



**Bringing Sight to Peru**

Casa Hogar Optical Mission  
W4894 N Kinney Coulee Road  
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To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that we are able to announce our plan for the 2023 Optical Mission which has not been provided since 2019. I am the team leader of a group of volunteers who are requesting funds from your organization. The majority of the volunteers that go on this mission, which has been going on since 2001, are from the state of Wisconsin and Minnesota. The funds are being requested for the preparation and carrying out of the Casa Hogar Optical Mission to Lurin, Peru to provide supplies, equipment rental, insurance and shipping for said equipment. Also, the expenses for legal fees, and transportation once in Peru.

We are able to provide this service to the poor and oppressed people in the greater Lima area. Using the Casa Hogar Orphanage as our site, our program serves the poor community in and around Lurin and Villa El Salvador, adults and children who otherwise would be unable to obtain eye exams and glasses. Also, it provides referral to local ophthalmologists for treatment of eye diseases and follow up care. As these are services our team is unable to provide in Peru, financial support is provided from the funds that we raise.

The far-reaching impact we have is that with eyewear these indigent people are able to obtain work, do better in school, they are able to do their craft work and read newspapers, books, bibles or for work. Having glasses that enable a person to see clearly gives them the opportunity to obtain work, provide income to support their family, purchase food, clothing and send their children to school. We are creatively different as we have optometrists and ophthalmologists who travel with us, so we provide a complete exam and not just a vision screening for eyeglasses.

Prior to leaving for the mission, it takes a full year to find the volunteers, order supplies, plan flights, raise needed funds, ready the 10,000 pairs of glasses we take with us (these now all have to be entered into a computer system prior to going). This takes many people working together to accomplish. When we arrive in Peru, we set up four areas, the incoming registration area, visual acuity area, the exam area, and the dispensing area. Many of our volunteers are there for the first time so not only setting up but finding the right spot for everyone to work in takes joint effort from all involved. We have between 600 and 800 people traveling through the doors every day. Working with 40 volunteers who very few know each other and rooming four to eight in a dorm setting takes a great deal of collaboration, teamwork, and heart!

There are no administrative costs for the team as all volunteers pay their own way including required vaccination and insurance as well as myself who spearheads the mission as team leader.

We need funding as the team members do cover their own travel expenses to Peru but the mission on site in Peru is a costly undertaking and fundraising is essential for the mission to continue. Several volunteer team members do fundraise on their own to help defray their costs as many of them are pre-optometry students and have only limited spare moneys. We do ask for help from other organizations, and foundations

We are a team of doctors, opticians, and others who do eye exams and dispense glasses to the poorest of the poor. We see as many as we can in a day that starts with 7AM Mass and ends at 7PM or later. In 2019 we completed 1,710 eye exams and fit well over 2,000 pair of glasses (we try to give every bifocal wearer a pair of reading glasses also) in six days. We collect used prescription glasses, nonprescription sunglasses, readers and eyeglass cases from various locations and donations, some from the Lions club for a small fee and some we must purchase (readers) from wholesale optical suppliers. We are 9 out of 10 times able to find something that will work. Out of all the exams that are done we fit over ¾ of them with glasses.

The Optical Mission is not a 501 c 3, organization and does not have an EIN number though Casa Hogar Juan Pablo is classified as such. We are not a formal organization; we are a group of volunteers who seek to do a humanitarian mission. The monies we raise are used solely for the mission and not any personal use, wages, or air fares. We use quicken bookkeeping with the help of Wipfli accounting services and will supply a report to any organization who requests one of the final expenses of the mission. We try to keep the costs down as low as we can by contacting several optical companies asking for donations of supplies, items they no longer use or need, this includes eyeglass cases, items to repair the eyeglasses, many glasses donated need some tender loving care, cleaning, and repair, etc. This still leaves us with needing about \$20,000 for equipment rental, insurance of said equipment, payment for the extra baggage needed to get the glasses to Peru along with the equipment both to and from as the airlines now charge. Supplies that we can only get by purchasing them, and the glasses from the Lions club do have a charge to obtain them, we can give a detailed list if you are interested.

Additional information on this amazing cause can be found at Casa Hogar Optical Mission (Facebook) and [www.homeajpm.org/optical](http://www.homeajpm.org/optical) (website). Or for questions and additional details, please email me at [casahogaropticalmission@outlook.com](mailto:casahogaropticalmission@outlook.com) or call 608-783-4911 or 608-792-4911. Donations can be submitted to the Casa Hogar Optical Mission at the address listed above.

Finally, with an undertaking of this size, many volunteers are needed for its success. Please share this need with others. Anyone interested is asked to email me to receive an application. There is no experience or knowledge of the language needed for many of the jobs that we do. Also, if you would like a member of our team to come and talk with your group, we would be more than happy to do so, just let us know by email.

Thank you for your consideration and any assistance you can provide in helping us to carry out this Mission!

With regards,

*Cynthia L. Sjolander*

Cynthia L Sjolander  
Casa Hogar Optical Mission  
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