



2015 VOSH MISSION TO MIGUEL ALEMAN, SONORA, MEXICO

Our 2015 mission took place from March 2nd – March 6th at the Centro Habitat, a community center in Miguel Aleman. Residents of Miguel Aleman, numbering about 50,000 people, work mainly in agriculture and farming, and wages are low with little to no health benefits.



The VOSH ARIZONA 2015 mission served 2454 patients in need of eye care. We dispensed 1068 prescription glasses and 1180 reading glasses. Most people received sunglasses and cases for their glasses. Special prescription glasses are being made by volunteer labs and opticians in the US for 74 patients whose needs could not be met by our inventory of glasses. Thirty-three percent of the patients were male and 67% were female. The age distribution of patients was 23% 0-18 years, 10% 19-35 years, 36% 36-50, 24% 51-65, and 17% more than 65 years old. Thirty-seven percent of participants reported monthly incomes of less than

\$100 US equivalent, 38% \$101-\$200, 21% \$201-\$250, and 4% more than \$250.

Our VOSH ARIZONA volunteers came from Phoenix and Tucson, with one optometrist coming from Colorado and our optician, Patt Kelly, coming from Oregon. We had 9 student volunteers from the Arizona College of Optometry at Midwestern University in Glendale, Arizona who not only observed but were able to help in autorefraction and refraction. We had 8 volunteer O.D.s, including Drs. Stacy, Reed, Gill, Kozlowski, Whipple, Paikowsky, Regan, and Twelker. We arrived by car, by plane and by bus. Many of the volunteers showed up on Saturday February 28th to be available to set-up and prepare our site on Sunday March 1st. We were joined again by Ed York, who served as advisor and general “go to” guy. After our final day everyone pitched in to pack and prepare our glasses and equipment for storage in Hermosillo, including a huge effort at the end of the clinic by Judie Johnson and others to cull defective and broken spectacles from our supply.



Our wonderful sponsors and hosts again were the Pitic Rotary Club that works closely with SEDESSON (the Sonora State Agency for Economic Development) and DIF (National System for Integral Family Development) to provide a site for our work, meals and lodging. The families of Pitic Rotary and students from the local bilingual schools in Hermosillo served as translators and guides for those of our group who didn't speak Spanish. In addition, the Rotary members dispensed reading glasses, sunglasses and cases. Our Rotary hosts provided an excellent recognition dinner on Thursday evening, at the conclusion of the clinic.



This year, due to scheduling conflicts, ophthalmologists from the University of Arizona Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Science were unable to join us. We look forward to working with Joseph Miller, MD, MPH, Head of the Department of Ophthalmology, Richard Ober, MD, retina specialist, and Jeffrey Kay, MD glaucoma specialist in the future. Between missions VOSH Arizona orders reading glasses for Pitic Rotary who distributes them monthly to senior citizen facilities, prisons and schools.

Fortunately for us the weather was pleasant for both the volunteers and patients who waited in our central seated area for the opportunity to have improved vision and eye care. We worked four long days to serve as many patients in need as possible.

April 2, 2015

Throughout the year our volunteers give of their time to order glasses, enter them into our inventory system in preparation for our mission and make sure that we have everything we need for our work. Here are the people and organizations that help us accomplish what we do.

Many thanks to:

- Barbara Daily and ALERT – Arizona Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, Tucson, AZ (Rx glasses, readers, sunglasses and eyeglass cases)
- Jean Cook and Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (Rx glasses and readers)
- Max Bruss, VOSH Southeast. (readers for VOSH Mission and Voshitos)
- Ruth S. McAndrews, OD, FVI, Past-President VOSH International (readers and sunglasses)
- Don Bullock (readers)
- National Vision (loan of Pediavision)
- Richard Stevenson, Lions Club and VOSH member (eyeglass cases)
- Griswold Eye Care and Dorine Stuart (donations of new eyeglass frames, cleaning cloths, eyeglass cleaner, and eyeglass cases)

Providing 74 pairs of specially made lenses:

- DBL Labs, St. Cloud, MN
- Bristow Labs, Tucson AZ
- Drs. Bob Mulgrew and Sharon Perlich.
- Dorine Stuart of Tucson, AZ
- Lincoln Daynes, O.D. and Andy Daynes of Sierra Vista, AZ
- Sarah Paikowsky, O.D. of Surprise, AZ

And of course, thanks to all VOSH Arizona members who help in their respective ways and make everything possible.