



# EYE CARE INTERNATIONAL

## 2020-2021

Providing compassionate, quality eye care to the underserved people of El Salvador, Central America.

[www.eyecareint.org](http://www.eyecareint.org)



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## EL SALVADOR, CENTRAL AMERICA

Eye Care International is a 501(c)3 not-for profit which has provided quality eye care to the underserved of El Salvador, Central America, for more than 20 years.

**TOTAL PATIENTS SERVED IN 2020: 4860**



The 2020 Eye Care International mission was held in Sana Rosa de Lima.

Over a span of nine days in mid-February our team of volunteers provide a variety of eye care services, including:

- Cataract/Pterygium surgeries: **84**
- Eyeglasses distributed: **4461**
- Patients seen: **4860**
- Prosthetic eyes made: **70**

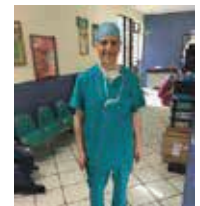
Many patients seen in Sana Rosa de Lima traveled several hours by bus (or walked) to be seen in this comprehensive ophthalmological outreach. While we are grateful for everyone's contribution, special acknowledgments need to be given to Jardon Eye Prosthetics, INC. of Southfield, Michigan, SEE International, Alcon Laboratories Inc., and to Oculo-Plastik, INC. of Montreal, Canada for the generous surgical donations. Also- great thanks to TY Inc. Marketing Department for the generous supply of Beanie Babies for the sick children at Bloom Children's Hospital, San Salvador.

### INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

We are seeking eye care professionals, including: **Opticians, Optometrists, and Ophthalmologists** for our annual visit to El Salvador.

### NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Visit our website: [www.eyecareint.org](http://www.eyecareint.org) or call Tad MacDonnell, Eye Care International Program Coordinator, at (703) 623-2015.





Sana Rosa de Lima, El Salvador; 2012



Metro DC  
Lutheran Bishop and Ex-gang members in hiding



Cleaning glasses at the NOVA Lions Eyeglasses Recycling Center



NOVA Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center



Eye Care International founder, Ophthalmologist William Brinker, MD (right) and Grace Brinker

## PHIL LOAR "Volunteer Warrior"

Look up "volunteer" in Merriam-Webster and the predictable definitions appear.

"A person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service."

"One who renders a service or takes part in a transaction while having no legal concern or interest."

But there are two more words that perfectly define volunteer, although they won't be found in a dictionary. Instead, spend a few minutes with a certain low-key Sandusky, Ohio native who has tirelessly lent himself to 21 of Eye Care's 25 international missions and those two words become clear: Phil Loar.

For Phil, or "Felipe" to those he has helped in several Latin American countries, volunteering didn't begin when he first became associated with Eye Care International. Improving the quality of life for others without expecting anything in return has long fueled Phil's volunteer work in the Northern Virginia community where he and his wife raised two children.

There are still plenty of hungry people Phil can help through his volunteering at Food for Others, a Fairfax, Virginia food bank. He'll also keep busy by helping out at Graham Road Elementary School in West Falls Church, Virginia and his local Lutheran church.

This sense of altruism at home carried over through Phil's many trips on behalf of Eye Care International to El Salvador and other developing countries like Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Nicaragua. Along with helping others, Phil found time to work on himself. He learned Spanish, which helped knock down the language barrier on his international trips.

Phil first volunteered for Eye Care International in 1995 with founder and ophthalmologist, Dr. William Brinker, of Kent, Ohio and traveled to Zaragoza, El Salvador. It was the first of 26 yearly visits to El Salvador by Eye Care International.

El Salvador is among the poorest countries in the Northern Hemisphere and one in which a relatively small number of volunteers and staff with Eye Care International can make a difference to those in need and their families.

Phil always played a vital role on the trips and never met a job he wouldn't do, except, of course, for eye surgery. And even then, legend has it, all anyone needed to do was ask and Phil would have picked up a scalpel to help.

YEAR	COMMUNITY	TOTAL	CUMULATIVE
1995	Zaragoza, El Salvador	3,337	3,337
1996	Chirilagua, El Salvador	2,681	6,018
1997	La Unión, El Salvador	4,651	10,669
1998	La Unión, El Salvador	4,870	15,539
1999	Jiquilisco, El Salvador	5,647	21,186
2000	La Libertad, El Salvador	5,586	26,772
2001	La Libertad, El Salvador	6,101	32,873
2002	Juayua, El Salvador	7,279	40,152
2003	Juayua, El Salvador	5,975	46,127
2004	La Palma, El Salvador	5,985	52,112
2005	Perquín, El Salvador	6,509	58,621
2006	Perquín, El Salvador	4,123	62,744
2007	Santa Rosa de Lima	7,907	70,651
2008	Santa Rosa de Lima	5,358	76,009
2009	Perquín, El Salvador	5,549	81,558
2010	Perquín, El Salvador	3,052	84,610
2011	La Libertad, El Salvador	4,358	88,968
2012	Santa Rosa de Lima	4,729	93,697
2013	Perquín, El Salvador	4,904	98,601
2014	La Libertad, El Salvador	4,305	102,906
2015	Chalatenango, El Salvador	5,523	108,429
2016	Perquín, El Salvador	4,552	112,981
2017	La Libertad, El Salvador	4,443	117,424
2018	Chalatenango, El Salvador	4,009	121,433
2019	Juayua, El Salvador	5,017	126,450
2020	Santa Rosa de Lima	4,860	131,310

