

Eye Care

Providing Eye Care for the Under Served

www.eyecareint.org

September 29, 2022

Dear Friends,

It is time to start working on our annual mission trip to El Salvador. Next February we will be visiting Perquin which is approximately a 4 hour drive from Monsignor Romero (formerly Comalapa) International Airport outside of San Salvador. We will be in Perquin starting on Saturday, February 4th and leaving Sunday, Feb 12th. Patients will be examined and treated Feb 6th thru 10th with Saturday, February 11th will be reserved for packing and clean-up. Pre-screening will be held the week before (please contact me directly if you are interested in participating in the pre-screening).

The weather in Perquin in February will range from the low 90's during the day to a low in the high 60's at night, and it is typically humid, so please pack accordingly. Please make it a point to dress conservatively and appropriately out of respect for the people we are serving. Pack a hat to protect you from the sun, sun screen, insect repellent, a flashlight to help with the dark and an extra toothbrush in case you forget and use tap water to rinse your toothbrush. Bottled water will be provided in the rooms as well as at the work sites. There will be a limited laundry service provided at the residential compound. Think about labeling your clothing if possible.

Although we will be in country during the dry season, please take steps to reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitos that may contain viruses and other diseases. These steps include wearing long pants and shirts, as well as socks with shoes. Additionally, please bring and use insect repellent with at least 20% DEET. Finally, consider buying pre-treated clothing or treating your existing clothing with permethrin. Permethrin can be purchased in most sporting and outdoor stores. Follow directions for its use, including preventing the direct contact with skin. For more information about Zika and infection prevention, please refer to the Center for Disease Control website (cdc.gov).

The fee for volunteers will be \$425 for the week's room, board (except lunch and dinner on the weekend), and ground transportation. The fee will also cover travel and liability insurance, as well as private medical evacuation insurance. Each volunteer is responsible for their own airfare and reservations. American, Continental, Delta, and Avianca (formally TACA), all have regularly scheduled flights into Monsignor Romero Airport near San Salvador. Please arrange to arrive at the airport no later than 2:00 pm on February 4th. The bus is scheduled to arrive at 3:00.

If you arrive before the 4th, you can arrange accommodations at the Quality Hotel near the airport; cost is approximately \$125 per night. Some that arrive early on the 4th, might find it more convenient and comfortable to taxi or shuttle over to the Quality Hotel, meet up with those already there and wait for the bus at the Quality Hotel. **IF YOU PLAN ON DOING THIS, PLEASE INDICATE THAT YOU WILL MEET THE BUS AT THE QUALITY ON YOUR LIABILITY/REGISTRATION FORM!** Calling the hotel directly and mentioning that you are part of the Eye Care International group will sometimes save you \$20 or more. We will be picking up people at 2:30 on the 4th at the **Quality Hotel Real Aeropuerto KM, 40.5 Carretera Al Aeropuerto de El Salvador, San Salvador, SV, 1601. Phone (503)2366-0000 Fax (503)2366-0001 www.choicehotels.com**

Please send the total amount of \$425 as well as the liability form with your T-shirt size by October 20th. Checks may be made out to "Eye Care International" or to your favorite non-profit and have them forward the funds to Eye Care. **PLEASE NOTE THAT EYE CARE INTERNATIONAL IS NOW A 501(C)3 REGISTERED CHARITY.** If you want to send the funds through your favorite non-profit, Rotary or Lions Club, the "Cleveland Diocesan Mission" or Concern for Children", please confirm with the treasurer of that organization and have them forward the funds to Eye Care International at the following address:

Eye Care
attn: Tad MacDonnell
435 Elliott Road
Centerville, MA 02632

Please feel free to contact me at tadmacdonnell@gmail.com or 703.623.2015 with any questions or concerns. Also, please check out our website---www.eyecareintl.org.