

2016 - Humanity First USA's Gift of Sight team

Description	2016 Gift of Sight trip to Antigua Guatemala
Location	Antigua Guatemala [MAP]
Web	http://usa.humanityfirst.org/
Photos	Trip Photo Presentation

In March 2016, a group of volunteers from Loyola traveled to Guatemala with the Humanity First Gift of Sight Organization on their 6th annual week-long eye camp. The camp provides free eye care to rural Guatemalans funded by donations made through Humanity First and hospital donated equipment. Ophthalmic pharmaceutical companies have also contributed in order to keep the surgeries free for the patients.

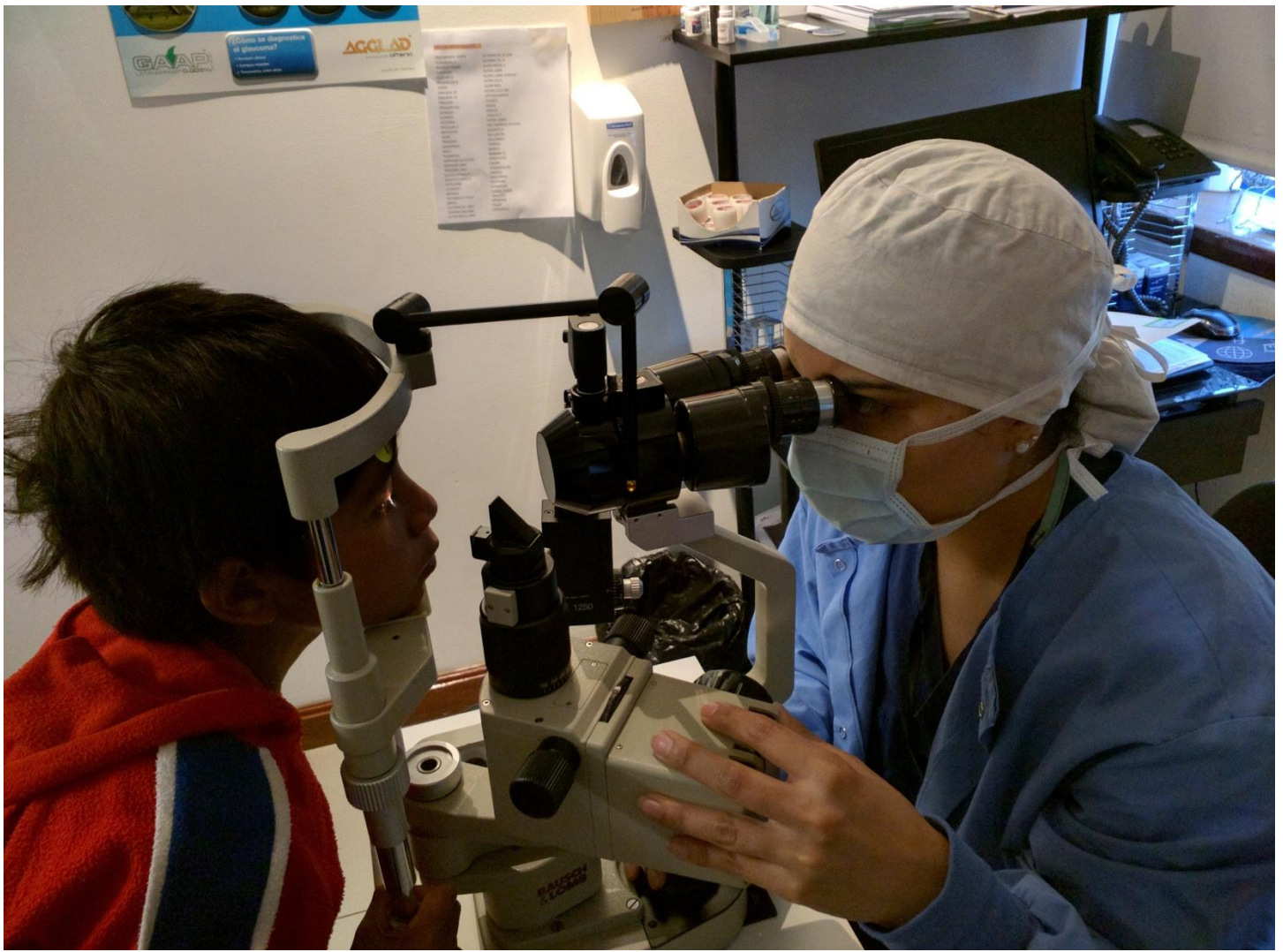


In the past few years, the Gift of Sight team has set up camps over multiple cities in Guatemala to provide service to as many locals as possible. In congruence with performing the surgeries, the doctors' part of the Gift of Sight team will be teaching the local doctors and nurses new surgical techniques. Triage clinics have been taking place since early October with the support of Humanity First Guatemala, and thus far there are fifty cataract surgeries and fifty pterygium surgeries scheduled for the upcoming trip. This year's Gift of Sight mission has been organized and carried out under the guidance of Gift of Sight Program Director and ophthalmologist, Dr. Ahsan Khan and Assistant Director, Tayyeba Ali. Lead ophthalmologists for the 2016 camp are Dr. Khan and Dr. Bouchard, who is the Chairman of the

Department of Ophthalmology at the Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Illinois. They will be joined by ophthalmologists Eligius Lelis and his son Andrius, Dr Bouchard's daughter Olivia, her cousin Clara Shelton, Dr. Syed Saqib Ali, anesthesiologist, and will be supported by technicians, residents, medical students, and photojournalists.



The Humanity First Guatemala team made this trip possible. The three women in the middle, Stephanie, Claudia and Denise, ran the show. Stephanie and Denise were scrub techs, working in the OR and providing necessary translation between our patients and medical team. Claudia was in charge of organizing the patients, their charts and their follow-up/post-op care. Photo: Right is Dr. Rima Patel, a resident at Loyola under Dr. Charles Bouchard who is pictured on left.







One of our patients was an eleven year-old boy, he came in with his mother. She has nine children. This boy got hit in the head with a ball when he was nine, causing a severe cataract to form. Our team, specifically Dr. Khan, helped this boy regain his sight in his right eye. Top Left: Eye exam by Dr. Tayyeba Ali. Right: receiving anesthesia with Dr. Saqib Ali and volunteer Clara Shelton. Bottom photo: post-op Day 1 with volunteer Olivia Bouchard.











Our team met with each patient for post-op updates at the Humanity First site in Antigua following the surgeries. We talked with each patient, telling them the results of their surgeries; 95% were successful, and how to care for their eye in the upcoming weeks to bring about full recovery.





After three days of surgeries, our team spent the last few days traveling through Antiqua and Guatemala City. We experienced multiple cuisines, ranging from Argentinian steak to French Nutella and banana crepes. During our crepe dinner, we were lucky enough to see one of the volcanoes send out a bit of lava and smoke during the late evening. Quite a fantastic event!



