

AMIGOS News

Eyeball, Guatemala, Upcoming Trips, and more!



AMIGOS Members attended the Day of Dignity event in Downtown Portland with NOSA!



2023-2024 AMIGOS Student Officers

AMIGOS News shares with you all the hard work that Pacific students, doctors, and faculty have accomplished!

Since spring, AMIGOS Eyecare has sent out trips to Guatemala with Enfoque Ixcán and to Hood River with the Pacific U dental hygiene students. Additionally, Eyeball 2023 was a great success! We are in the planning stages for more international and local trips!

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 AMIGOS Eye Care - PUCO Student VOSH

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SPONSORS FOR EYEBALL 2024

Please email: Bailey (hosh2723@pacificu.edu) or Kylee (yama5142@pacificu.edu).

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lago SCRUBS

Use code "amigos" for **10% off** and 5% of the proceeds goes to our organization!

We have also been providing continued support for the Homeless Vision Clinics in partnership with Vivid Eyecare!

Guatemala August 2023

Testimonial by Dr. Lynch

In August, I had the immense pleasure of accompanying three doctors, six Amigos students, a Spanish translator, and my husband on a journey to Playa Grande, Guatemala for the 20th collaboration between Amigos Eye Care and Enfoque Ixcán. It was a journey filled with reunions, new experiences, and the joy of making a meaningful impact on the lives of the Ixcán people.

What made this trip particularly special was that all three of the doctors were former Amigos alums, and two of them had previously been on Guatemala trips with Enfoque Ixcán co-founder Dr. Scott Pike as students. It marked my second time leading the trip and my sixth visit to Guatemala. I was thrilled to share the beauty of Guatemala with our group and introduce them to its warm and generous people.

In total, we provided eye care to 650 individuals. Out of these, fifty will receive some form of eye surgery, with the majority needing cataract surgery. Cataract patients are often associated with the elderly, but that's not always the case. One of our early cataract patients was Laura, a four-year-old who had been in an accident, resulting in a traumatic cataract in her right eye, turning her lens a milky-white color. Laura's parents brought her in because they noticed her vision deteriorating, and they were concerned about her future. In September, our surgical team took Laura and her family to the clinic in San

Benito Peten, where, despite a complex surgery, we successfully restored vision in her right eye. Laura is expected to have normal distance vision thanks to the generous support of our donors, who made this care possible.

As a parent of four children myself, I can only imagine the anxiety and relief that Laura's parents must have felt when they learned that Laura's blindness could be cured. It's moments like these that remind us of the profound impact of our work and the importance of your support.



Guatemala August 2023

Testimonial by Meagan Seufert

My experience serving the people of Guatemala was profound, especially as a student able to compare my normal patient base that have normal access to preventative care to patients of the Ixcán region who tend to have severe disease by the time they are able to receive care.

However, one encounter in particular at the school in the remote village of San Juan Chacleta was especially impactful. During acuity screening, one of the young 10-year old boys was flagged for having low acuities. He had a very low affect and didn't seem to want to engage. Additional testing showed pathological myopia, with a spherical equivalent of approximately 15 diopters in his right eye and 11 diopters in his left eye, making his entire world of clear vision limited to only 10 centimeters in front of him. He had never had an eye exam and had never worn glasses previously. While we placed an order for his correction, we gave him the strongest glasses that we had with us which only corrected about half of his refractive error. Even a temporary small change was enough to change his world. With his full correction, he will have a much greater chance of success.



Donate to AMIGOS Eye Care at this PayPal QR Code!



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MORE GUATEMALA SUMMER BREAK 2023 PICTURES!



Eye Smile Trip

This summer, AMIGOS partnered with PUCO Outreach and Pacific University's School of Dental Hygiene Studies to provide eye care and dental services to over 50 patients in the Columbia River Gorge. We were able to help many individuals get new glasses and provided referrals to local providers for those who required advanced services for conditions like cataracts, diabetic retinopathy, and glaucoma.



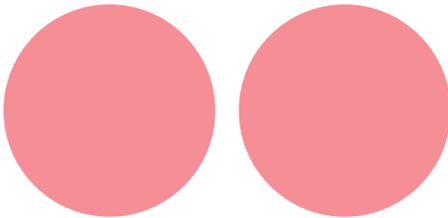
Day of Dignity

AMIGOS partnered with NOSA to perform vision screenings on 50+ patients of the homeless population in downtown Portland. We found high uncorrected refractive errors of over 10 D, strabismic and amblyopic patients, as well as progressive cataracts. We are able to refer these patients to our clinics for free comprehensive eye exams and glasses!





Dr Ann Edmonds, OD, FVI
 A life as a mentor and a humanitarian
2023 Harry Zeltzer Lifetime Achievement Award



VOSH International Annual Meeting in New Orleans

Our AMIGOS President, Anna Wisdom, and Eyeglass Coordinator, Meagan Seufert, attended the annual meeting during Academy in New Orleans. Anna presented a poster and was part of the student panel. Additionally, Dr. Ann Edmonds won the Harry Zeltzer Lifetime Achievement Award from VOSH this year! Dr. Zeltzer was her mentor for 33 years and they went on their first trip together to Colombia in 1987.



Eyeball 2023

This year's Eyeball was held at the Venetian in downtown Hillsboro. We had a night of entertainment including a live and silent auction, catered meal, a speaker—Dr. Lynch on behalf of Enfoque Ixcan, videos from our international trips, and our first ever dessert dash. With more than 150 in attendance, students, doctors & alumni, and community members came together to support AMIGOS and recognize our student of the year—Xiaomei Zhuang and our doctor of the year—Dr. Carol Rymer.



STUDENT OFFICERS AND BOARD:

President: Anna Wisdom

President-Elect: Claudia Solomon

Secretary: Karma Castro

Treasurer: Mieke De Freitas

Treasurer-Elect: Nikole-Marie Espino

Eyeball Co-Chair: Susan Ziad & Jordan Garcia

Eyeball Co-Chair Elects: Bailey Hoshino and
Kylee Yamashita

Eyeglass Coordinator: Meagan Seufert

Eyeglass Coordinator-Elect: Terina DeFries

Equipment Rep: Slayton Hargraves

Equipment Rep-Elect: Kameron Piper

Historian/PR Officer: Emily Bittman

Fundraising Coordinator: Leah Moran

Fundraising Coordinator-Elect: Kallista Ashton

Board Members: Susan Littlefield (Chair), John Lowery (Faculty Advisor), James Kundart, Ann Edmonds, Scott Pike, Caroline Ooley, Christi Closson, Wally Walker, Jessica Lynch, Craig Bowen, Fraser Horn, Outreach Representative: Carol Rymer