



December 20, 2016

Dear Friends,

This has been a busy year for the volunteers of the International Eye Institute. Seven separate trips were planned and executed to 4 different countries! We partnered with Hospital de la Familia (HDLF), [www.hospitaldelafamilia.com](http://www.hospitaldelafamilia.com), for a week of clinical and surgical eye care in Nuevo Progreso, Guatemala, near the Mexican border. Our corneal specialist, Dr. Pulin Shah and Dr. Justin StormoGipson worked with HDLF's new full-time Guatemalan ophthalmologist, Dr. Jose Argueta. It was a pleasure to help the people at HDLF transition to a new model of eye care there. We also had the pleasure of working with great optometrists on these trips: Drs. Don Costello, Rupert Chowins, Elizabeth Torres and Rob Sorenson.

It was gratifying to be able to continue our work on two separate occasions at Hospitalito, Atitlan in the highlands of central Guatemala. Drs. Pulin Shah and David Dance shared their surgical talents and provided excellent care for the many blind patients there. The staff at this hospital have always been very supportive of our work. It is a tremendous pleasure to volunteer there.

Our surgical team returned to Honduras in a small clinic and surgical suite on Roatan. 2 trips to Peru and a new foray into Ghana finished up the year. Our clinic totals since we started keeping track 11 years ago now have reached: 6796 total clinic patients seen and 1626 surgeries performed.

We are planning a larger trip in 2018 to a town high in the Andes of Peru at the 12,000 ft. elevation. We will be partnering with the Peruvian American Medical Association to bring much needed eye care to the remote town of Lircay. We'll be taking medicine to prevent altitude sickness at this location!

All of this is possible because of the generous support that you have given to our efforts in these countries. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing commitment to helping the many patients who benefit from this work.

We hope you enjoy a wonderful holiday season. And we look to 2018 with great anticipation.

With our most sincere gratitude,

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