

June 2005

UK IS BUILDING FIRM SUPPORT

Lord Dholakia Our New Patron - Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Peers

Meeting with Lord Dholakia was a joy. When Gunter Heyden, our chairman, and Dr Sanjiv Desai visited him at the House of Lords he gave the two men a tour of the House and the opportunity to say hello to a few Lords.

The most important outcome of our meeting, however, was that Lord Dholakia agreed to become a Patron of our charity, which is wonderful news. Lord Dholakia is a Trustee of the Gandhi Foundation, The Dr L M Singhvi Foundation, The British Indian Golden Jubilee Banquet Fund and a number of other important bodies. We are delighted to have gained his support.



Lord Dholakia and Dr Sanjiv Desai

DR SANJIV DESAI was invited as a speaker to the Vision 2005 conference in London where he gave a lecture on 'Low Vision in School Age Children'. This invitation gave Sanjiv a great opportunity whilst in the UK to meet in person a number of Friends of the Tarabai Desai Eye Hospital who had so far only heard of him.

At a private dinner arranged in his honour (at no cost to the charity), Gunter Heyden, Chairman of the Trustees, thanked Dr Desai for the marvellous institution which his father, *Dr Navan Desai FRCS*, had established and which does so much good for the indigent population in Rajasthan. Sanjiv was then given the news that £10,000 would be transferred to the hospital account from the funds collected, bringing the total the Friends have raised to over £30,000.

Hence much progress has been made since the Rotary Club of Hendon sent the first £200 donation to India. The Dorothy Hay-Bolton Trust has been a supporter of the hospital for many years as has the

Four Acre Trust who have supported us since we created our charity.

Our special thanks must go also to the many private individuals who have given so generously, and do so on an annual basis.

Now we are ready to help on a larger scale and would like more Friends to join our cause.

Please talk to others about our work. Ask them to become Friends and join us in support of this wonderful unit which helps so many blind people in India. So much more is needed not only in the way of manpower but also equipment and facilities.

Through the In Reach programme there will be a greater influx of patients at the hospital so a building fund has been created for a much needed extension.



**ROTARY IN
GREAT BRITAIN**

92 Rotary Clubs have responded to our appeal, generously donating a total of £3,750.

A number of clubs are also interested in closer collaboration as patrons of the charity. This is a great step forward and PP Gunter Heyden, a member of the Hendon Rotary Club - District 1130, is ready, willing and able to visit Rotary Clubs anywhere in Britain to give a talk on the eye camps and discuss your participation. If you are a Rotarian, please bring this offer to the notice of your club. Gunter can be reached by telephone 020 8266 3334 or email eyecamps@securitworld.com



Happiness comes when the bandages are removed!

TDEH - Helping Poor Blind People To Recover Vision

OUTREACH EYE CAMPS

SHOBA and PUSHPA are among thousands of heart-rending success stories of people whose lives have been changed after surgery in our camps.

Recently, a mother arrived with her two daughters, 7 year old Shoba and 5 year old Pushpa, both suffering from congenital cataracts. Their parents had tried in vain for their operations, always thwarted by the prohibitive cost. By the time they arrived at the camp, the children's vision had already deteriorated badly. Unfortunately, Pushpa is also retarded, which made it difficult to assess her condition. Happily, however, both girls underwent successful lens implant surgery at no cost to the poor parents.



A happy mother and two happy children



The Area

Rajasthan is a large state where much of the land is desert and little water is available.



Eye Camps held in last 5 months:

OUTREACH CAMP at	Date	Examinations	
		Surgeries	
Jaisalmer	01-01-05	605	101
Siyat	10-01-05	390	81
Iatara	09-02-05	604	40
Surajgarh	27-02-05	1851	237
Marwar Jct	06-03-05	462	69
Pokran	17-03-05	267	41
Chetrawa	20-05-05	30	4
Pipar	01-05-05	34	27

INREACH

CAMP at	Date	Examinations	Surgeries
TCI, Jodhpur	29-12-04	177	44
Mathania	06-01-05	457	29
Newra	06-01-05	274	12
Jetaran	17-01-05	356	55
Laikan M.	13-02-05	167	18
Rajola	20-02-05	197	40
Madhuban C	23-02-05	201	14
Tarabai Hosp	04-03-05	155	57
Derby Textiles	09-03-05	101	9
Popawas	10-03-05	270	25
Luni	13-03-05	206	33
Aau	19-03-05	365	60
Tarabai Hosp.	16-05-05	26	20

Examinations **7,195**
Surgeries **1,006**

A Magnificent Achievement Over 1000 operations in 5 months

Handling this volume with such a small team is almost beyond belief. It was achieved only through sheer dedication and boundless energy.

The pictures on the following pages speak for themselves. If you have any questions - please get in touch!

LONG QUEUES form when the eye camp arrives in a village. Gone are the days when villagers had to be coaxed into an eye examination.



June 2005

A Camp Report

In-Reach Camp at
TDEH : 16-5-05

At the end of every eye camp a report is compiled about the camp in general and highlights some special cases. These reports give us an insight into some of the very touching humanitarian aspects.

The eye camp organised on 16-5-05 was at our base hospital. The publicity and local organisation was done by Mr Prakash Doshi & family. Seventy-six patients from Jodhpur and the surrounding area were examined and treated free of charge. Twenty patients were selected for cataract surgery and operated on the same evening using the phacoemulsification technique, and were sent home soon after surgery. Some who were not from Jodhpur and came in from nearby villages were admitted for two days and discharged on 18-5-05. All patients were followed up for two days. The weekly follow up was carried out on 24-5-05 and the final follow up will be one month after the operation.

Shakila is 46-year-old Muslim woman who was operated on for cataract LE in this camp. She was blind in the RE from cataract for over a year. Shakila weaves and embroiders



clothes to make a living, earning about Rs. 20 per day. Her husband sells wares from a pushcart on the streets. A substantial income for the family is derived from scarves and handkerchiefs embroidered by Shakila which Abula sells from his pushcart. With only one eye she had difficulty in threading a needle and in embroidering for the past year. She could not make out which side of the cloth was correct for the embroidery and would end up spoiling the piece she was working on. For this reason she was forced to give up work for the last 10 months, and was pushing her luck on the scarves and handkerchiefs. Needless to say, the family income dwindled quite considerably. A further factor was that Shakila was unable to have the operation until now because of her son's psychiatric problems. She had spent her money on his

treatment. After surgery she has recovered excellent vision. After the one week follow up it was 20/40.

Subhash is a 16-year-old boy who had traumatic cataract of one-year duration. He had sustained a wooden stick injury in the eye a year ago and was blind since then. The case was a complicated one and prognosis was not good, hence nobody wanted to operate. After explaining the prognosis to Subhash, we operated on him using a specialised technique called lensectomy with vitrectomy. One week after surgery he has finger counting vision at one metre, whereas prior to surgery he could only appreciate the difference between light and dark. Although the visual outcome does not seem impressive, it was expected in a serious case like this where the inside of the retina was damaged due to injury.



Nenu is 53 years old with only one eye, having lost his LE several years ago possibly from a corneal ulcer. His RE had had a cataract for 2 years and his vision was half a metre, counting fingers only. Nenu experienced great difficulty with his daily chores: all shapes appeared blurred and he could not make out people even if they came very close to him; the only way he could recognise them was by their voice. He is employed in a railway office and used to shirk his tasks: taking files and tea to his boss were his most dreaded chores. He was mortally afraid that he would lose the papers or spill the tea so he had coaxed and cajoled his colleagues in the office to do his work for him for the past year and subsequently they used to make great fun of him. He had been to various doctors and had his eye examined, but they would not operate on him and sent him away. When he came to our camp phacoemulsification was carried out and after surgery he is now one of the happiest people alive. He is no longer the laughing stock of his office colleagues and can confidently face his boss with any type of work. One week after surgery his vision is 20/30 plus.



Scenes from an eye camp

FRIENDS OF THE TARABAI DESAI EYE HOSPITAL

UK Charity No. 11000170

PATRON
THE LORD DHOLAKIA

TRUSTEES
Gunter Heyden, Chairman
Edward Heyden
Aziz Jetha
Neville Robinson
Michael Seligman

SPONSORED BY
THE ROTARY CLUB OF HENDON

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June 2005

PICTURES
SPEAK
LOUDER
THAN
WORDS



How Can You Help?

I am often asked about personal fund raising. Here are a few examples:

For my wife's last birthday we had a party. On the invitation we requested that instead of buying a gift, Rosalie would much prefer that a donation be made to The Friends of the Tarabai Desai Eye Hospital. Our friends donated well in excess of £1,000!

If someone wants to repay me a favour, my answer is always, "write a cheque to my charity".

A Rotary Club member's widow had been to Jodhpur with her husband and they were so impressed with the work at the hospital there that Esme donated £1,000 for an eye camp in memory of her husband, Rotarian Sidney Spring. A camp was duly held, displaying large banners in memory of Sidney.

The Popat family, personal friends of mine, made a similar gesture in memory of Manish's sister, Priti Popat. What a fine memorial.

Another lady asked mourners not to send flowers to her husband's funeral, but instead give a donation to hold an eye camp. That too raised a substantial sum.

One can find so many ways and so many reasons to do good for others.

Gunter Heyden, Chairman



Get in touch and become a
**FRIEND OF THE TARABAI
DESAI EYE HOSPITAL**