

Volunteer Optometric Service to Humanity- Pennsylvania

Report of Eyecare Mission to Cap Haitien, Haiti

February 29 to March 7, 2020

Team members, Mark Rakoczy, OD, team leader; Mike Gordon, OD; Mike Satryan, OD; Kent Nickell, OD, Melissa Summers, Chrystal Vermeulen, Katrina Wirt and Maria Arce-Moreira (VOSH International Executive Director).

We were accompanied by SEE surgeons, Dr. Reed Kindermann, Dr. Jeremy Joseph, Dr. Austin Meeker and Greta Kindermann.

The following is our visits to various villages and statistics:

Monday March 2- Madalin (CAP)- 176 patients, 10 Glaucoma, 8 cataract, 1 pterygia, 3 others

Tuesday March 3- Grand Bassin (first visit ever)- 185 pts, 8 Glaucoma, 10 cataracts, 4 cat/glauc, 2 others

Wed. March 13- Trou du Nord -289 pts, 13 Glaucoma, 13 cataracts, 1 cat/glauc, 7 others,

Thurs. March 14- New Hope Hospital- 186 pts. 7 glaucoma, 10 cataracts, 2 others

Friday March 15- New Hope Hospital- 255 pts, 9 Glaucoma, 10 cataracts, 4 cat/glauc, 6 others

We are making 6 eyeglasses back home to be delivered later... we delivered eyeglasses previously made from the January trip to Joseph. He will find their owners.

We had some interesting patients including 7 and 10 year old kids with IOP in the 40's.

Total 1091 patients, 51 cataracts, 47 glaucoma, 9 cat/glaucoma, 21 others.

Many thanks to our clinic coordinator, Joseph, for his diligent work in organizing our different sites, and interpreters Marc, Gemes, Savio, Ducheine and Brez for their help with patient care.

Drs. Kindermann, Joseph, Meeker, DuPuy and a Haitian resident performed 60 cataract surgeries and 10 others (7 SLTs) for the week, these were not all ours but a lot of them were. Drs. Kindermann and Joseph were able to teach Dr. Meeker (from Will's Eye residency program) and the Haitian resident from PAP and pass on their knowledge. I will get a final number of cataract patients so that we can pay the clinic. Some patients will arrive next week from the second day at New Hope.

We hired another van to transport our patients after the Gran Bassin, Trou du Nord, and the first day of New Hope Hospital clinics. An extra donation was made by Drs. Gordon, Satryan and Rakoczy to cover this extra expense. This method was very successful in getting our patients to the Vision Plus Clinique. The one van from Trou du Nord had 21 patients plus the driver and another for a total of 23!

Our group also spent about 1 1/2 hours late Friday afternoon at our eyeglass depot. We arranged all the boxes according to power with plus on the left, minus on the right, suns along the back wall along with charts, med box, records, etc. We found many minus boxes that were sent the last time that had been overlooked. We do not need to send a pallet at this time. About the only thing needed would be some women's suns that could be carried.

Three things for the future, please do not mix large variety of powers in one box... it almost becomes useless as you really don't know what you have in there. Second, after your week is over, make sure to put boxes back where they belong by power in the room for easy picking the next trip. Third, please use the old boxes the best you can. If contents are old and glasses are not up to current standards, throw it out.

A big thank you to Dr. DuPuy and VPC for accepting our patients and working with the SEE group to take care of them.

The State Department travel warning was raised to 4 while we were there but we had no problems.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Rakoczy, OD