Thank” donors and supporting organizations. These presentations keep them updated on Hopeful Ways successes that are due to their philanthropic efforts, as well as illustrate how Hopeful Ways programs are making a significant impact on people’s lives.

The Newman Community and many Western NY Lions Clubs (District 20-N) are strong financial supporters of Hopeful Ways programs to improve, restore and protect vision. Many Lions Club members also volunteer to travel to third world countries with Hopeful Ways medical teams to deliver this necessary eye care to needy individuals.

Recently, results of the January 2026 eye care mission clinic to Nicoya Costa Rica were presented to the Newman Community by Jim & Loretta Carlins, and to the Barker Lions Club by Lions Jim Carlins and Kay Britt. All three of these presenters participated as a volunteer members of that mission team.



## 9th Annual Bicycling to Restore Sight

This 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Bicycling to Restore Sight Fundraiser **Goal is \$2,000**, which through the Hopeful Ways “Gift of Sight” Program will restore eyesight for 10 people in need.

**\$200 Sponsors**  
**an Eyesight Restoring Cataract Surgery.**

**Severe Cataracts** are the leading cause of **Curable Blindness** in the world.

**“Sweets for Sight”**  
*theme will continue this year.*



The exact date, route and **Sweets** destination for the ride are still TBD, but the route will definitely include a rest stop at an ice cream shop to replenish riders’ energy.

Follow **Jim Carlins** and **Hopeful Ways** on Facebook for updates on this fundraiser ([www.facebook.com/jjcarlins](http://www.facebook.com/jjcarlins) and [www.facebook.com/hopefulwaysorg](http://www.facebook.com/hopefulwaysorg) respectively).

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

**Donate via credit card on the Hopeful Ways website: [www.hopefulways.org](http://www.hopefulways.org)**  
– or – **Mail a check to: Hopeful Ways, PO Box 1037, Getzville NY 14068**  
– or – **Venmo to: @James-Carlins**

Hopeful Ways is an all-volunteer 501c3 non-profit organization.  
100% of donations support much-needed and valuable services. **Thank you for your support!!!**





## MD-20 Lions Convention

The Lions Clubs in New York State and Bermuda held their annual convention in Niagara Falls NY, a short drive for Hopeful Ways in Getzville NY.

It was a great opportunity to meet Lions from across New York State and promote Lions Club active involvement and financial support for Hopeful Ways and its mission.



Hopeful Ways volunteers for the 2026 Nicoya Costa Rica Eye Care Mission manned the booth - Loretta Carlins, Kay Britt (Barker Lion), Joe Rizzo (Lockport Lion) and Jim Carlins (Pendleton Lion).

They spoke with hundreds of Lions Club members who stopped by to learn more about Hopeful Ways and the eye care services. Many new contacts were made.





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



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Nicaragua Mission Project

PROVIDING HOPE. ENRICHING LIVES.

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