



Faces of Hope

People making a difference on Hopeful Ways Projects

September 2026



"We provide medical & humanitarian service 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:

The quote highlighted in this newsletter asks for wisdom. Hopeful Ways has attempted to follow this path as we journey to help people. We saw the writing on the wall with Nicaragua's government restrictions and chose to move our Eye Care Mission trips to Costa Rica. However, with the help of our Nicaragua partners, FONIPRECE and Lions Clubs, we continue to create positive change for people by restoring sight through the "Gift of Sight" eye surgery program.

New government restrictions imposed in Costa Rica are once again restricting our ability to help the people. We continued to work through the Lions Club to help the people after our last mission departure. Moving forward, to maximize the positive change for people, our next Eye Care Mission will travel to Guatemala. We believe that significant positive changes can be made to people's lives in this region.

While we can not change government regulations, we have found creative ways to work around them as well as adjust our geographic focus to find regions where significant positive change can be made in people's lives without a mission team being hindered by government restrictions. Hopeful Ways will continue to adjust and adapt so that we always maximize the benefits delivered to people served using our available resources.

The medical team for the next Eye Care Mission to San Lucas, Guatemala, in March 2027 is now being formed. Opticians are still needed to complete the roster and are encouraged to contact me for more information.



Follow: @hopefulwaysorg



Always in service,
Jim Carlins, President
716-909-8942
jjcarlins@hopefulways.org

Guatemala Eye Care Mission

Medical Team Almost Complete

March 2027 will mark the first Hopeful Ways mission to Guatemala. A medical team of about 20 eye care professionals and lay volunteers will deliver much-needed free eye care to San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala, a community on Lake Atitlán, and a 3-hour drive from Guatemala City. The non-profit Friends of San Lucas (FOSL) www.sanlucasmission.org will host and provide local logistics support for the medical team. FOSL also partners with Hospital Monseñor Gregorio Schaffer www.hospitalgregorioschafferslt.org where the medical team will work between March 12 - 20, 2027.

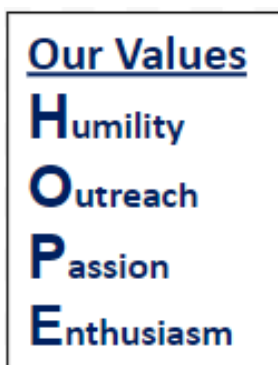
Each individual will receive a free eye exam and prescription and/or reading glasses, as needed. Every person will also receive sunglasses to protect their eyes from irritation due to bright sunlight, dust, wind, and/or smoke, which could lead to pterygium, a growth on the eye that can distort vision and requires surgical removal. People identified with an eye abnormality, such as severe cataracts, will be referred to the Hopeful Ways "Gift of Sight" program for free corrective surgery.

The team roster is almost complete. OPTICIAN OPENINGS ARE STILL AVAILABLE.

Anyone interested in learning more about the mission trip or who wants to help with mission preparation, please contact Jim Carlins. Many hands make for lighter work.

Thank you for your support!

Jim Carlins. jjcarlins@gmail.com 716-909-8942 (text or call)



"God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things that should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other."
– American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr

Cataract Awareness Month

June was Cataract Awareness Month, and Hopeful Ways celebrated the event with diagnostic clinics to identify people nearly blind due to severe cataracts. These people were then referred for free cataract surgery through the Hopeful Ways "Gift of Sight" Program. During 5 day-clinics, 361 people received free eye examinations, and 92 people were diagnosed with severe cataracts and referred to the Hopeful Ways "Gift of Sight" program for surgery. 77 of these people have already had their eyesight restored with free cataract surgery, and the remainder will be scheduled for future dates. This program is made possible in partnership with the nonprofit eye clinic FONIPRECE / Ojo Sano and numerous Nicaragua Lions Clubs.

This year, 94 people have received sight-restoring cataract surgery.

Severe cataracts are the leading cause of blindness worldwide.

To date, the "Gift of Sight" Program has restored eyesight to over 1,000 people who were nearly blind with severe cataracts.

Please consider a donation to allow this mission to continue helping people who do not have access to cataract surgery resources.

Sponsor Cataract Surgeries

Each \$250 sponsors a Sight Restoring Cataract Surgery

Amount: \$_____ Any Amount Helps

Name: _____

Address: _____

City St Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Note: contact info only used if a donation question arises

Mail Checks to: Hopeful Ways
PO Box 1037
Getzville NY 14068

Donate by Credit Card at:

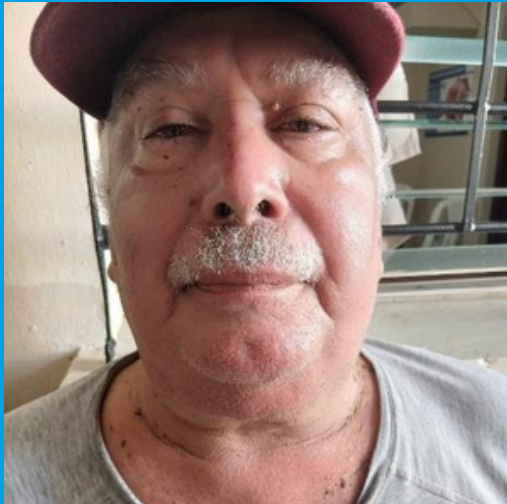
www.hopefulways.org

or: ["Gift of Sight" Eye Surgeries](#)

Donate by Venmo to:
James-Carlins



Providing Hope. Enriching Lives.



PATIENT STORY: Alberto Lopez

Age: 60 years old

Gender: Male

How long have you had vision problems?

Over time, my eyesight became worse and worse until I could barely see. I had vision problems for more than six years. Little by little, my eyesight became worse until I could barely recognize faces or move around on my own.

How did the vision problem affect your life (income and ability to work/go to school, social life, family life)?

I am a man of limited financial means from the rural area of Tola, Nicaragua. My poor vision made it impossible to work normally, move around safely, or help my family. I depended on others for many daily activities.

How has surgery changed your life and/or the lives of your family members?

The surgery restored my independence. I can now recognize people, move around with confidence, and support my family again.

What does receiving this surgery mean to you?

Receiving this surgery means hope and a new opportunity because I could not have afforded it on my own.

What does sight mean to you?

Sight means independence, dignity, and the opportunity to continue caring for myself and my family.

Full Name: Alberto Lopez

Date: July 10, 2026

Fun with Fundraisers

Fundraisers are a necessary and vital part of a nonprofit's existence. Fundraisers provide a nonprofit with the resources needed to help others. A fundraiser can also be fun and provide an enjoyable experience for the participants.

In April, a group of Hopeful Ways supporters participated in a Walking Tour of Downtown Buffalo Architecture. The knowledgeable docent provided history and anecdotal stories for a number of iconic buildings. The evening walk was not only interesting, but educational.

The evening started with delicious food and beverages and camaraderie at Hofbrauhaus Buffalo.

The 10th Annual "Bicycling for Sight" fundraiser will be on Wednesday, Sept 2nd and will follow the Erie Canal Trailway near the historic Lockport locks.

The expanded event will include:

- A bicycle ride or walk along the Lockport Canal starting at 5:30 pm (participants can choose their individual distances and ride or walk)
- A docent-led tour of the historic Lockport Locks at 7:00 pm
- Dessert at Lake Effect Ice Cream.

Participants can decide to partake in one or all of these activities and are requested to make a donation to Hopeful Ways.

Non-participants can still donate to support a specific participant or generally to the fundraiser itself. Donations can be made;

- By credit card on the Hopeful Ways website at www.hopefulways.org
- By check to: Hopeful Ways, PO Box 1037, Getzville, NY 14068
- VENMO to @James-Carlins or using the QR code:





\$10,000 Matching Gift Challenge

Hopeful Ways received a **\$10,000 matching gift pledge** from a generous donor. To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States, **gifts of \$250 or more to the Hopeful Ways Endowment Fund will be matched dollar for dollar up to the \$10,000 limit.** This is a great opportunity to make your donation go farther and help to ensure that programs like the “Gift of Sight” will continue far into the future. No gift is too small.

Hopeful Ways has **improved eyesight for over 20,000 disadvantaged people** during the past decade. This vital service deserves to continue without interruption. To that end, the Hopeful Ways Endowment Fund was launched in the spring of 2022 and has grown steadily through sound investing and supporter contributions. Hopeful Ways is grateful for this past support.

Since that time, there has been no active fundraising campaign to significantly increase the fund. The goal is to attain a fund balance that will sustain the core programs into the future. The signature program is the **“Gift of Sight”** eye surgery program, providing free cataract surgeries. During 2025, over 200 people had their eyesight restored, with another 94 people receiving surgery during the first 7 months of 2026. All these people were nearly blind with severe cataracts and tested 20/400 or worse in both eyes.

Severe cataracts are the leading cause of curable blindness in the world.

Eyesight is so precious, and having it restored is a life-changing gift for the individual.

To those who have contributed in the past, thank you for your support. We hope that you will consider adding to your previous gift(s). To our first-time donors, please join us in this worthwhile campaign to help those in need. Pledges can be paid in a lump sum or via monthly contributions, whatever best meets your situation. Contact Jim Carlins (716-909-8942, jjcarlins@hopefulways.org) if needed for payment arrangements.

Donations can be made

- by check to Hopeful Ways, PO Box 1037, Getzville, NY 14068, or
- by credit card on the website (www.hopefulways.org) or
- by Venmo using the QR code.





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



USA, Nicaragua
Costa Rica



FONIPRECE
Ojo Sano
Eye Clinic



Curio  412

INFO SERVICE
SUPPORT



Nicaragua Mission Project

PROVIDING HOPE. ENRICHING LIVES.

Sponsors



District 20-N
Western New York



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

The Phase Foundation

Alcon®

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BAUSCH+LOMB


Reichert®
TECHNOLOGIES



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

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.



Endowment Fund

A impactful and
sustainable way to
provide hope and
enrich lives
Become a
Philanthropic Leader



Disaster Relief



**Educational
Opportunities**



Cataract Surgery Recipients

Providing Hope. Enriching Lives.





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



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

-  facebook.com/hopefulwaysorg/
-  @HopefulWaysOrg

www.hopefulways.org

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
Getzville NY 14068
- ☐ DONATE by credit card at:
www.hopefulways.org
- ☐ Request more information

Providing Hope. Enriching Lives.

