



2024

Newsletter

A Successful Year of Mission Trips to Guatemala

The International Eye Institute completed successful surgical mission trips to Hospitalito Atitlan in Guatemala led by Dr. Pulin Shah in May and Dr. Dave Dance in November.

The dedicated May team, comprised of experienced and first-time international mission volunteers, performed 76 operations - a variety of surgeries, including cataract removal, strabismus correction, corneal transplants, and pterygium removal.

A highlight of the trip was the successful installation and use of the new Oertli phaco machine. Dr. Anali, our new fellow, eagerly embraced the opportunity to gain experience with this advanced technology.



A Small Patient, A Big Impact

We were also touched by the story of Thiago, a one-year-old with esotropia. Before surgery, Thiago was inconsolable, but after his procedure, he arrived for his post-op visit with a big smile and his favorite Mario sunglasses. His mother's tears of gratitude were a testament to the impact of our work.



We extend our sincere thanks to all the team members who made this mission possible. Their dedication, compassion, and expertise continue to make a significant difference in the lives of countless individuals.

A Team United by Compassion

Dr Dave Dance led a team in November on a 10-day medical mission trip to Guatemala, where they performed an incredible 79 sight-restoring surgeries on blind and visually impaired patients in need.

Traveling from four states and three countries, the dedicated team displayed remarkable patience, compassion, and professionalism throughout the trip. They faced unique challenges, including working in a new hospital system and overcoming technical and equipment limitations.

Sacrifices Made, Lives Changed

The commitment of this extraordinary group was truly inspiring. Team members made significant personal sacrifices, including joining the trip just a week after starting a new job, two weeks after a wedding, or while balancing the responsibilities of single parenthood. One volunteer even overcame a Salmonella infection to contribute their expertise during a particularly challenging case.



More Than Just Restoring Sight

Beyond the surgeries, the mission trip played a vital role in supporting Dr. Anali Vasquez, an ophthalmology fellow from Honduras. Dr. Vasquez successfully performed over 13 surgeries, furthering her development into becoming an excellent surgeon.

A Powerful Reminder

As the team reflected on their experience, they were deeply touched by the outpouring of gratitude from patients and their families. This experience served as a powerful reminder of the saying, "you always get more than you give." The trip showcased the importance of committing our resources and energy to make a positive impact while we have the opportunity.



Get Involved!

These teams are truly changing lives, one patient at a time. The International Eye Institute is dedicated to providing this life-changing eye care to those in need. Your donations are a vital part of the mission. Visit eyegive.org to learn more about us and how you can get involved.

Visit our web page www.Eyegive.org or follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/eyegive)

International Eye Institute Attn: Dave Dance, MD 8378 N. Government Way Hayden, ID 83835

T. 208-964-0565

justinsg2@gmail.com

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