



EYE CARE INTERNATIONAL 2015 MISSION: LA LIBERTAD, EL SALVADOR

The 2015 Eye Care International Mission to the coastal community of La Libertad, El Salvador was a success. La Libertad is about 45 minutes from the country's capital, San Salvador. The Pacific Ocean views from our work stations were impressive, but the number of patients seen—4,305—was even more so. Despite the great need, however, we aim to provide the highest quality care and personal attention to each one of these patients in underserved El Salvador. Many people traveled several hours by bus to be seen in this comprehensive ophthalmological outreach. The following summary details Eye Care International's prosthetic (artificial) eye service.

In 2014, we saw 50 anophthalmic patients who needed prosthetic eyes. Our very first patient was a police officer (photo included) who five years ago was shot five times. This was his first prosthetic eye. We also saw more children than in any of the previous 15 years. This was partly due to a new collaboration with local physician Marco Antonio Goens, M.D. Our youngest patient

was 2 years old, and we saw a brother and sister who both wore prostheses. One of our unique experiences was a visit from the United States Ambassador to El Salvador, the Honorable Mari Carmen Aponte, who visited on February 20.

We continue to be touched by the heartwarming generosity of Eye Care International volunteers as we provide yearly care to patients in El Salvador, Central America.

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March, 2015