

## Successful Humanitarian Vision Clinic in Puerto Rico

Eight students from the SVOSH chapter, along with seven professors from the School of Optometry at Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, participated in a humanitarian clinic on the island municipality of Culebra, Puerto Rico.

At the clinic, held from November 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 320 patients received comprehensive eye exams, 90% of whom received free eyeglasses.

Culebra is an island in Puerto Rico with a population of 1,200. To reach Culebra, you need to take a 90-minute boat ride from the main island. Culebra does not have vision care services.

Many patients were able to receive their eyeglasses on the same day as their exam, thanks to the support of the staff at the Essilor Luxottica OneSight Foundation (OSELF). In addition, members of the Lions Clubs International District 51 East of Puerto Rico assisted with patient registration and distribution.



*Image 1. Seeing patients in Culebra*

Among the participating professors were Dr. Damaris Pagán, faculty advisor to the SVOSH chapter, and Dr. Héctor Santiago, immediate past President of VOSH/International. Also participating were Drs. Luis Ruiz, Neisha Rodríguez, Ángel Romero, Marta Rivera, and Herelisse Fernández. Students Ariana Cruz, Camila Colón, Desirée Colón, Joan Lebrón, Keishla Marrero, Leylanie Rosado, Nicole Rivera, and Marilis Vives examined patients.

Presenters were the Dean of the School of Optometry, Dr. Iris Cabello, the Mayor of Culebra, Hon. Edilberto Romero, and Ms. Becky Palm, Executive Director of OSELF. Each of them expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to join organizations such as

VOSH/International, OSELF, Lions International, and the Municipality of Culebra to provide the gift of sight to the neediest people in Culebra.

For more information, please contact Dr Damaris Pagan, faculty adviser SVOSH-IAUPR at [dpagan@opto.inter.edu](mailto:dpagan@opto.inter.edu)

OSELF published an article on this clinic [here](#)



Image 2 The clinic set up



Image 3 The SVOSH-IAUPR team with faculty