

Rayjon Eyeglass Program - End of 2018 Message

The Rayjon Eyeglass Program has been operational for the past 25-years in communities throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. November 2018, marked the 42nd Rayjon eyeglass clinic held at San Andres Itzapa, Guatemala.

In May 2018, the 17th Haiti Eyeglass Clinic was held at the rural community of Lagarene, Haiti.

One of the first things that needs to be done when planning an eyeglass clinic is to determine the location. Location is dependent on having a willing host that facilitates the many logistical items that need to be done in order to receive a clinic. The host arranges the facility where the clinic will be held and communicates the dates to members of the community. The host obtains authorization from the local department of health to permit our team to practice vision care in the country. In addition, the host arranges the accommodations, meals, ground transportation and translators for our team.

This year's Eyeglass Clinic was the 5th to Guatemala. Miguel Tejada has been our cordial and reliable host for all five of these clinics. Miguel and members of his family spent the week with our team as clinic participants, in November.



Miguel Tejada and Family



November 2018 Guatemala Eyeglass Clinic Team

In May 2018, Jon Wong and Mary Weerdenburg co-led the Eyeglass Clinic to Lagarene, Haiti. This was the 17th Eyeglass Clinic to Haiti. Planning is in progress for a Spring 2019 Clinic to Cap Haitian, Haiti.

Mr. Luckner, from the Rayjon Share Care Haiti office in St. Marc, served as host for the clinic, taking care of the pre-trip planning and coordination during the clinic.



Enduring success of the Rayjon Eyeglass Program has been reliant on the contribution of a vast number of volunteers that perform many functions throughout the year.

I want to acknowledge the contributions made by the volunteers that collect donated eyeglasses, the crew that washes and sort the glasses, and the individuals that read the lenses, package the glasses and enter the prescriptions in the computer database. Volunteers manage our inventory and the equipment that we take on our clinic trips. The work done by these volunteers make the eyeglass trips operate effectively and efficiently.

Huge thanks go out to everyone that has participated on one or more of our clinics over the past 25-years. Each participant pays their own trip expenses and many team members have been active and dedicated clinic participants for several years.

It is imperative to recognize the leadership that Joanne Atkinson has provided as a founder, manager and long term trip leader for the Rayjon Eyeglass Program. Joanne is responsible for establishing the stable and lasting structure for how the eyeglass clinics function. Joanne has been managing the Eyeglass Program for the past 25-years and has led over 30 eyeglass trips.

I believe that our volunteers remain dedicated to the Eyeglass Program because they feel part of the results that the program delivers. Let us look forward to another year ahead. As we close out another year, take the time to pause and to think about people's lives the Eyeglass Program has impacted by providing vision care.

Bob Topliffe