

The Goal:

The **Rotary Gift of Sight** project is envisioned as a comprehensive program designed to **increase the availability of quality corneas to ophthalmological surgeons in India**. The **Rotary Gift of Sight** project is designed to provide permanent linkage between eye banking services, the ocular surgeons, ancillary health and nutrition resources and benefactor groups, with a united mission of reversing the trend of an ever-increasing number of corneally blind by training enough trained surgeons in enough certified medical facilities that will be better able to retrieve enough healthy corneas for transplant from enough donors to reduce — and ultimately, eliminate — the number of afflicted.

The project would be designed to address corneal blindness on several levels:

By establishing a surgical, technical and operational training center at a convenient location within India, taking advantage of existing medical resources;

By creating public education and awareness programs to encourage greater acceptance of eye organ donation;

By coordinating health initiatives to improve quality of cleanliness, diet and nutrition, including the provision of adequate vitamin A, to enhance healthy eyes and prevent corneal blindness in many cases;

By upgrading facilities, procedures and medical personnel at existing eye banks who wish to operate within international standards;

By supporting the establishment of new eye banks to international medical standards where interest and resources exist and where need is well-defined;

By providing a sufficient number of the highest quality corneas for transplantation to eliminate the backlog of corneally blind.

We believe that a Rotary Gift of Sight project has the capacity to generate the resources that can reduce and eventually eliminate the backlog of patients waiting for corneal transplants, and to provide a self-sustaining structure to meet ongoing cornea supply needs in future.

We truly believe that a Rotary Gift of Sight programme is the best hope for generating a programme what will bring vision to millions of afflicted victims of corneal injury and disease.