



**Dear IEI friends and family,**

As we approach this holiday season, the IEI team has much to be grateful for. We are extremely proud to share with you that in 2019 we had some of the most productive eye surgical missions in our foundation's history. Our impact in the local community around Hospitalito Atilan in Guatemala is growing exponentially and our reputation for excellence in eye care is spreading rapidly. The clinics were filled beyond capacity and our surgical schedules are reaching the limits of our capability, which means that we are serving more patients and bringing the gift of sight to the greatest number of patients possible. In just two separate 1-week trips to Guatemala, we served a combined total of 900 patients in the clinics and performed a total of 164 eye surgeries! In addition, Dr. Pulin Shah had the privilege of continuing our partnership with Health in Sight Missions, by joining a surgical team serving patients in Roatan, Honduras. There are plans to build a new eye clinic on the island to better serve this population.

We would like to share just one of the many touching stories we are privileged to experience on these journeys to deliver eye care. This lovely 4 year old girl was brought to our clinic in Hospitalito Atilan, Guatemala by her father in May because of infantile cataracts causing severely poor vision. Even at age 4, she didn't walk independently due to her poor eye sight and had to be carried by her parents. She didn't interact with other children and was very isolated. We performed her first cataract surgery in the right eye in May 2019, and you can see from the photo that her right eye is clear and the left still had a white cataract in the pupil. Dr David Dance performed her second surgery in November 2019, and reported that even with just one eye seeing, she was a completely new kid. She bounced around the clinic and her father described that she now played with her friends and acted like a normal 4 year old! Her life changing story is just one example of how these missions are such a gift for everyone involved.



**INTERNATIONAL  
EYE INSTITUTE**

International Eye Institute, Inc. is a private non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation. Our primary purpose is to provide adult and pediatric medical and surgical eye care to people with little access to these services.

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International Eye  
Institute, Inc  
310 S 13th St.  
Coeur d'Alene, ID  
83814  
(208) 964-0565

In 2019 we also continued our important collaboration with local eye care providers from the Lake Atitlan region of Guatemala. We were pleased to benefit from the presence of a cataract surgeon, a retinal specialist, and 2 optometrists, who assisted in clinics and surgery during the May and November trips. As a group, we feel that these cooperative efforts with local providers is paramount to our continued success and our mission to improve access to care in the region. We are grateful to these professionals for their openness and collaborative participation in IEI mission trips.

Our success and the expansion of eye care services to needy patients in these underserved locations is a tribute to the tremendous efforts of the team members, nurses, technicians, and eye care providers who give so generously of their time and skills, so we thank each and every member of our teams for their hard work and commitment. However, our ability to continue to serve also depends upon the generosity of our community of donors who so graciously support the International Eye Institute. We receive support in the form of supplies from several industry leaders, such as Alcon and Johnson & Johnson Vision, Vantage Outsourcing, Henry Schein, Americares, and grants from Southern Eye Bank and the North Idaho Eye Institute. Nonetheless, we are also very dependent on the generosity of individual donors like you.

From now until the end of 2019 you can DOUBLE your contribution! We have some very generous donors who have established a MATCHING FUND. They will match – dollar for dollar – your donations up to the fund's maximum (which currently stands at \$10,000!)

Please consider making a tax deductible donation to the International Eye Institute by either method below:

**Send mail to:**

**International Eye Institute 310 S. 13th Street Coeur d' Alene, ID 83814**

**You can also donate securely online with a Credit Card or Pay-Pal: [www.eyegive.org](http://www.eyegive.org)**

Thank you for your support and generosity!

Wishing you the best over the holiday season and into the New Year!

Sincerely,

Pulin Shah, MD

**International Eye Institute Board Members**

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