



One Word Impact

ARISE WINTER HEALTH MISSION



South Texas-Rio Grande Valley

The University of the Incarnate Word's School of Optometry and Ile Faye Miller School of Nursing and Health Professions in coordination with the Ettlign Center for Civic Leadership & Sustainability has supported Health Mission Trips to address the medical and health needs of residents of four colonias of the Lower Rio Grande Valley of South Texas supported by the community-based organization ARISE Inc. The UIW Interdisciplinary Health Professions Team working with the non-profit organization Remote Area Medical (RAM) has supported the conduction of comprehensive eye examinations and medical screenings for roughly **1,344** residents over the past four years, (December '16-'19). Remote Area Medical (RAM), which is home-based in Tennessee, provides medical care through mobile clinics in under-served, isolated, or impoverished communities. Most clinics provide general medical, dental, vision, preventive care, and education.

Among counties in the United States in the top quartile for Severe Vision Loss (SVL) prevalence, 55.5% were also in the top quartile of poverty, and county prevalence of SVL was significantly correlated with county poverty. Of the 437 counties in the top quartiles for both SVL and poverty, 83.1% were in the South, which included Hidalgo County (location of the four colonias serviced by ARISE).

1,344

Number of children & adult patients served by the UIW Interdisciplinary Health Professions Team since 2016

100%

Percentage of patients at the 2019 ARISE Health Mission receiving free glasses/eyewear

\$354k

Since 2016, over \$261,000 in full eye examinations, screenings, and free glasses have been provided

4

Number of colonia centers assisted by this annual health mission in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas

132

Total number of members making up the UIW Interdisciplinary Health Professions Team since 2016

\$589k

Estimated amount of overall health care services provided for the 1,334 residents of the colonias since '16

5,115

Total number service hours volunteered by the UIW Interdisciplinary Health Professions Team since 2016



According to the National Eye Institute, a comprehensive dilated eye examination by an eye-care professional can detect certain eye diseases and conditions in their early stages, before vision loss occurs, and identify uncorrected refractive errors. In addition to eye examinations, minimizing risks (e.g., healthy eating, wellness, exercise, maintaining a healthy weight, not smoking, maintaining a well-balanced diet, reducing sugar intake, understanding ones' family eye health history, and using proper eye-safety practices) can prevent or delay vision impairment.

Community Impact

	# OF CHILD PATIENTS	# OF ADULT PATIENTS	TOTAL # OF PATIENTS	ESTIMATED VALUE OF EYECARE*	ESTIMATED AMT. OF OVERALL HEALTHCARE
DECEMBER 2016	29	293	322	\$86,560	\$142,910
DECEMBER 2017	36	314	350	\$90,570	\$151,820
DECEMBER 2018	23	305	328	\$84,010	\$141,410
DECEMBER 2019	16	328	344	\$93,350	\$153,550
OVERALL TOTALS	104	1,240	1,344	\$354,490	\$589,690

*Value of Care financial estimate is the cost estimator established by Remote Area Medical Volunteer Corps



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