The Problem:

- 285 million people around the world have trouble seeing. Of these, 39 million are blind.
- 2 out of 3 blind people are women
- 80% of blindness is preventable or curable
- Cataract is the leading cause of blindness

The Solution:

Minimally invasive, sight restoring cataract surgery takes 15 minutes at low cost.

Seva's Goal:

To eliminate needless blindness by building the capacity of underserved communities to provide their own high quality, affordable, sustainable eye care services.

Seva's Support Provides:

- Comprehensive eye care
- services for underserved communities
- Medical and management training
- Surgical equipment and medical supplies
- Community outreach
- Clinical and public health research
- Mentoring and sharing of best practices among eye hospitals in developing

Global Problems, Local Solutions: Seva’s Sight Program focuses on implementing community-based eye care programs that address the leading causes of blindness and visual impairment in the world — cataract and refractive error. Seva bridges the gap between medical providers and communities in need by building the capacity of local people to provide quality, affordable eye care to their own communities. Seva supports the training of local personnel and fosters opportunities for continuing education. The Sight Program is guided by the principles of respect, partnership, and service to poor communities that have no access to eye care.

Building Networks: Seva’s Center for Innovation in Eye Care works as an advocacy program, building collaboration among international eye care organizations in order to share knowledge, systems, and best practices in the field of eye care. The Center for Innovation in Eye Care applies lessons learned from Seva’s 35 year history to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of eye care institutions around the world. One key project is the Global Sight Initiative of training centers. Each center is increasing the productivity of other eye care institutions in their region of the world. As of 2013, 9 training centers have worked with over 50 eye hospitals to increase training, productivity and hospital management resources.

Improving Vision in the United States: Seva’s American Indian Sight Initiative focuses on providing free eye examinations and glasses to school children, training American Indian vision technicians, and improving access to diabetic retinopathy screening and treatment.

Compassion in Action: Lack of knowledge about eye health and the high cost of both treatment and transportation are major barriers to people getting the care they need. Seva supports community outreach and education programs to spread awareness of available eye care services. Additionally, Seva provides support to poor patients and their families in order to ensure that no one is turned away for their inability to pay for treatment.

Sustainable Service: Seva’s proven model of sustainable development is based on a simple yet effective formula: roughly one-third of patients subsidize the cost of the two-thirds who cannot afford eye care services. Clinics invest the income collected from patients to pay staff salaries, operating costs, and are eventually able to fully sustain their own services, while still providing eye care to those most vulnerable in their communities.

Since 1978, Seva and its partners have worked to make eye care services available and affordable to some of the world’s most vulnerable communities.

Seva currently works with eye care providers in Nepal, Tibet, Cambodia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Tanzania, Egypt, Ethiopia, Uganda, Guatemala, Peru, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Haiti, Russia and the United States.

For more information:

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