



**SAN LUIS OBISPO • SANTA MARIA • PISMO BEACH • TEMPLETON • MORRO BAY • PASO ROBLES**

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### **Pacific Eye Improves Lives in Guatemala**

**SAN LUIS OBISPO** - Pacific Eye, leaders in comprehensive eye care on the Central Coast, are proud to send Dr. Rupert Chowins Director of Optometric Services and Pacific Eye's highest level surgical-technician Eric White to volunteer their time and expertise in Guatemala.

They will be volunteering through Hospital de la Familia where the need for doctors is dramatic. The clinic cannot function without volunteers. It's important to Dr. Chowins that his team is welcomed, "You can't just decide to go volunteer in any country, you need to be invited. We are the only medical facility there so we aren't taking business away from any local doctors. Our services are desperately needed." This is Dr. Chowins fourth trip to Guatemala in the past two years. From past experience he estimates that they will see about 1,000 patients, and perform approximately 200 sight restoring surgeries, in less than 10 days.

Hospital de la Familia is located in the remote Guatemalan city of Nuevo Progreso where many families lack what we would consider to be basics, such as, running water, electricity, and sewage. Every time doctors volunteer at Hospital de la Familia they bring supplies and surgery equipment. "We are incredibly efficient considering the limitations"

The typical patient will travel great lengths, often several days on foot to get to the clinic. Dr. Chowins can recall a vivid memory when two men carried their elderly mother in a burlap sack for two days to get her help at the clinic.

One of Pacific Eye's goals is to be actively involved in the community. In doing so, Pacific Eye is combining their devotion to education and top of the line care to improve the sight of thousands of deserving Guatemalans. Dr. Chowins is incredibly passionate and genuine about volunteering, "When you go to Guatemala you get to use your education for the purest purpose. It's for all the reasons of why you went to school in the first place"

As the premier ophthalmology group on California's Central Coast, Pacific Eye is focused on patient care both locally and globally. If you want to help those who are in need, you can do something as small as donating a pair of old glasses or make a donation to Hospital de la Familia. Dr. Chowins believes that, "everyone has some capacity to help."

Just as Pacific Eye supports their community locally and globally they also support their staff. Eric has always wanted to give back to the community; his skills are an excellent match for this volunteer opportunity. Dr. Chowins is also grateful for this rewarding experience, "Pacific Eye has been very supportive allowing their lead tech Eric White and I to leave for two weeks."

Pacific Eye's doctors and staff are passionate about philanthropic opportunities which allow them to improve vision on a global scale. For more information contact Pacific Eye at (805) 545-8100 or visit them online at [www.PacEyeMD.com](http://www.PacEyeMD.com).

To learn more about Hospital de la Familia go online, [www.hospitaldelafamilia.com](http://www.hospitaldelafamilia.com)

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