

NSU-OCO SVOSH 2026

Roatán, Honduras

July 22-29, 2026

Our Team

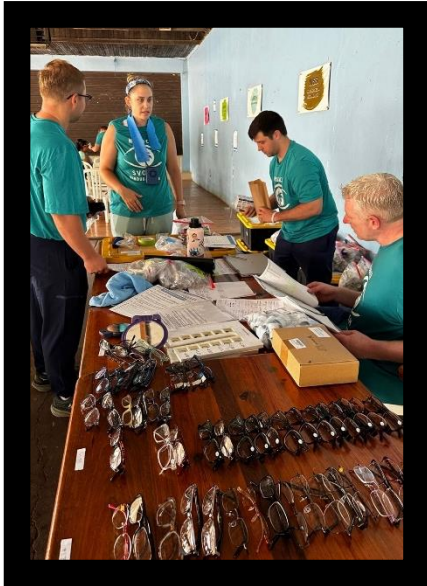


Gafas para sol

*Everyone loved
getting
sunglasses!
We loved
providing
protection!
We brought 400
pairs and gave
away every pair!
We could use
more--adults and
kids sunglasses in
the future!*

Pre-Trip Preparations!

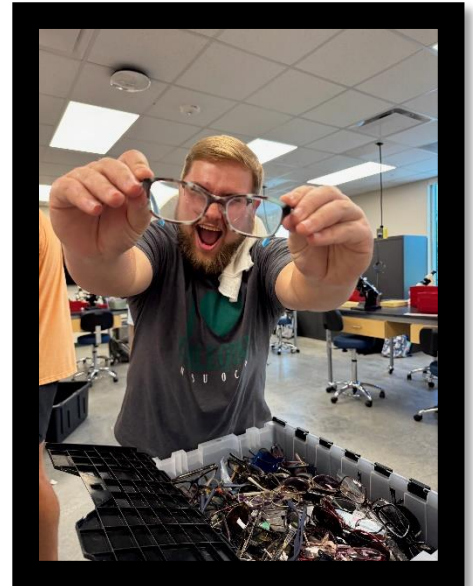
We sort, clean, and document prescriptions from donated glasses all year long in preparation for the trip. We fabricate glasses out of donated lenses and frames as well as bring donated sunglasses and readers—new and previously used. All of the glasses have to be sorted, numbered and inventoried on our 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 Coxen Hole



Dispensary at Flowers Bay



Fun at a Lens Verification Night

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 mission trip, and when I signed up, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect. I was nervous to be one of the younger members of the team, having only completed one year of optometry school so far. But I'm glad that I took the leap, because this trip was a highlight of my summer and I will remember it for many years to come.



Clinic Stations: Distance and Near Visual Acuities



Chair Skills “The Gatekeeper”



Pupils



Cover Test



Confrontation Fields



EOMs



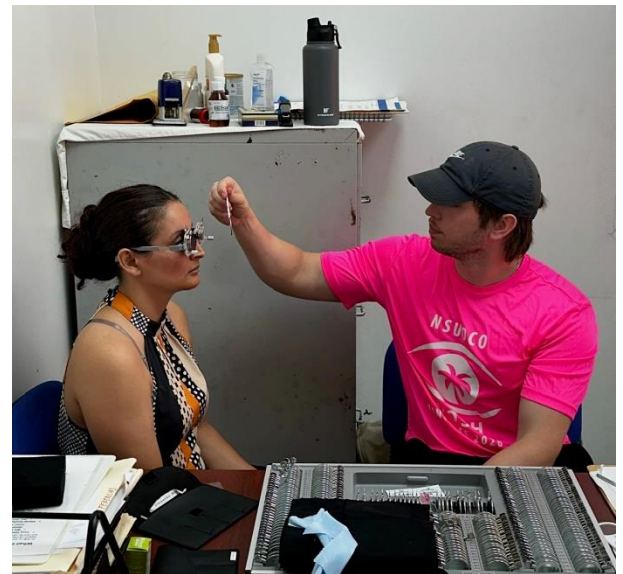
iCare (Pressure)

Retinoscopy and SPOT Autorefracton (Estimate the Rx)



Direct Ophthalmoscopy (for those not dilated)

Trial Frame Refractions (refining the prescription)



Anterior and Posterior Segment Ocular Health Check



Highlight Reel

One of our fourth-year students is not only an outstanding clinician, but also bilingual! He was a valuable asset to our clinics, helping translate, and also went with one of the doctors on a trip across the island to procure some dilating drops! The team was concerned they were running out and our clinic connections shared (but they didn't run out after all!). Our heroes! 😊



The truly unforgettable experience was getting to know the people of Roatán and their culture. It was amazing to meet each patient, attend their church service, and learn more about their history. Every patient met us with kindness, patience, and gratitude. It was incredibly fulfilling to see the joy on their faces when they received their new glasses.

This mission was a deeply humbling experience for me. It reminded me how fortunate we are to have access to quality healthcare. It has also reinforced the tremendous responsibility we will have as future optometrists to serve those in our community. This trip has challenged me to grow professionally and personally. It has taught me that even small acts of service can have a lasting impact on someone's life.

Once again, these NSUCO Optometry clinicians are the BEST of the BEST!!! They never cease to amaze me with their clinical skills and care of patients! Simply amazing human beings!



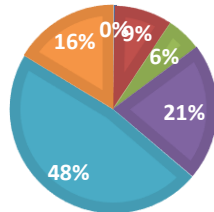
I made new friendships and strengthened old ones, connected with optometrists, learned new skills, and became part of the SVOSH family.



In four clinic days, we provided care to 579 patients. We dispensed over 288 pairs of prescription glasses and over 300 pairs of reading glasses. We have 15 custom orders we are sending back to Roatan later this year.

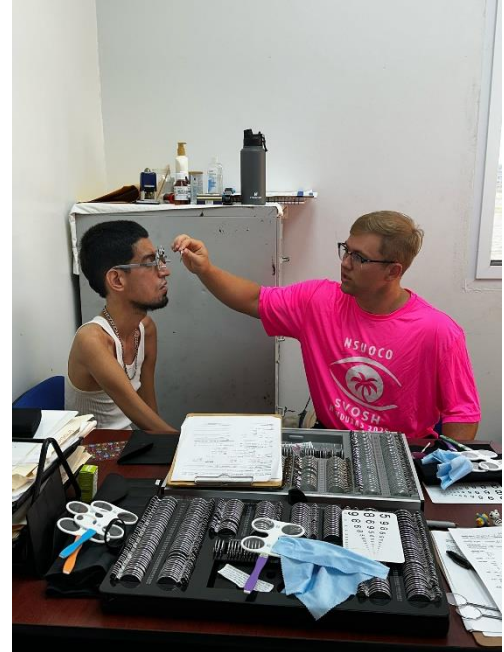
2026 SVOSH NSUOCO AGE OF PATIENTS

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



We saw many patients of varying ages.

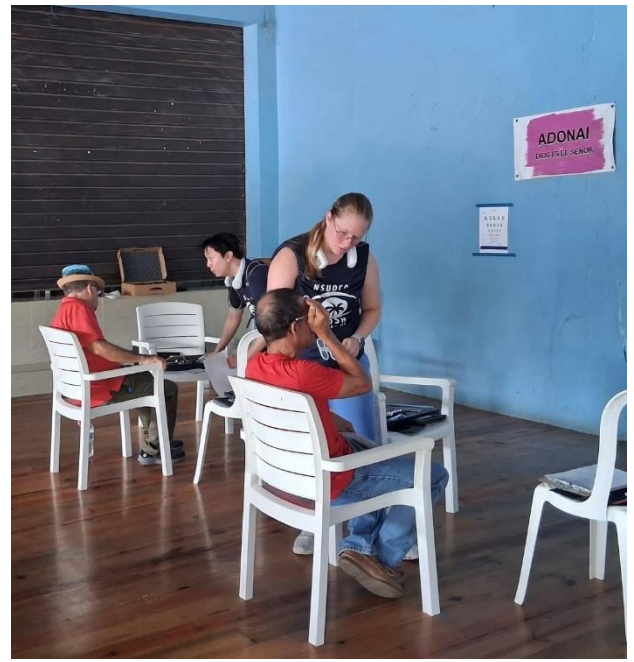
With one man, the closest prescription we had for him happened to be an extremely feminine frame. We assumed he might decline them because of how they looked. Instead, the moment he put them on, his face completely changed. The improvement in his vision was so dramatic that he couldn't have cared less about the style of the frame. The prescription wasn't perfect, but it was enough. It was the difference between seeing blurry shapes and being able to make out the leaves on the trees. Moments like that are a powerful reminder that something we might consider small can have an incredible impact on someone else's life.



Another fun memory from this year is when I had the honor to reframe Marco, the pastor, for a new pair of glasses!! This trip is such a great reminder that God sees us, loves us, and He always provides.

My most memorable experience of the trip came when I was working in the glasses dispensary. I found a donated pair of glasses that perfectly matched the prescription of an older woman. She had no glasses of her own and was struggling greatly with blurred vision at all distances. When she put the glasses on, she immediately teared up and asked if she could give me a hug. I went on the trip knowing we were going to improve the lives of hundreds of people. However, this very personal moment demonstrated to me just how important our organization is and the tremendous amount of good each person is capable of bringing to the world.

One of the most memorable moments of the trip was seeing a young elementary school-aged girl receive her first pair of glasses and watching her excitement on her face as she was able to see more clearly. Moments like these displayed the positive impact that accessible eye care can have on someone's future.



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





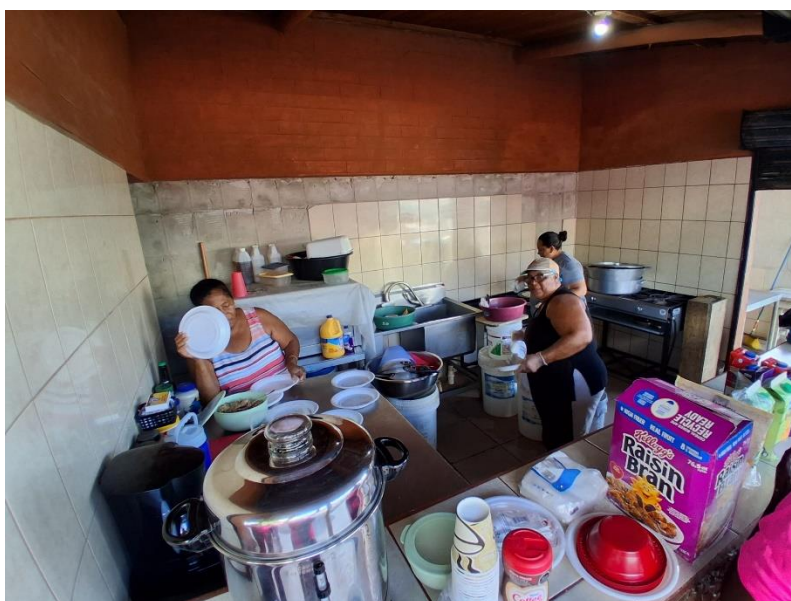
Highlight Reel

One patient 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 21 referrals for cataract surgery. We dispensed ALL of our allergy drops and artificial tears.

We brought over 500 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. (This year, she even made sure to have gluten-free options...how incredibly thoughtful!!!) The restaurants around our hotel have great variety. We'll be dreaming about gelato, ginger lemonade, Monkey La Las, street tacos, pupusas, and pad thai until the next trip!



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





My goal wasn't to be in the spotlight. It was to be the spotlight itself to highlight the strengths of everyone else on the team. Whether it was troubleshooting challenges, keeping patient flow moving smoothly, or stepping in wherever I was needed, I found immense fulfillment in helping the entire team succeed.

This was my second-year volunteering with SVOSH and I can truly say I'm still completely drawn to 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.

We had the opportunity to swim near some of the most beautiful coral reefs as well as get hands-on education about the people there and their culture. We learned how to make pottery and chocolate, as well as ate some phenomenal food!



Every year, we pack a slit lamp. Here some of the guys are putting it back together for a day of clinic. Sadly, sometimes the slit lamp breaks as we travel (airfare), so if anyone has a slit lamp they'd like to donate, we could leave one on the island or create custom packing that helps travel wear and tear.

Help us help others! 😊

Beautiful Roatán! The sunsets never get old!



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