

Final Report

October 27, 2025

Susan Brenner

Wycliffe Charities Foundation, Inc.

4650 Wycliffe Country Club Blvd.

Lake Worth, FL 33449



Dear Wycliffe Charities Foundation,

On behalf of the patients, volunteers, and staff at Caridad Center, we extend our sincere gratitude for your generous \$15,000 grant supporting vision services for uninsured and low-income residents of Palm Beach County. Your partnership has strengthened our capacity to deliver high-quality, compassionate eye care to those who would otherwise go without.

Through your support, Caridad provided essential eye exams, screenings, diagnostic testing, and prescription glasses to hundreds of underserved patients. Many of these individuals were experiencing vision loss that affected their ability to work, drive, or care for their families. With early detection and treatment, we helped restore their independence and quality of life.

We are also proud of our continued collaboration with Larkin Hospital's Ophthalmology Residency Program, which your funding helped sustain. This partnership enhances patient access to specialized eye care while training future ophthalmologists in a community-based, service-oriented setting—ensuring long-term impact beyond immediate care.

Your investment directly advances Caridad's mission to reduce health disparities and promote wellness among our most vulnerable neighbors. We are deeply grateful for your continued trust and belief in our work to build a healthier, more equitable community.

Wishing you health and safety,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Laura Kallus

CEO

Caridad Center, Inc.

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Caridad Center Vision Clinic Impact Summary

Caridad Center's **Vision Clinic** remains a vital resource for uninsured and low-income residents of Palm Beach County who lack access to affordable eye care. Most of our patients suffer from preventable or treatable conditions such as cataracts, infections, and refractive errors. Operating four days per week, our clinic provides comprehensive vision services, including **general eye exams, refractions, retinal screenings, ophthalmology medications, and offsite surgical interventions.**

During the past year, Caridad's Vision Clinic served **1,440 unduplicated patients** and provided **2,637 total visits**—an average of **220 visits per month**. Of these, **414 were new patients, 482 received mobile vision services, and 24 patients completed pre-operative clearance visits.** In addition, **282 patients received prescription eyeglasses,** improving their ability to work, study, and engage in daily life with restored independence and confidence.

Successes

Your generous **\$15,000 grant from Wycliffe Charities Foundation** directly strengthened our ability to deliver comprehensive and compassionate care. This year, we achieved several key milestones:

- **Expanded Services through Partnerships:** Our partnership with **Larkin Hospital's Ophthalmology Residency Program** continues to elevate care quality. Under the supervision of Caridad's volunteer ophthalmologists, residents perform exams, procedures, and follow-ups, gaining valuable clinical experience while increasing access for our patients.
- **Dedicated Volunteer Leadership:** Volunteer ophthalmologists provide expert care and mentorship to residents, fostering a sustainable pipeline of skilled, service-oriented providers. This collaboration enhances both patient outcomes and the professional growth of future ophthalmologists.

Barriers and Challenges

Although Caridad Center's Vision Clinic continues to provide high-quality, compassionate eye care, our ability to meet growing patient demand is limited by **outdated and aging equipment** that no longer meets current diagnostic standards. As technology advances, maintaining accuracy and efficiency in screenings and diagnostics—especially for conditions such as glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and cataracts—has become increasingly difficult with older tools.

Upgrading key diagnostic and clinical equipment is now essential to sustaining high-quality care and expanding access for uninsured and low-income patients. Modern vision technology would allow for more precise detection of eye disease, faster exam times, and an improved patient experience. It would also enhance our ability to serve patients with complex needs and strengthen the training environment for our resident ophthalmologists and volunteers.

With support for these critical upgrades, Caridad Center can continue to deliver state-of-the-art, equitable vision care that prevents avoidable blindness and helps patients preserve their independence, productivity, and quality of life.

Patient Impact: Restoring Sight and Independence

When **Eddy Hinestroza**, age 74, arrived in the United States, she hoped to find safety and stability with her family in Palm Beach County. Facing financial hardship and unable to access healthcare in her home country, Eddy learned about **Caridad Center** through a friend and registered to receive care.

During her initial visit, her primary care physician referred her to Caridad's **Vision Clinic**, where she was diagnosed with developing cataracts in both eyes. At that time, the cataracts were not advanced enough for surgery, but the clinic continued to monitor her vision. One year later, as her sight worsened, she qualified for cataract surgery through Caridad's referral network.

In the summer, Eddy underwent successful surgeries on both eyes, restoring her vision from **20/60 to 20/30** in each eye. Today, she can once again read, cook, and move about confidently without assistance.

Eddy expressed deep gratitude to the **Caridad Vision Department** and **Dr. Mittleman's team** for giving her "the opportunity to see clearly again and live independently." Her story reflects the life-changing impact of accessible, high-quality eye care for those who would otherwise go without.

