

New Collaboration with Save the Children Honduras

Vision Health International joined forces with Save the Children Honduras (SCH) for a successful field program in Esperanza, Honduras, May 25-June 3, 2001. A team of 22 medical professionals traveled to this western province of Honduras. Esperanza, located in the province of Intibucá, is a historically under-served area of the country. The VHI visit marked the first time in five years that surgical eye care has been available in Intibucá.

In collaboration with the outstanding SCH staff and volunteers, a total of 1,256 people were screened for eye problems, 956 received a complete eye exam, 546 pairs of donated eyeglasses were distributed, and 64 sight-restoring surgeries were performed. SCH provided excellent organizational and logistical support in-country, and this experience paved the way for future collaboration.

Thank you Save the Children Honduras for a wonderful and productive week!



A mother and her children waiting for eye care.



Save the Children
Honduras



VHI surgeons (left to right) Rick Whitten, Randy Rottman, Melinda O'Rourke, and Tom Bates in Esperanza, Honduras.



Patients wait for vision screening at the hospital in Esperanza, Honduras.



The streets and transportation of Esperanza.

Anonymous Benefactor Endows Scholarship Fund



Lisa Bates, RN, from Orlando, FL, helps prepare a young patient for eye surgery.

An anonymous benefactor recently donated a significant gift to VHI for the endowment of a scholarship fund for nursing personnel. Without nurses, we can't run a surgical program and we are often in critically short supply of these professionals. The scholarship fund will help defray the individual costs each participant must

pay. These costs are approximately \$1,500 per person, which include roundtrip airfare, a participation fee, and lodging in the capital city. Help support a nurse to give the gift of sight. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please mark your donation as restricted for this purpose.

A Return to the Dominican Republic in March 2002



A family in San Juan de la Maguana, Dominican Republic. Photo by Dottie Nat.

After a two-year absence, VHI will return to San Juan de la Maguana, Dominican Republic in early March 2002. In collaboration with the Mission Office of the Diocese of Orlando, a field program of vision screening, eye exams, donated eyeglasses, and eye surgery has been planned. Our headquarters will be Hospital Dr. Alejandro Cabral, the regional

hospital in this far-western state along the Haitian border. This will be the fourth project for VHI in this Caribbean country. Since 1998, VHI has performed over 1,000 eye exams, over 360 sight-restoring surgeries and distributed over 1,300 pair of donated eyeglasses in the Dominican Republic. We look forward to our return trip in March 2002.



We Serve

Redlands Lions Club Donates Anesthesia Equipment

The Redlands Lions Club of Grand Junction, Colorado made its second generous donation to Vision Health International for the purchase of anesthesia equipment. Proper anesthesia is a critical aspect of eye surgery, and up-to-date equipment makes that possible. With this donation we were able to purchase equipment needed to insert breathing tubes that are used during general anesthesia. The Redlands Lions Club generously supports organizations that contribute to sight and hearing, youth services, health, community betterment, and education. Many thanks to Dr. Randy Rottman of Grand Junction, and the Redlands Lions Club.

Come visit us on the internet at www.visionhealth.org

For More Information

If you are an ophthalmologist, anesthesiologist, surgical nurse or technician, or a recovery room nurse and think you would like to volunteer for a VHI mission, please contact

Cindy Goodale at (707) 224-5956
or toll-free at (877) 689-2981.

If you know someone who would like to receive our newsletter or get more information about VHI, please let us know.

We'd like to spread the word.

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