



PazSalud brigada de ojos agosto 2006  
Surgical Eye Brigade August 2006  
Lanetta Lundberg

## Meet the team:

**Sr. Eleanor** lives in San Salvador and is director of the mission.



She knows the internal working of the government. She also works with the Fundos in arranging the brigades. Shown here with Don Julio, Fundo de Emergencia.

**Kathy Garcia**, Manager of PazSalud Mission



Kathy resides stateside and works alongside Sr. Eleanor in organizing the brigades.

Kathy is the main contact person for the volunteers.

**Lowery King, MD**, Our spirited one. Dr. Lowery is an Ophthalmologist specializing in retinal eye care and lives in Charleston, South Carolina.



Dr. Lowery learned about SEE International through a colleague who mentioned a trip to China with her son. He became interested, contacted SEE International and subsequently connected with the PeaceHealth mission.

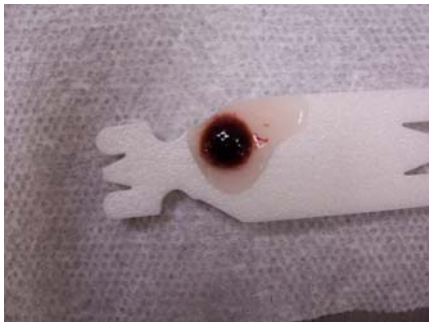
He found joy though out the brigade. His calm demeanor and skilled hands were impressive to watch.

Impression: Being a retinal specialist, Lowery had not been a primary with cataract cases for many years. The cases were complex, patients had a small orbital size and conditions were advanced. He was pleasantly surprised about the low blood pressure most patients demonstrated.

**John Saunders, MD**, Ophthalmologist specializing in cataract surgery from Lexington, Kentucky.



Dr. John is gentle spoken, but well experienced in cataract surgery. He was looking for a way to serve internationally and contacted SEE International. He also commented on the advanced stages of eye conditions and complexity of the cases. It would be a challenge although he is well versed in cataract removal. Dr. John actually removed a rare black cataract from one of the patients on the brigade. He had only seen a black cataract in text books.



Dr. John also commented how common it was for patients to have advanced lesions and scarring due to a life of working in the fields.

**Sylvia Pleitz, MD** - physician living in San Salvador.



Dr. Sylvia has participated in several brigades. She lives in San Salvador with her grandmother and brother, lives a deep faith and serves through the church and mission. Sylvia served as translator between physician and patient in the operating room. She was able to take command of the situation and communicate with the patients during their procedures. The rest of the team noticed how Sylvia captured the attention of the patients on the operating table. Dr. Lowrey knows only too well the command: “¡no se muevo!”

**Ken Henderson, OD** – Bellingham, WA.



Dr Ken has participated in 5 brigades and very instrumental in the optometry portion of the brigades. Our brigade was the first time he has been on a surgical brigade. He is currently working with the University of San Salvador to set up a school of ophthalmology. His enthusiasm and energy to provide eye care for the people of El Salvador is tireless.

Dr. Ken commented the full medical brigades have a different level of energy and adrenaline flow. He was not used to the down time and waiting that happens at certain times during surgical brigades. Dr. Ken is very active in the Lions Club and has served on his local city council. Dr. Ken’s philosophy is “glasses aren’t for surgery. They are public relations.”

SAILING is his passion.

**Kimm Schwartz, RN** – Ketchikan Alaska.



Kimm served as first assist in the OR, a very natural feeling because it is her area of expertise. Kimm expressed a number of times her new appreciation for scrubs, the equipment and professional conditions we enjoy stateside. However, she did comment how the OR suite on the brigade was cooler than the OR suites in Ketchikan (thanks to the gift of the air conditioner unit by PeaceHealth).

Kimm had mixed emotions about the poverty and the amount of work the people had to do to negotiate and get to where they want/need to go. She felt the feeling of good heart in the Salvadorian's world of unknowns and how much they had to do for basic survival.

**Hilda Wiebe, RN** from Abbotsford, British Columbia. Hilda's area of comfort is as an Emergency Room RN.



Hilda displayed a bright, cheery smile and willingness to converse with the patients. She took care of pre-op eye drops as her number one assignment. She would smile, ask the patient to look up and then drop a stinging drop into the eye. No one ever complained because if they did, it did no good. They would give a sparkling smile in return.

**Blanca Berguin, Phlebotomist**, Eugene, Oregon.



Blanca is Salvadorian and served as interpreter. The interpreter is valuable in assisting with communication between the health care provider and the patient. A special advantage Blanca gave to our brigade was knowing the nuances of the Salvadorian language. Blanca was able to put our patients at ease and calm their fears.

Blanca's son and brother, along with their families met Blanca at the airport the night we arrived. She was so proud for us to meet her family. What a joy for Blanca to spend a bit of extra time with her son, brother and their families when the brigade was over.

**Margaret King** - Charleston, South Carolina.



A young lady of 16, Margaret served as log master and preliminary eye examiner. Daily she would show patients two eye charts, one with letters and one with pictures and say, “¿Se a ve?” (What can you see?) and then “¡Venga conmigo!” (Come with me). We were all impressed how Margaret hung in there with the “old folks”. She was very interested in participating and learning about the eye procedures, watching the surgeons operate and just being a part of things.

**Lanetta Lundberg** – Ketchikan, Alaska. Photo journalist



That's me. My job was easy during the brigade, but when everyone was able to take off their scrubs and wipe their brow, my work was just beginning. It was always on my mind to be alert and try to capture the tone, energy, expression of the brigade. There was so much to take in – getting a feel of the people, the culture, challenges, personality, and awesomeness of the experience.

**Ernon** – Our trusty bus driver. Always with a smile.



Ernon was with us from start to finish. He was always willing to help in any way. We all felt very befriended by Ernon.