VOSH-AZ organizes a teaching clinic with three Mexican schools of optometry.

In early March, the VOSH-AZ team traveled to Hermosillo, Mexico to hold its first humanitarian clinic after the pandemic. This chapter regularly visits this part of Mexico and this time they decided to engage with VOSH/International teaching clinic initiative and invited representatives of three Mexican schools of optometry to join them, namely: the Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes (SVOSH-UAA), the Universidad Autónoma de la Laguna (SVOSH-UAL) and the Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa (SVOSH-UAS) to join their clinic. Three students of Midwestern University (SVOSH-AZCOPT) were also represented. The 37-people group consisted of 11 optometrists, 15 optometry students, 2 opticians and 9 lay volunteers. During the first three days of the clinic when the students were present, 2096 patients were seen, and by the end of the 5 days clinic, 3422 patients were seen.

The clinic was organized in a series of stations, so patients went through education, examination, treatment, and if needed, lens measurements. The first station was an educational presentation in Spanish to discuss both eye health and general health. The second station was to measure visual acuities, both distance and near. The third station was autorefraction followed by a triage station so doctors could determine if patients needed to go to the refraction station or directly to the reading glasses dispensing station.

Students of optometry worked with two VOSH AZ optometrists and their faculty members at the refracting station which was always manned. There was a dedicated pediatric station. The ocular health station had two slit lamps and several ophthalmoscopes to check anterior and posterior segment health. People with diabetics, hypertension, and anyone over 65 were dilated, so posterior segment health could be checked. There was an optical coherence tomography (OCT) instrument available to assess the optic nerve and macula. As with all VOSH clinics donations from individuals and companies made it possible to have medications to treat bacterial conjunctivitis and glaucoma, artificial tears, anti-allergy drops plus frames, readers, and sunglasses.

All patients received new frames, sunglasses, and/or readers. Prescription glasses are locally produced by long-time VOSH supporter Dr. Rosas and will be dispensed by the Hermosillo Pitic Rotary Club in late March or April 2023.

VOSH-AZ coordinates with the Rotary Club and the Sonoran state government to offer these clinics to the community. The state government representatives were there to discuss possible treatment and care options for cataracts, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy.

During the first three days of the clinic when the students were present, 2096 patients were seen, and by the end of the 5 days, 3422 patients were seen. The high volume of patients kept the students very busy. Some comments shared about this experience were:

"*Working with different teams gives us the opportunity to exchange experiences and ways in which we can support our students*". Faculty Mexican school

"*Having the opportunity to get new knowledge from the different specialists present in the team and to get to know the equipment that was available for the clinic*." Student Mexican School

"I am so impressed with the Mexican profession of optometry. I see much progress happening". VOSH-AZ OD

"*The best aspect was working shoulder-to-shoulder with our international colleagues. We learned from each other*". VOSH-AZ OD

"The opportunity to work with Mexican students and the thought that they will become the future of their own country. They are hard-working, smart, and full of enthusiasm". VOSH-AZ lay volunteer.

For more information on this clinic, you can contact:

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TEACHING CLINIC

HERMOSILLO, SONORA, MEXICO

VOSH ARIZONA Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity

VOSH SVOSH - UAL Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity

VOSH SVOSH - UAA Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity

VOSH SVOSH-UAS-MEXICO Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity



EDUCATION STATION



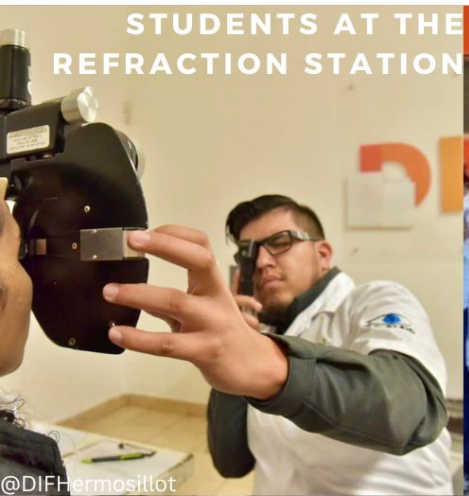
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SVOSH STUDENTS



PEDIATRIC STATION