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mission

The Himalayan Cataract Project works to eradicate preventable and curable blindness through high-quality ophthalmic care, education and the establishment of a world-class eye care infrastructure.



Dear Friends,

As another year winds down and we all take stock of our accomplishments, we hope that you celebrate your part in the work of the Himalayan Cataract Project. This year, HCP and its partners have so far screened 322,392 people and performed 29,207 surgeries to restore sight and improve the quality of life for people in the developing world. This impact has been greatly multiplied through the work of professionals we have trained and collaborations with like-minded organizations.

The ranks of HCP supporters are growing, thanks to word-of-mouth and to reports in the media. In February, for example, the BBC in London broadcast a documentary showing Co-Director Dr. Sanduk Ruit restoring sight to blind patients in a remote region of Nepal. Soon we began receiving donations and messages from BBC viewers.

"I believe what you do to be one of the most compassionate and worthy practices I have ever witnessed," wrote Dean Newsome, Newcastle upon Tyne, England.

From Nepal to Britain to the U.S., this story bounced its way around the world and resulted in what HCP is all about: action. What drives us to action – and what BBC's viewers found powerful enough to drive them to act – is the knowledge that a simple \$20 procedure can transform the lives of individuals and families who otherwise suffer needlessly.

We are making progress by expanding care in ever-widening circles. This began with the Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology in Nepal and is now spreading to Africa, where we are developing smaller training centers and programs modeled after Tilganga. In Ghana, a new eye surgery training center is set to open in early 2012. We are also partnering with existing hospitals to improve eye care in Ethiopia,



Drs. Ruit and Tabin, assisted by Senior Ophthalmic Assistant Kumar Shrestha, examine a Nepalese woman whose sight has been restored. (Photo by Michael Amendolia)

and we are working to build a training program in Rwanda. The professionals we train in these programs improve both the health and the economy of their communities by freeing patients and their families from the full-time job of dealing with blindness.

Here are a few examples of our work in 2011:

- In Ethiopia's northern region of Tigray, population 5 million, various conditions blind nearly 1 in 65 people. By helping local professionals restore sight to over 7,000 of these people in the past year, HCP has made a significant impact on the health and vitality of the region. Yet we are keenly aware that this pace only keeps up with the annual rate of new cataract cases; we need to significantly increase our pace to be able to address the backlog of blind people in the region.
- Thirteen trainees from South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa have received advanced training in the United States at the John A. Moran Eye Center in Utah, as well as in Nepal at the Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology. The ophthalmologists we are training are changing the face of eye care throughout the developing world, reaching patients who would otherwise be left behind.
- In March and November, teams from Tilganga traveled to Uttar Pradesh, an underserved region of India, to work with local ophthalmologists at Kripalu Charity Hospital. Faced with overwhelming need for cataract surgeries, the team conducted a total of 1,203 free procedures.
- We have delivered over \$565,000 worth of ophthalmic equipment and supplies to partner hospitals throughout the world -- from Nepal, India and Bhutan in South Asia, to Ghana, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Nigeria and Kenya in Sub-Saharan Africa, to Trinidad in the Caribbean. In addition, we have leveraged over \$700,000 in equipment and supplies from non-cash contributions that we have also delivered to program partners.

You can read more about our 2011 achievements in direct care, training and program building in the enclosed "Snapshots of 2011," on our website and in our monthly e-newsletter. None of this would be possible without our growing cadre of individuals, foundations, corporations, and government organizations joining together to fight or prevent blindness in places where it is a common, curable part of the cycle of poverty.

Knowing the impact of our work, we hope that you will again be inspired to action. We ask that you continue supporting our volunteer physicians and the many professionals we have trained. Like those BBC viewers, you can take action that will restore sight for people in the developing world, train the next generation of eye health professionals, and support sustainable systems to reduce needless blindness.

Thank you for your continued support. Your donation will make a world of difference.

Warmly,



Geoff Tabin
Co-Director



Job Heintz
Chief Executive Officer