

# Trip Report

## Bluefields Eye Project

January 20-30, 2012

**Summary:** This was a very interesting trip traveling by boat to Bluefields and also by boat to two outlying villages of Kukra Hills and El Bluff. 1935 people were served during the 5 days of distributing eyeglasses.

### **Participants:**

Milo Harpstead	Ruth Harpstead	Brad Martin
Joanne Martin	David Schaefer	Linda Schaefer
Bill Davidson	Janna Radtke	Connie Lefebvre
Julia Weiser	Lynn Linzmeier	Connie Koch
Tim Swiecki	Samuel Harke	Charlotte Gamroth
Linda Longmore	Moises Guillen	Mirna Angulo
Jonathan Almendarez	Karen Meza	Mike Ramirez

**Friday, Jan 20:** Those of us leaving from Central Wisconsin Airport were surprised when we arrived for our 8:30 flight to find the plane would be delayed and not arrive until about 10:00AM. Because of a snowstorm in Chicago it was unsure if we could get clearance into Chicago but suddenly it was granted and we took off making our connection. However, there was heavy snow in Chicago and after deicing the plane we were able to leave Chicago and shortly after we left, Ohare was closed. We did make it to Managua on schedule.

**Saturday, Jan 21:** We met with the Ministry of Health regarding the Vitamin A project and then went on to the warehouse in Managua to pick up the autorefractor and generator.

**Sunday, Jan 22:** Departed Las Mercedes by van and the Toyota pickup for the 5 hour trip to the port of Rama. Except for Moises, we all got on the panga boat for the 2 hour water trip to Bluefields. Moises came about an hour later with the generator and the rest of our equipment. We checked into the Hotel South Atlantic II where we stayed during our stay in Bluefields. We were met in Bluefields by Leo Joseph of the Bluefields Lions who did a great job of coordinating our activities.



**Monday, Jan 23:** Set up our equipment and rooms at the Moravian School just across the street from the hotel. This was a most spacious and convenient work location. We saw **390** people on that first day.



**Tuesday, Jan 24:** Returned to the Moravian School and saw **506** people on that day!

**Wednesday, Jan 25:** The last day in Bluefields and we saw **417** people.



**Thursday, Jan 26:** Got back into a panga and traveled to the village of Kukra Hills. We set up in a municipal building there and saw **276** people.



**Friday, Jan 27:** Loaded the glasses and equipment into a larger boat and headed out to Port El Bluff. We saw **346** people that day and were set up at the Centro de Salud.



**Miscel. Pictures:**



**Saturday-Monday, Jan 28-30:** Returned to Managua, most by La Costena Airlines and five of us by panga to return the equipment and pick up the pickup at Rama. Sunday was devoted to sightseeing and shopping and then an uneventful return to Wisconsin on Continental.