

NSU-OCO SVOSH 2025

Roatán, Honduras

August 6-13, 2025

Our Team



Gafas para sol

*Everyone loved
getting
sunglasses!
We loved
providing
protection!
We brought 760
pairs and gave
away practically
every pair!
We could use
more kids
sunglasses in the
future!*

Pre-Trip Preparations!

We sort, clean, and document prescriptions from donated glasses all year long in preparation for the trip. We fabricate glasses out of donated lenses and frames as well as bring donated sunglasses and readers—new and previously used. All of the glasses have to be sorted, numbered and inventoried on our program on our laptop (and the backup catalog!) so we can find the right prescription when we are with a patient on the island.



Dispensary at Flowers Bay



Dispensary at Coxen Hole



This was my first time ever leaving the country and what a wonderful first experience this was being in another country.

This was my first ever medical trip and I can honestly say I'm completely drawn in and hope to continue to do this kind of volunteer work for the rest of my life. So many of the people I encountered were in need of reading glasses because they could no longer read their Bibles.



FIRST VIEW OF THE ISLAND FROM THE AIRPLANE!

Clinic Stations: Distance and Near Visual Acuities



Chair Skills “The Gatekeeper”



Pupils

External Health

Confrontation Fields

iCare (Pressure)

Dilation drops

Retinoscopy (Estimate the Rx)



Direct Ophthalmoscopy (for those not dilated)



Trial Frame Refractions (refining the prescription)

Anterior and Posterior Segment Ocular Health Check



One of our third-year students is not only an outstanding clinician, but also bilingual! He was a valuable asset to our clinics, helping translate, and also did an interview advertising about the opportunity for eye care at no cost to the people!



Highlight Reel

I was fortunate to experience this trip for the second year in a row, and it has yet to lose its magic. While there were some familiar faces and places, there were also countless new encounters and moments that made it uniquely special. Roatán feels like one big, connected family. I'll never forget the children's eyes lighting up over the crayons and coloring pages we brought, the patients kindly helping each other bridge the language gap with our team, or the moment an ocular allergy drop completely changed a young boy's life. His severe allergies had made him the target of teasing from his soccer teammates to the point where he actually stopped going to practice, but a single dose of Pataday relieved his discomfort and restored his smile. It's moments like that which make every hot, humid day here worth it.



Throughout the week, we met patients whose resilience and gratitude were truly humbling. Despite having far less than most of us here in the United States, many expressed a level of thankfulness and joy that left a lasting impression on me. From removing a piece of metal from a young welder's eye to offering much-needed relief to patients with advanced glaucoma, the experience was both powerful and profoundly moving. It was a reminder of how deeply impactful this kind of work can be—and none of it would be possible without your support.

It was a pleasure and an honor to accompany this group of excellent clinicians to Honduras on their mission trip. I am happy to report that the future of optometry is brighter than ever before.

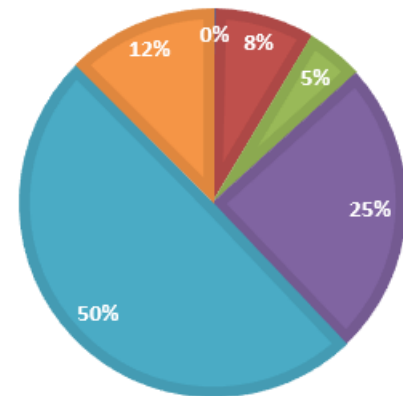


Thank you, Vision Source Kansas, for sponsoring the team t-shirts!

In four clinic days, we provided care to 588 patients. We dispensed over 145 pairs of prescription glasses and 342 pairs of reading glasses.

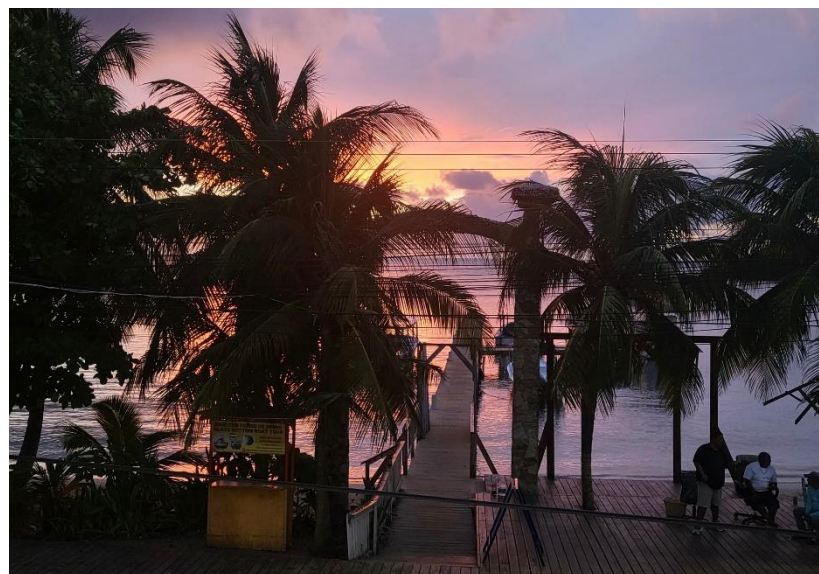
2025 SVOSH NSUOCO AGE OF PATIENTS

■ 0-4YO ■ 5-12YO ■ 13-18YO ■ 19-39YO ■ 40-64 ■ >65YO



We saw many patients of varying ages and I was so moved by their trust in us.

This was not my first ever service trip; however, I believe it has been my most memorable and the most special one to me. This was the first time I was able to use the talents I have been gifted to give back to a community that needs it so deeply. Seeing the look on someone's face when they can suddenly see for the first time in a long time or in their life is an experience I won't soon forget.



This trip definitely challenged me, as I know a very minimal amount of Spanish and it had been quite a while since I learned it. I am so happy that I pushed myself outside of my comfort zone and kept trying to communicate without a translator. Sometimes I struggled and my patient would let out a laugh when I said something wrong, but I think they appreciated the effort and it made me feel more confident about the care I was giving.

I had such an amazing time, and it was truly a blessing to be part of something so impactful. Witnessing firsthand how something as simple as better vision can make such a big difference in someone's daily life was incredibly moving.

I got to experience so many fulfilling things on the trip, but my favorite moment was when I had the opportunity to donate a pair of my own prescription sunglasses to a young lady. It absolutely made her day when I offered them to her, and she was over the moon that she would be able to have great vision while she wears sunglasses. I was so happy that I could put a smile on her face and make a difference in her everyday life with a simple contribution.

Overall, my favorite parts of the trip included the long yet rewarding clinic days, and snorkeling in the clearest water I have ever seen in my life! This trip was life-changing, and I hope I get another opportunity to go back and help many more patients.



Highlight Reel

Twenty-three patients who had glaucoma went home with a year supply of eye drops to control their eye pressure. This is an example of why your donations make a difference!

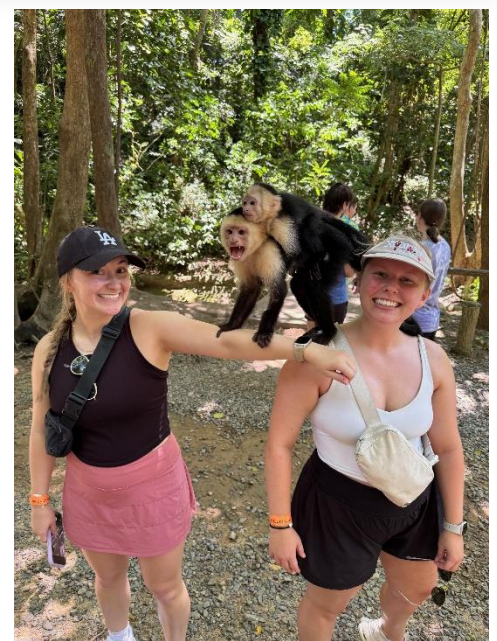
We gave Clinical Esperanza 14 referrals for cataract surgery. We dispensed ALL of our allergy drops and artificial tears.

We brought over 700 pairs of readers and gave over half away. We always run out of low plus ($<+1.00$) first. We also need more bifocals and higher plus glasses ($>+3.00$) every year.

I know you don't go on a service trip for the food, but let me tell you...we are so spoiled! On our clinic days, Gina makes us *baleadas* for breakfast and Rosa makes tortillas by hand! For lunch, Gina makes us nutritious chicken, rice and veggies. The restaurants around our hotel have great variety. We'll be dreaming about gelato, ginger lemonade, Monkey La Las, street tacos, and Pad Thai until the next trip!



**We love
Roatán (the
food, the
people!) and
Gumbalimba
Park!**



We saw numerous patients with diabetes and glaucoma, so educating them on the importance of managing their diabetes to protect their vision and distributing glaucoma eye drops to help preserve their sight was a huge part of the trip.

This was my first time to be able to go on a mission trip and also my first time leaving the country, and I truly have never been more thankful for an experience. It was so rewarding to see the true joy on so many patients' faces when we got to give them a pair of glasses, or prescription eye drops that they had been in need of, and especially when they got to pick out a pair of sunglasses. It was truly one of the best feelings in the world, and we have you to thank for that!



Beautiful Roatán! The sunsets never get old!



**Thank you for partnering with SVOSH at NSU-OCO!
We cannot do what we do without you!**