HF USA GIFT OF SIGHT
GUATEMALA TRIP REPORT
FEB. 8-15, 2025

Humanity First
Serving Mankind

ORGANIZED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

LOYOLA MEDICINE OPHTHALMOLOGY & HF HEALTHCARE SERVICES

14 HF USA volunteers Gift of Sight mission to Nasir Hospital Guatemala to perform **cataract and pterygium surgeries** to **60** underprivileged patients in Guatemala.

Team Members - USA:

- **Dr. Charles Bouchard**
  - Chairman of Ophthalmology at Loyola Medicine; Cornea Specialist
- **Dr. Asima Bajwa**
  - Director of Ophthalmology at Nasir Hospital; Glaucoma & Uveitis Specialist, Champlain Oph.
- **Dr. Shweta Chaudhary**
  - Cataract Surgeon, Cook County Health
- **Dr. Shilpa Thornton**
  - Cataract Surgeon, Barnes-Jewish Hospital
- **Dr. Pauline Dmitriev**
  - Cornea Fellow, University of Michigan
- **Dr. John Zahour**
  - PGY4 Resident, Loyola University
- **Dr. Arshia Wadhwa**
  - PGY4 Resident, Cook County Health
- **Dr. Ayyad Khan**
  - PGY3 Resident, Østfold Hospital Trust
- **Felicia Matthews**
  - Surgical Technician, Friendship Surgery Center
- **Patrick Bacon-Blaber**
  - Engineering Manager at Virtru
- **Paulina Chang**
  - Independent Medical Biller
- **Sofia Syed**
  - Healthcare Administration
- **Sarah Tajran**
  - MS4 at Loyola University
- **Musa Lughmani**
  - MS3 at University of Toledo

Team Leads - Nasir Hospital:

- **Mr. Majid Khan**
  - CEO HF Healthcare Services
- **Dr. Gabriela Mota**
  - Medical Director, Nasir Hospital
- **Yussef Randhu Morales Recinos**
  - Human Resources Manager
- **Dr. Gilda María Rivera Roldán**
  - Nasir Hospital Ophthalmologist; Retina Specialist

FEBRUARY 8

ARRIVAL & PREPARATION

The USA team arrived in beautiful Guatemala City around 1:00 PM local time. Shortly after arrival, the team split into two groups. One group toured Visualiza with Dr. Edgar Ogaldez, while the other proceeded directly to Nasir Hospital to prepare for tomorrow's surgeries. The team concluded its first day in Guatemala with a delightful dinner together at Casa Buho in Antigua.

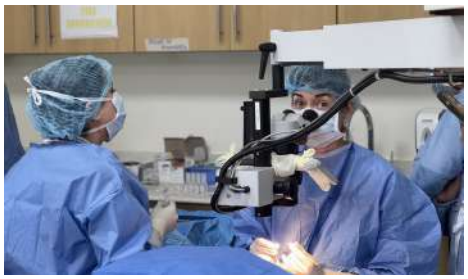
FEBRUARY 9

DAY 1 SURGERIES

Our surgical mission at Nasir Hospital began at 8:00 AM, where we were greeted by a bustling waiting area. We immediately began working, completing 15 procedures on our first day, including three pterygium removals. We were fortunate to collaborate with Dr. Edgar Ogaldez from Visualiza on the MSICS procedures. The day presented a few challenges. We needed to change out some of our medical supplies, our second slit lamp microscope malfunctioned, and the operating room experienced a flood. Fortunately, the flood occurred after our final case and was quickly addressed by our team and Nasir Hospital staff.

FEBRUARY 10

DAY 2 SURGERIES



Our second day at Nasir Hospital began at 8:00 AM. Mr. Otto, our invaluable local medical supplies partner, was instrumental in providing new phaco packs and also assisted the surgeons in optimizing the phaco machine settings throughout the day. Medical students and residents managed pre-op screening, post-op checks, and assisted with the surgical procedures. The residents gained further experience by taking on more cataract cases, developing their surgical skills and directly impacting patient lives. We were also delighted to welcome Dr. Ayyad Khan, who joined us after a long flight from Norway. Today we completed 13 procedures, bringing our total to 28 surgeries over the first two days. The team celebrated a productive day with a special dessert prepared by Mr. Majid Khan, which we enjoyed together that evening at Casa Buho.

FEBRUARY 11

DAY 3 SURGERIES

Our third day at Nasir Hospital began at 8:00 AM. The Nasir Hospital team provided us with the repaired second slit lamp microscope, which significantly improved our pre- and post-operative evaluations. The medical students and residents continued to manage pre-op screening, post-op checks, and assisted with the surgical procedures. The residents continued to develop their surgical skills and positively impact patient lives. We completed 13 procedures today, bringing our cumulative total to 41 surgeries over the first three days.

FEBRUARY 12

DAY 4 SURGERIES

At 8:00 AM, our fourth day of operations at Nasir Hospital began. We continued to see the remarkable contribution of the medical students and residents, who played crucial roles in pre- and post-operative care and surgical support. The attending physicians continued to take the lead in the OR, ensuring that all patients received quality care and positive surgical outcomes. Another 13 surgeries were completed today, bringing our overall count to 54 procedures in just four days.

FEBRUARY 13

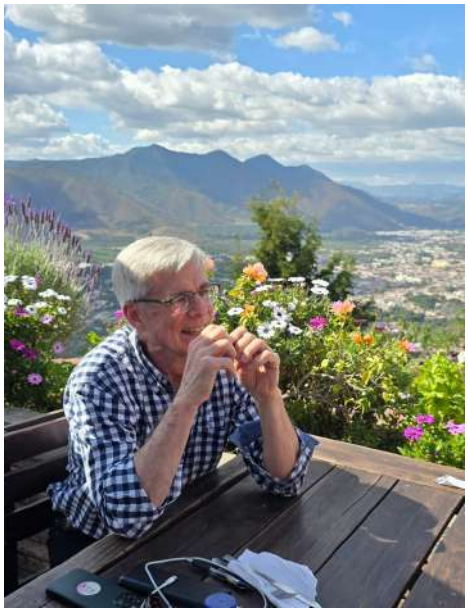
DAY 5 SURGERIES & ACADEMIC DINNER

We started off the day with post-op rounds and final 6 surgeries. Afterward, we toured the new inpatient section of Nasir Hospital.

For Academic Night, we had a fascinating presentation by Mr. Majid Khan on the future of Humanity First Healthcare. Dr. Bouchard also shared insights on potential partnerships with HF Healthcare, Lions International, and Visualiza. We had an exciting announcement as one of the surgeons at Lions, Dr. Ogaldez, agreed to a partnership between Lions International and Nasir Hospital for the Lions Vision Grant. We then enjoyed academic presentations from Visualiza's Anterior Segment Fellow, Dr. Paula Dmitriev, Dr. John Zahour, and Dr. Arshia Wadhwa. The evening concluded with a delicious dinner, followed by a VR simulation lab hosted by Sarah Tajran, and a fun game of Jeopardy as everyone enjoyed cake and said their goodbyes to the hospital staff.

FEBRUARY 14

SATELLITE CLINIC VISIT & SIGHTSEEING



We kicked off the day with the grand opening of the new Nasir Hospital satellite clinic inauguration. Then, we visited the stunning Santo Domingo Del Cerro, an outdoor museum with breathtaking views. We enjoyed a meal at a beautiful restaurant above the clouds at Cerro San Cristobal, before heading downtown to explore Central Antigua. The day wrapped up with a delightful stop at Luna De Miel, an ice cream shop in Antigua, where we treated ourselves to some tasty treats.

GIFT OF SIGHT - GUATEMALA TRIP REPORT
FEB. 8-15, 2025

Humanity First
Serving Mankind

FEBRUARY 15

DEPARTURE

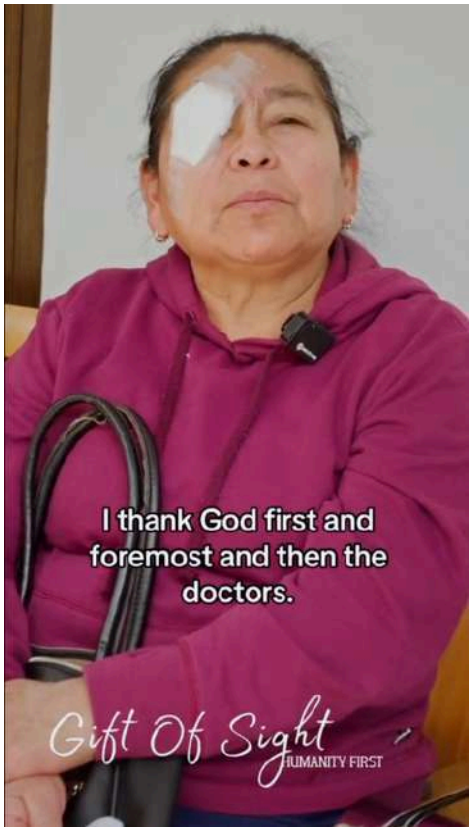
The Gift of Sight mission in Guatemala concluded as equipment was packed and transported to the airport. Farewells were extended to local partners and hospital personnel, acknowledging the collaborative effort that defined the mission. The team departed Guatemala, carrying with them the satisfaction of successfully delivering critical ophthalmic care and the lasting impact of their collaborative endeavors on the lives of 60 Guatemalans. Each Gift of Sight mission paves the way for a permanent Ophthalmology Department at Nasir Hospital.

Our heartfelt thanks to Alcon Cares, SEE International, Loyola University, MicroSurgical Technologies, ImprimisRx, and our private donors. Their in-kind donations made this mission a reality.

PATIENT STORIES

Santos Velásquez (79) had both his cataracts removed by our teams. Here is his short story!

SANTOS' STORY



Rosa María Tapaz Can (62) was a pterygium patient. Here is her short story!

ROSA'S STORY

Leslie Begonia Vargas Siguentes (35) was a cataract patient. Here is her short story!

LESLIE'S STORY