

SPRING 2008

VOSH

California

Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity

VOSH-CA visits Jerez, Zacatecas, Mexico

By VOSH-California President Julie Forester, O.D.

During our December 19-23 vision screening to Jerez, Zacatecas, Mexico, we partnered up with a local Christian organization and DIF to identify low-income patients and set up a 3-day vision screening clinic at a local elementary school. Our team consisted of 14 people, which included 6 Optometrists, 4 Optometry students, and 3 technicians.

For housing, although we had to leave our internet and cell phones behind, we got to stay with our local host and experience life on a real ranch. We even got a chance to start our own fire to get hot shower water.

During our 3 day screening, we saw 700+ patients, prescribed 322 pairs of glasses and passed out more than 200 pairs of over the counter reading glasses. Our vision screening was so successful, we even made it onto local news.

There is definitely a lot of need in Jerez. Everyday, before the start of the vision screening, we returned to a longer and longer line at the school. Overall, we had ~30 cataract referrals and 20 glaucoma/diabetic retinopathy patients requiring Ophthalmology checkups on a regular basis. In addition, we diagnosed bilateral retinal detachments, high myopia/astig/hyperope, keratoconus, and corneal opacification.

We were even fortunate to meet the mayor of Jerez. She said there is a statewide program that will pay for all these surgeries and she will personally hire buses to take these patients to the city 30 min away from Jerez to have these surgeries performed. She also promised to contribute more money into diabetes awareness education.

After our vision screening, we helped the host group make 2,000 burritos for their Christmas event and also received a tour of the city of Jerez and Zacatecas during our down time. All in all, the mission was a huge success!



Interested in becoming a member, or participating in a teleconference?

Contact:
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www.vosh-california.org

SPRING 2008

Upcoming trips:

Non-Recruiting

- June 14-21, 2008:
Chennai, India by Dr. Elizabeth Lee
- June 13-23, 2008:
Panama city, Panama by UC Berkeley students
- August 2-9, 2008:
San Salvador, El Salvador by SCCO Students

Thanksgiving 2008: (Recruiting)

- TBA: Tijuana, Mexico
by Dr. Barry Leonard
- TBA: El Salvador
by Dr. Greg Pearl
- TBA: Mexico
by Deborah DeMaderios



Young girl receiving her first eye exam. Zacatecas, Mexico.

Interested in Leading a Trip:

- Flying Sam (Central/South America)
- CIVA vision (Nepal/Cambodia)



Donate Today:

Your tax-deductible donations can help provide funds for student travel on SVOSH trips and support VOSH vision screenings abroad.

We are also a donation collection location for Optic/ophthalmic text books and functional exam equipment for a new Optometry school in Mexico.

REMEMBER THE DATE

- October 22-24, 2008: American Academy of Optometry (Anaheim, CA)
- October 26, 2008 : VOSH-Int'l conference (Anaheim, CA)

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