

Honduras



January 3, 2009

Hola from Telgusigalpa Honduras. It is Saturday and we just arrived into the capital city. Cheryl was denied entry into the country, but with a little help from the first lady she looks like she will be on her way in the morning. We had a little downtime and spent our first day shopping in the city of Angels. We then visited a park with a great



view of the city.

On Monday it was time to work. Half of our group went to the hospital to paint and tour the facilities while the rest of us went to the COVA eye clinic. The clinic is amazingly efficient. We consulted on some patients and planned to do surgery, unfortunately the anesthesia machine is not working limiting the surgical cases. We managed to do a probing on a 3 month old in the hallway the first day and 6



cases the 2nd day. The OR is set up to have 2 surgeons working at the same time sharing one nurse which was interesting. Wednesday we traveled to San Marcos making a stop in Choluteca to tour the hospital. This is the pediatric area of the emergency room.



Thursday we traveled to San Francisco to provide eye examinations to the locals. 200

patients signed in and about 180 patients completed the eye examinations. We saw people of all ages from infants to the elderly. Many patients walked hours to be seen. One man had walked 3 hours on crutches only to find out we had stopped letting new patients in the door (we saw him of course).



Friday we toured the San Marcos clinic, looking at the location of the future ophthalmology clinic and surgery center.



We were kindly greeted by a cow grazing in front of the maternity wing and ambulance. We had around 280 patients checked in for an examination and completed around 210 examinations. One patient was an infant

with a congenital cataract. Unfortunately with the lack of an anesthesia machine there is little we can do for this child.



The most interesting patients were the 3 police men who came for an eye exam, one of which had a rifle strapped across his chest during the entire exam.



Saturday we finally headed home feeling as if we had accomplished much, but not enough. We are looking forward to working with the Central American Relief effort to

continue to supply donations, help establish the eye clinic and surgery center in San Marcos and return next year to this beautiful country which is so much in need.

Our Team:

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For more information please go to:

<http://carelief.org/>

Helpful Tips:

1. The PlusOptix is amazing at quickly screening children, and was incredibly useful with the adults.
2. Don't forget to bring paper, it is not easy to find once you are there.
3. Always check for Wi-Fi, you never know where you will find it.
4. Lock the back door so patients do not sneak in that way.
5. You cannot bring enough artificial tears and allergy drops.
6. What the mothers in the hospital really want is drinking water.
7. January is the perfect time to visit Honduras.
8. Make sure your passport is valid for more than 6 months after your departure date.



Interesting Pathology

