

Phillip Loar
7136 Parkview Avenue
Falls Church, VA 22042

December 2, 2015

RE: Michael Hughes

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my appreciation and admiration for Michael Hughes, for the extensive time and talent he has donated to the people of El Salvador through his work with Eye Care International.

Michael first worked with Eye Care International in 2010. Since his first trip, he has cared for more than 300 patients; many in remote communities of El Salvador in addition to dozens of pediatric patients in the capital, San Salvador. He first became involved in Eye Care International after learning of the work performed by volunteer ophthalmic surgeons on their missions.

Eye Care International is a completely volunteer organization which has been working in El Salvador annually since 1995, three years after the end of the Salvadoran civil war. Approximately 45 volunteers spend 2 weeks providing vision care to 4,000 – 5,000 patients in a small community which has no access to optometrists or ophthalmologists. Most patients are fitted with eyeglasses and about 100 receive cataract surgery or have an operation to remove a pterygium. All the volunteers pay their own expenses and airfare.

Back in Virginia, Michael puts in hundreds of volunteer hours. Michael has, also, developed a good relationship with Dr. Marco Goens in San Salvador. Michael traveled to El Salvador on his own, most recently in October 2015, and has worked with dozens of Dr. Goens' young patients.

Michael Hughes is a kind and gentle man who makes time to help others and share his talent with hundreds of individuals who would otherwise not have access to the care he is able to provide. On behalf of all the volunteers of Eye Care International and the patients he has helped, I am glad to express our deep appreciation to Michael for all he has done and continues to do for the people fortunate enough to know him.



Phil Loar
Board Chair, Eye Care International