

BUILDING FUND LAUNCHED

More in-Reach Camps require hospital extension

Outreach camps have their limitations and now that the need for more in-reach camps has been established, plans are in hand to expand the base hospital with the addition of another wing. Patients from village eye camps within a radius of 100 km can be transported to the hospital where there are better surgical facilities. (Sophisticated equipment is not easily transported from village camp to village camp.)

The hospital was built in 1986 under the direction of its founder, Dr Navin Desai, and the same strategy of utilising direct labour under the supervision of a surveyor and architect is being employed for the extension. Plans have been drawn up, materials and labour costed, and amazingly the total for the whole project is only £120,000.

We are very eager to make a start on the building and with the help of our Friends we feel the target is achievable. The building will go up in stages. Each floor is costed at £30,000 and if any group is willing to contribute this amount we would be more than happy to name a floor in recognition of their support.

Please be in no doubt that the hospital extension is essential if we are to increase the service we provide for the poorest people in this region who depend totally on us to help them lead a normal life.

Our chairman, Gunter Heyden, will be delighted to discuss any matter concerning this project and any ideas you may have for fund-raising events. Call him on 020 8266 3334



The Present Hospital Built in 1986

Please help to swell our building fund.

More beds and clinics are urgently needed.

Present capacity is only 50 beds.

Just £120,000 is needed for the complete project.



Ground plan of the hospital with the extension outlined in red

Hospital Extension Appeal - Help to Raise Funds!

More Volunteers

Dr. Kenneth Miller from LA, California being thanked for his work by Dr Sanjiv Desai



In December we welcomed the visit of Dr. Kenneth Miller from LA, California. Whilst driving from the airport he commented that wherever he had gone as a volunteer eye surgeon, he had never been able to treat the really poor people as he had originally meant to on such missions. On his travels in eastern european countries he was presented only with VIP patients. He hoped that with us it would be different and so it was; he was both happy and amazed when he saw the ordinary, very poor patients queueing up for their eye examinations. He was so delighted to be able to help them. After surgery was over he raised his folded hands above to God and thanked him for having had the opportunity to serve.



A Rotarian's Legacy

Rotarian Claude Wynegar of the Rotary Club of Pacific Palisades (District 5280) in California was for many years not only a personal friend of the founder of the Tarabai Desai Eye Hospital but also a fervent supporter. Claude Wynegar will be remembered for his kindness and this great gift which will help to continue the eye care services to the poor the hospital provides. Claude will live on in our world through this bequest.

Gold Medal for Dr Sanjiv Desai

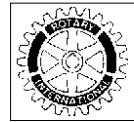
At the recently concluded Annual Rajasthan State Ophthalmic Conference, Dr Sanjiv Desai's lecture on treating eye disease using 'Desiccated Gamma Irradiated Human Amniotic Membranes', based on research done at the Tarabai Desai Eye Hospital, was adjudged the best paper. For this he was awarded a certificate and a gold medal. Besides this Dr Desai presented three other papers which were also well received.



Long Queues for Eye Examinations

Everywhere we go, people are prepared to wait in line for long periods to be examined by the visiting team from the Tarabai Desai Eye Hospital.

Growing List of Rotary Clubs



Wonderful Response from Rotary Clubs

Your Club's support is much appreciated and is helping so many unfortunate blind people. Remember, every penny goes direct to the hospital. Our UK work is on an entirely voluntary basis and any overheads are sponsored.

PP Gunter Heyden, a member of the Hendon Rotary Club - District 1130, has a presentation ready on the eye camps which he is willing to give to your club. Please bring this offer to the notice of your club. Your continued support is important to us. Gunter can be reached by telephone 020 8266 3334 or email eyecamps@securitworld.com

Joanna Lumley Cried Tears Of Joy

'Sight Savers' sent us an update on their work, telling us about their 'Big Eye Opener' campaign. It says that Joanna Lumley literally cried tears of joy when she removed the bandages on a five year old boy in Bangladesh and realised that he could see. That truly is what happens to so many mothers and doctors and helpers at every one of the eye camp we hold in Rajasthan. When a child gets the 'gift of sight', it is an incredibly moving moment and it is all thanks to your contributions. Moving for us, but for the future of the child a momentous event.

SEE International Lends A Helping Hand

SEE is an international non-profit humanitarian organisation providing medical, surgical and educational services by volunteer ophthalmic surgeons with the primary objective of restoring sight to disadvantaged blind individuals worldwide.

Dr. Ronald Reed (Rochester NY), his wife Krista (an ophthalmic nurse), and Dr John Ahrendhorst, Ophthalmologist in practice at the Holland Eye Centre, Holland, USA and his wife Nicki came to work an eye camp in Surajgarh, organised by Dr Sanjiv Desai and his brother Dr. Rajiv Desai from the Tarabai Desai Eye Hospital.

The memo below from Dr Ahrendhorst's gives an excellent insight into the work they perform.

"Dr Desai's staff transported our surgical team, the equipment from the Tarabai Hospital, and the equipment brought by Dr. Reed and myself through increasingly small roads in the desert to Surajharh.

We were treated royally, Surajgarh style, which included a spare but adequate lodge for the entire surgical team, and a really unbelievable outpouring of generosity in the form of tireless help from volunteers, townspeople, local school children, and even from a significant benefactor who brought his extended family from Delhi to help out the starting of the clinic screening at Surajharh. Patients came by donkey and camel cart from 35 surrounding villages, some as far as 150 km. distant. We examined over 1850 patients and performed nearly 240 surgeries with this team over the next five days and nights. I think we encountered nearly every surgical anterior segment anatomical challenge imaginable.

Hard work, chaos, quiet, humour, and pathos were seamlessly intermingled during these hours in the operating theatre. Each day the exhausted staff briefly rested and returned the next morning with enthusiasm and seemingly boundless energy. I think we may have made a real difference here as well. I would like to think so, although all through this trip we daily observed the seemingly endless enormity of the need in India.

We returned with Dr Desai to the Tarabai Eye Hospital in Jodhpur to examine patients, as he was beginning another in-reach clinic that day. I must stress that these doctors are tireless and boundless in their compassionate giving of services and talents. Exhausted, and enjoyably overwhelmed by our immersion experiences, we headed for home with a long layover in Mumbai.

We were so impressed at the ever-present juxtaposition of the pictures of hopeless poverty and progressive grandeur, ancient history, leading edge emerging culture, and world leadership potential. We were amazed and impressed, and now each day smile as we heal our bodies and spirits in our home work environment of reliable power supply, wonderful roads, potable water, and efficient sanitary systems! We consider ourselves fortunate to have had



Honoured with the traditional red turbans Dr Reed and Dr Ahrendhorst together with their wives, the local camp organiser and Dr Desai.

this opportunity, and wish to thank SEE for all their wonderful work to help us get there and back again."

John and Nicki Ahrendhorst

DR RONALD REED also wrote a long appreciation highlighting how he valued the 'Mother Theresa-like' zeal with which the two Desai brothers approach their work and added, "they are the two most deserving doctors of our support that I will probably ever meet", and finished with a wish list of equipment he believes the hospital should have:

Portable sterilisers with reasonable cycle times [i.e., statim units].

A decent quality operating microscope with fibre-optic illumination; it can have a heavy base and does not need to be very compact because they have a bus that transports their equipment.

Dr Desai expressed a desire to have a slit lamp camera.

If you can donate any equipment or fund the purchase, please get in touch with our chairman, Mr Gunter Heyden on 020 8266 3334.

Ruby Wedding Anniversary Raises £1040

It was a delightful, superbly arranged celebration for a few close friends to mark the couple's 40th wedding anniversary at the Lord Mountbatten Hotel in London on a fine Sunday in September.

The guests had been asked beforehand if they would like to make donations to The Tarabai Desai Eye Hospital instead of presenting the couple with gifts and flowers, and the response was magnificent.

A number of friends made their contributions through Gift Aid, which swelled the amount raised owing to the tax benefit to our charity.

We are delighted to acknowledge this fine gesture which will mean so much to so many people.

Another Year of Achievements

OUTREACH **9 Camps**

2 October 2004 - 7 March 2005

Patients:
Examined & Treated **6,434**
Cataract Operations **823**

INREACH **38 Camps**

9 April 2004- 19 March 2005

Patients:
Examined & Treated **8,977**
Cataract Operations **1,414**

Total Camps **47**
Total Examinations **15,411**
Total Operations **2,237**

Pure dedication to the cause are the results of another year of helping so many poor people to regain their sight. We are performing this at a cost of less than 2% of the price under the NHS in the UK. Your donations will save more poor people from blindness for the rest of their lives.

*Just £15 saves the sight
of one person.*



Cataract in India affects the young as well as the old. It is the most joyous occasion when the bandages come off and patients realise that they have regained their vision. Some from being totally blind!!



Eye Camp In Memory of Rotarian's Father

At the conclusion of an eye camp held in memory of his father Mr B Bhargava, Rotary Past District Governor Surendra Bhargava (1989-1990 District 3050) is seen here (sixth from left) in the presence of the current DG Rtn Arun Parikh, second from left), the Presidents of the Rotary Clubs of Jodhpur and the Midtown Jodhpur club together with secretaries and Dr Navan Desai, the founder of the Tarabai Desai Eye Hospital (seventh from left).

An eye camp held in memory of a loved one or to celebrate an event, like the arrival of a new baby or a marriage is a wonderful humanitarian gesture. Giving sight to a blind person is a very moving experience because it is the single most valuable gift!



Deaf *and* Blind

A man was brought to the eye camp at Shergarh who was not only totally blind but deaf as well. People had labelled him as being 'mad' as due to his frustrations he often displayed a violent temper and also due to his disability crawled around on the floor. He was dirty and unkempt. Because of his behaviour we had planned a psychiatrist consultation.

Both his eyes were operated and his sight was recovered! We witnessed a complete change in his personality. He was so helpless before and had no one at home to care for him. We decided to keep him with us for two weeks, teaching him how to use eye drops on his own and nurture him back to normal living. It was a transformation beyond belief and the man is now behaving well, feeling great and is able to look after himself once more.

AUCTION

Send Us Your Offer

If you are a fan of the musician Peter Gabriel, here's a one off. Peter Gabriel, musician, writer and video maker, has kindly sent us an autographed copy of his DVD 'Growing up Live'. This disc has travelled all the way to India and is back in London to go to a happy donor. Send an email with you offer to eyecamps@securitworld.com

Making A World Of Difference

How often have you heard that term? So often it is used loosely but for our truly poor blind people your contributions do just that. Providing the means for blind people to see again is perhaps the highest degree of help one can give and the most meaningful. Please help us to continue to make 'a world of difference' by restoring the sight of so many poor people in Rajasthan who would otherwise have to continue their lives in darkness.