



Sight is a Right

May 29, 2022

Maya Vision 2022 Yucatán Mission Report

Dear Sight is a Right Partners, Sponsors, Supporters, and Volunteers,

I am happy to announce that Sight is a Right has completed our mission in Valladolid, Yucatán, Mexico. This project was a huge success. Our incredible, dedicated, hard-working team was able to serve a record 3,326 patients during just 4 days of clinic and, simultaneously, 3 days of school screenings. Over 200 more than our previous record. These numbers are even more remarkable given the language barrier, especially with the Maya speakers, and the fact that we served a



predominately geriatric cohort, where the need is greater and exams take longer. We served the Mayan counties of Valladolid, Tixcacalcupul, Tekom, Cuncunul, Chichimila, Chemax, Chikindzonot, and Chanchichimila. Buses arrived at the clinic each day filled with members from these areas.



We partnered with [Los Mayas Eternos](#), a nonprofit foundation that works in Mayan communities with the aim of improving the quality of life of ancestral peoples. Our team of 37 arrived in Valladolid on Saturday, May 14. We lodged at Hacienda Sánchez, located a short walk from the center of town.

Our clinic was located in Camara de Comercio Valladolid (CANACO). Each day we were met with good sized crowds of people happy to be receiving free, life-changing eye care. It was critical to our success to have several language student volunteers from La Universidad de Valladolid Yucatán translating for us each day in both Maya and Spanish. We also conducted screenings in rural schools of Tekom, Chichimila, Chikindzonot, and Chanchichimila. Students were examined by our team. Those found to have eye issues were given referral forms for our clinic where they received the further care they required.

All of our equipment and supplies were hand carried by the team into the country. We ensured that each and every patient received the glasses they need – whether it be reading glasses, prescription glasses, or both. We brought a small assortment of prescription glasses. If a suitable pair was not available, the patient was fitted with a pair of frames of their choice. We will make their glasses in the US and return them in the next 2 to 3 months when they are complete.



Our doctors diagnosed a wide variety of ocular pathology. More than 150 referrals were given for pterygia, cataracts, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy. Hundreds of patients also had cataracts and pterygia to a lesser extent that did not require referral. Our patient population included a high percentage of people who experience daily intense sun exposure without eye protection. Therefore, pterygia and cataracts were the most common pathologies encountered. We counselled on the importance of wearing sunglasses, and made sure everyone left with a good quality pair as part of our complete care.



Our nurses performed over 942 hypertension and glucose level screenings. Of those screened for diabetes, 21.5% had elevated blood sugar levels, and of those, 10.7% had a critical blood sugar level with the highest level over 600. Of those screened for hypertension, 46.7% had elevated blood pressure readings, and of those, 7.2% had a critical blood pressure reading with the highest reading of 237/178. Those with abnormal levels were

provided verbal and written education on the specific disease process, its impact on eye health, visual function, and quality of life, as well as referred to appropriate, local healthcare providers for further evaluation or immediate care.



The metrics for Maya Vision 2022 are as follows:

- Clinic location in Valladolid, Yucatán, Mexico
- 4 days of clinic from May 16 to May 19, 2022
- 37 volunteers from the United States and Canada:
 - 12 optometrists, 2 ophthalmologists, 5 opticians, 3 RNs, and 15 support
- 3,326 vision exams:
 - 1,714 in clinic
 - 1,612 in school screenings
- 451 pair of prescription glasses:
 - 346 to be fabricated in the US and returned to our patients in 2 to 3 months
 - 105 pre-made distributed in clinic
- Distributed over 3,039 pair of sunglasses
- Distributed over 2,400 pair of reading glasses
- Distributed medications worth over US\$474,114
- Performed over 942 blood pressure / blood sugar screenings
- Referred over 150 patients for cataract surgery and other pathologies



Date of Service	CLINIC		SCHOOLS			PRESCRIPTION GLASSES		Total Served
	Patients	Nursing	Patients	Referrals	% of Refs.	Ready Made	Custom	
Monday, 5/16	470	316	519	86	16.6%	35	70	989
Tuesday, 5/17	439	311	601	104	17.3%	25	69	1040
Wednesday, 5/18	381	218	492	30	6.1%	25	83	873
Thursday, 5/19	424	97				20	124	424
Totals:	1714	942	1612	220	13.6%	105	346	3326

The estimated value of goods and services delivered for our Maya Vision 2022 mission is US\$867,880:

- Sight is a Right has no paid members or staff. We are a 100% volunteer organization.
- We were able to realize ~US\$72.15 in support for every US\$1.00 spent (overall value).
- Our total overhead for goods and services delivered is only 1.4% (cost).
 - This means 98.6 cents of every dollar spent goes directly to goods and services.





This outreach could not be accomplished without the tremendous support of our partners, sponsors, and supporters. Thank you to Los Mayas Eternos, Philip Hayden Foundation, Diputado Luis Fernandez Vidal - Distrito XI, Asuntos Internacionales, Julieta Aguilar, CAI Office of International Affairs, Great Shape! Inc. iCARE, Essilor Vision Foundation, americares, Quest Vision Care Specialty Lab, Hennessy's Irish Pub,

Sedeculta, The Markets at Natural Thangs, Between the Lines, Grupo Alves Desarrollos, DIF-SSY-Gobierno del Estado de Yucatan, Eye Love Cares Foundation, ICO SVOSH, National Vision, Restoring Vision, Life in Merida Retirement Tours, Club Rotario Valladolid Pueblo Mágico, Universidad de Valladolid Yucatan, Erika Beutelspacher and Cabañas Vallazoo, John and Dorianne Venator & Casa de los Venados, Susan Dorr and West Bay Rotary, Hacienda Sanchez, CANACO, Hotel & Suites Country – Valladolid, Leon and Robyn Andris, Dr. Alex Pinhas, Elyse and Ben Shoop, Liz Ashworth, Dr. Gabriela Miller, Brenda Travis, Cheryl Goldberg, John Sinno, Imad Abi-Saleh, Laura Cooley, and everyone working behind the scenes.

Special thanks to:

- Pedro Tec, Ines Malick, & Los Mayas Eternos for your partnership and many efforts to ensure the success of our project. It was a lot of hard work, but well worth the effort. Respect!
- Diputado Luis Fernandez Vidal for all of your support throughout this mission. Your efforts and oversight have been great and invaluable. It was my honor to serve with you.
- Tey Stiteler and the many members of Club Rotario Valladolid Pueblo Mágico, who volunteered with us and fed us lovely lunches, snacks, and drinks each day in clinic. Tey, you were my right hand throughout this venture, and pivotal to its success. Thank you for always being by my side and for being patient with me.
- Mtro. Marco Antonio Turriza Chan and the students of La Universidad de Valladolid Yucatán for your incredible support in providing translation in clinic each day, allowing us to effectively communicate with our patients. This was crucial.
- Speranza Avram, who spearheaded much of the Valladolid work in the early stages of this project with great dedication and drive.
- Erika Beutelspacher for lodging me on the beautiful grounds of Cabañas Vallazoo.
- John and Dorianne Venator & Casa de los Venados for the memorable farewell dinner.
- Our several local volunteers, including Buddy Couvion, Fernando Henry, and Bonnie.



Big up to the board members of Sight is a Right for your stewardship of our tiny, but powerful organization: Jason Forbes, Dr. Dan Brown, Dr. Kathy Ward, and Mary Seguti.



And finally, deep, heartfelt gratitude and respect to all of our Maya Vision 2022 mission team volunteers who travelled far, donated to our cause, and worked tirelessly through rigorous conditions to serve a grateful and deserving community with grace: Dr. Gary Knowles, Dr. Rose Knowles, Dr. Travis Zigler, Dr. Jenna Zigler, Dr. Tim Lynch, Dr. Stuart Harrell, Dr. Joey Allen, Dr. Jennifer Cramer, Dr. Niru Aggarwal, Dr. Mona Fayad, Dr. Jeanette Du, Dr. Andrea Meagher, Alex Pitts, Ani Tokhmakhian, Sherry Phillips, Barb Demmerly, Heather Klatt, Terri Warren, Sue Thomas, Toni Crummett, Carolyn Brecht, Linda Grow, Adam Pixler, Tiffany Elise, Susan Wetherell, Dan Wetherell, Jordan Wertz, Sarah Gullikson, Kristina Frazier, Mary Abbott, Mary Jane Latimer, Jacqui Harrell, Sean Lynch, Frank Fitzgerald, Alyssa Asamoah, and Mónica Fabara-Poujol. You are truly my heroes, and I love you all for your inspirational, selfless service to others.

We look forward to serving many more communities in the years to come. Sight is a Right believes that healthcare is a fundamental human right that should be available to everyone regardless of their economic circumstances. We identify underserved communities throughout the world and provide them with free healthcare services, with the primary focus of eye care. Everyone deserves vision!

Blessings and thank you,

Steven Stern
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