Esperança’s First Ophthalmology Mission to Peru

How your support gives HOPE they can see!

On October 21st, Esperança’s first ever Ophthalmology Mission in Peru hit the ground running. On a quest to treat cataracts and other eye-related ailments during their five-day stay, the journey to the hospital was not an easy one. There is only one arduous road in and out of Abancay, as the beautiful city lies deep in the “Eternal Springtime Valley.” After four hours of winding switchbacks from Cusco, our team of 12 volunteer surgeons, nurses and Esperança staff arrived in the city.

A quick visit to the Guillermo Diaz Regional Hospital of Abancay to check on the condition of the operating room made the team feel confident to go into surgery the following day.

The next morning, after a brief meeting with the Hospital Director who shared how thankful he was for our team to be there, we were ready to start screening patients. And the patients were more than ready for us! Over the course of the next five days, from dawn until dusk, the waiting room for our team was jam-packed with patients – some of whom had traveled as long as 12 hours in the hopes of being seen.

This was the first mission trip for Jeri Royce, Esperança President & CEO, who jumped right in to support the team. Staff were stationed in pre-op to assist in escorting patients to the waiting room, across the hospital on the second floor. From there, Jeri organized and prepped patients for surgery. Anna Ortiz, our International Program Director, took on the role of Superwoman, running back and forth between three stations, translating, and ensuring that everything ran smoothly.

We witnessed many incredible transformations made possible through your support! One of the most
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heartwarming patient transformations was that of Florentino. He and his daughter traveled five hours to the regional hospital in Abancay after hearing a radio announcement that Esperança was sending its first ever ophthalmology team. He was completely blind in one eye and had a dense white cataract in the other, making getting around impossible. He didn’t leave his home... didn’t do anything without the help of his daughter. When he first stumbled into pre-op, Florentino clung tightly to both the arm of his daughter and his cane for guidance.

What happened next was nothing short of amazing!

The day after a smooth cataract removal procedure, Florentino walked into post-op with no assistance and a huge smile on his face. The staff witnessed his confidence and ability and became teary-eyed. It was a night and day difference for this man who had lost all hope before Esperança.

Florentino is just one of the 81 lives that were changed on this mission, thanks to the partnership of friends like you!

This mission was particularly special because we were able to serve participants in Esperança’s other project areas. Several people traveled from Rondocan and Chumbivilcas, distant communities where we have agriculture and advocacy programs. Tómas, our solar panel technician working on the Q’eros project, also traveled to Abancay to get a cataract removed.

Overall, it was an extremely successful and enlightening week. 16-hour days at the hospital were more than worth the incredible experience of witnessing people see for the first time in years. As there is great need in Peru for quality eye surgeons, Esperança hopes to be in the area again soon to continue this important work. Thank you for making this amazing surgical trip possible!

Hopeful for the gift of sight, Peruvians traveled from communities miles away for treatment.
La Perlita Community - Awash with HOPE

Water everywhere, but not a drop to drink – till now!

The La Perlita community is located 37 miles northeast of Jinotega, Nicaragua, where the climate is semi-humid and vegetation is lush. The people here are dedicated to coffee cultivation and planting corn and beans.

But for all the greenery, clean water is surprisingly hard to come by.

“When we first bought our home there was no water,” says Xiomara del Carmen Mendoza Castro. “Every day I would travel a mile in search of water to drink.” She and her husband, Alberto, live in the La Perlita community and are doing their best to raise their three children, Lisbeth, Albín and Heidi.

“Sometimes we had to go 8 days without water. We couldn’t endure these conditions, so we asked Esperança to come see the community’s situation and to help us solve the problem.”

Thankfully, through the support of the Jackson Kemper Foundation and friends like you, Esperança recently funded the building of a gravity-fed water system in La Perlita, which benefits 103 families – including Xiomara’s!

Xiomara and her daughter no longer have to travel in search of clean water for their family to drink, thanks to your support and the new gravity-fed water system funded by Esperança.

Xiomara smiles at her daughter when she says, “It was a great blessing when they told us that the project was going to happen. We feel better now that we don’t have to go searching for water in other places.”

Your friendship not only makes her mile-long walk for water every day unnecessary, it is also eliminating water-borne diseases for this community, keeping children like Lisbeth, Albín and Heidi safe and healthy.

Alberto says, “Thank you, God and Esperança, who donated to do all the good work for this project in our community!”

Esperança’s 2019 Hope Breakfast

Thursday • April 4, 2019
7:30 A.M. - 8:30 A.M.
Phoenix Art Museum

For more information contact Tiffany Luu at 602-252-7772, ext. 104

Visit our website at esperanca.org/breakfast

supporting children and families in the poorest communities of the world.
Solving an Irrigating Problem

Education + Technology = Hope

The people of Maciene, Mozambique were quite curious about the new, unusual activity in their communal farming area. At the plot belonging to the Mabumo family, there were three men busy with pipes, wrenches, screwdrivers, and the like.

What they were building was a mystery to the farmers watching – including Vovó Celestina. Her small vegetable plot was next to the thick of the commotion.

By mid-morning on the second day, her neighbors were done with their project. She watched in awe as water from the set pipes began rising up to one meter above ground, watering the entire field. Fifteen minutes later, the planted plot (five times bigger than the one she had been able to cultivate), was completely watered. She approached one of the three men, Orlando, who had helped build the irrigation system, and began questioning this astonishing process.

“I saw you with hoses and pipes...this is what you were preparing?” asked Vovó. “How does it work? How much can you water?”

Orlando explained the work of a pump and the sprinklers. Vovó Celestina asked Orlando where he learned this process. He answered that he attended class at the local clinic, provided by an organization from the U.S. – Esperança.

“Then I am definitely making sure my grandson goes to class!” responded Vovó.

Thanks to your support, this is a success story that is being repeated all across Mozambique. We are changing lives by offering families an efficient way to grow food. The materials and education you help provide enables families like Orlando’s and Vovó’s to move beyond the subsistence farming – giving them the opportunity to sell surplus at market and break the cycle of poverty once and for all.

Potato farmers in Maciene, Mozambique are thrilled that they can now water their crops, because of your support of Esperança.