

Project Peru Vision Service Trip Report

WHO: Pacific University AMIGOS SVOSH Chapter

WHAT: Summer 2025 Optometric Service Trip

WHERE: Lima, Peru

WHEN: August 9-16, 2025 (Service days August 10-13th)

WITH: Project Peru

DETAILS: This past August, the students at Pacific University College of Optometry had the opportunity to serve the communities of Zapallal, just north of Lima Peru. AMIGOS, a student VOSH chapter in Oregon partnered with Project Peru. Project Peru , established in 1992, is a Peruvian non-profit serving as a safe haven that provides housing, food, caregiving and guardianship to Peruvian children with multiple barriers to basic needs. There are approximately 50 children living in a nurturing, protective environment.

Our Portland-Metro Oregonian team was comprised of three faculty Optometric Physicians and 9 OD students representing members of the 2nd and 3rd year classes. The team experienced a rich cultural immersion. With the advantage of staying onsite on the Project Peru campus within their protected shelter the experience was elevated by creating closer connections with the community. The team was housed in one of the dormitory wings and shared all their deliciously cooked meals with the residents, many ingredients coming right from their gardens.

The team worked over 3 ½ days providing vision care to over 500 patients. Most of the care was delivered onsite in a large community room at the Casa, but we had the opportunity to spend one full day at the local Colegio, serving children in primary and secondary grade levels, as well. Three students and 3 faculty from the local optometry school, Eurohispano, visited our clinic on Day 3 at the Colegio. This international interactive experience with our two schools provided a unique direct exchange between our two academic institutions and our students. Over the course of the trip, the ages of those seen ranged from 3-82 years old, with females taking the lead at 66% of those served. We dispensed over 400 pairs of glasses and were able to work with the local Optometry School who coordinated 73 pairs of special-order lenses made in country and delivered directly to our host. One of the most interesting statistics was the amount of high astigmatism prescriptions. Over 18% of the refractive errors fell into this category. Additionally, there were over 63% that had some degree of hyperopia. There were 12 referrals made and our point of contact at the optometry school was going to facilitate care. We were informed that medical care for this community was extremely difficult to obtain and the new partnership with the local opometry school was a powerful resource. Further detailed statistics can be found in the charts and tables below.

Overall, this was an extremely successful mission on multiple levels and would recommend returning.

1. Excellent host partnership with economical lodging and meals
2. Rich learning environment and skill development
3. Confirmed in-country needs for optometric care and glasses
4. Positive collegial connection and international immersive experience with local optometry school.
5. Strong peer bond development and leadership mentoring

Data

Age	#	%
0-17	250	50.1%
18-64	218	43.7%
>65	31	6.2%
Total	499	

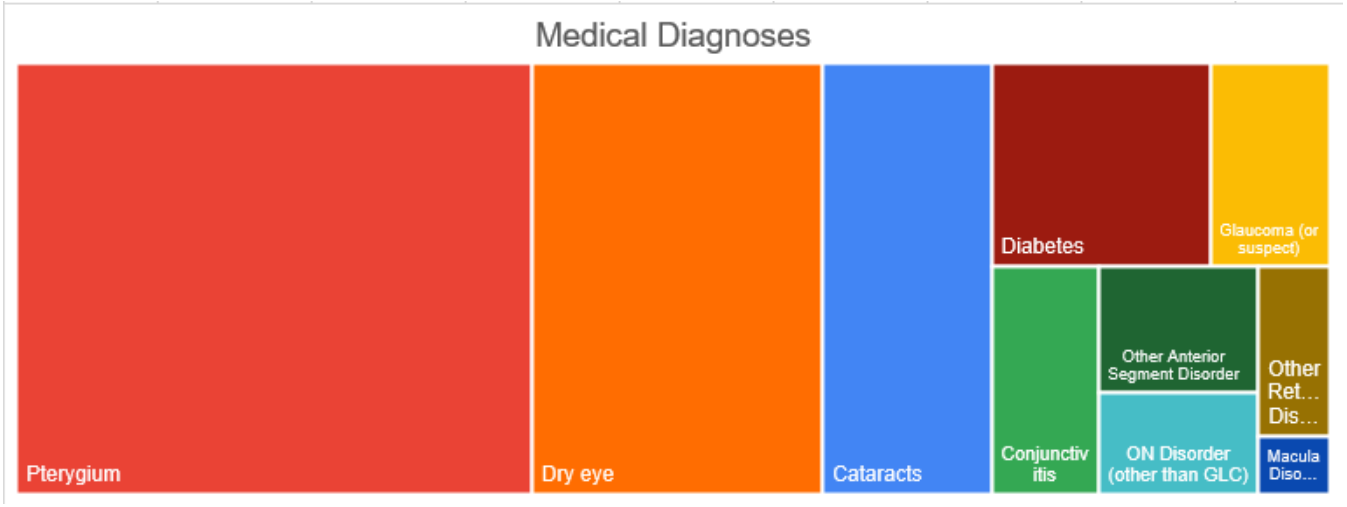
Day	Card #	Patient Count
Sunday	1-143	143
Monday	144-271	127
Tuesday	272-483	211
Wednesday	484-515	31
Total		512
*13 missing cards		

Gender	#	%
Male	172	34%
Female	327	66%

Refractive Disorders	
Myopia	103
Hyperopia	318
Astigmatism	343
Presbyopia	Not accurate
Astigmatism >3D	90
Glasses Dispensed	408
Special Orders	73

Binocular Disorders	
Amblyopia	6
Strabismus	14
Other BV Disorder	8

Medical Diagnoses	
Cataracts	18
Pterygium	55
Glaucoma (or suspect)	6
Conjunctivitis	6
Dry eye	31
ON Disorder (other than GLC)	4
Macula Disorder	0
Diabetes	11
Diabetic Retinopathy	1
Other Retinal Disorder	3
Other Anterior Segment Disorder	5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