



All of us at the International Eye Institute thank everyone who so generously gave of their time and resources to help us reach our goals this year. We had a very successful year because of your efforts and your donations.



It seems on every trip we meet so many patients whose life situations are really unbelievable. This year was no exception. One person who stands out in our memory was Dr. Dance's patient, Concepcion. She had been blind for over 18 years! She just stayed in her daughter's home, being taken care of by her daughter and grandchildren. Although she had lived with her grandchildren for their entire lives, she had never actually "seen" them. The morning after her cataract surgery, when we took off her patch, she was able to see them for the first time! Tears were flowing and lots of smiles and hugs all around. It's a real joy to have the privilege to provide needed eye care to the people of rural Latin America. And we wouldn't have been able to do it without your support.

Overall, for 2014, our volunteer teams participated in trips or "jornadas" where we saw over 2,000 patients and accomplished 218 needed surgical procedures.

We were able to improve our services as well. We equipped Hospitalito, in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala with a donated YAG laser and a Slit lamp. A set of cataract surgery instruments, a portable Vitrector and A-scan unit were also purchased and put into service in 2014 at two separate hospitals in Guatemala.

We also increased our scope of practice in 2014. We provided care on three separate trips in Guatemala and expanded our services to Honduras as well. We were invited to return to Honduras to work in a location where a population of 70,000 people currently have access to eye surgery only two days a year. We hope to make a difference there this February.

I also had the opportunity to make a scouting trip to Ayacucho, Peru where I met with some Peruvian ophthalmologists who are in dire need of support. We plan to expand our services to work with them in April of 2015.

Overall the International Eye Institute is currently on track to send volunteers on six trips to facilities in Central and South America in 2015. Won't you consider making a contribution to help support our work? We're excited about being able to serve this coming year and we will keep you informed about what we are doing.

With most sincere gratitude.

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