

"Next to life itself, God's most precious gift is sight—PROTECT IT, SAVE IT, and RESTORE IT."

PRESIDENT FRANK DEVLYN TO RECOGNIZE BEST EVENT OR PROJECT IN EACH T.F.

President Devlyn and RIPP Cliff Dochterman plan to recognize the best project/event to come out of the twenty Task Forces this year. Twenty **"Best Project/Events"** will be recognized, one from each Task Force. Nominated projects/events can have happened at any level of Rotary, but must have been directly stimulated by the work of the Task Force, must have been initiated after July 1, 2000, and must have been substantially completed during this Rotary year.

These are **"Criteria Guidelines"** which are to be used for all Task Forces and must be included in submittals:

1. Name of Project
2. Zone./District/Club
3. Principal contact for the project
4. In 100 words or less (English please) describe the project.
5. In 100 words or less (English please) describe how the project met the objective/mission of the Task Force.
6. In 100 words or less (English please) describe how the project benefited people.
7. In 100 words or less (English please) describe how the project benefited Rotary.
8. In 50 words or less (English please) add any other comments you wish to make.
9. Name and e-mail address of the Zone Coordinator.
10. Name of the Task Force.

Zone Coordinators can submit one **"Best Project/Event"** to the Task Force Chair. These time deadlines must be followed:

1. By no later than **May 15, 2001** Zone Coordinators must submit one **"Best Project/Event"** for consideration by the Task Force Chair. Submittal must be by via Email or Fax.

2. By no later than **May 28, 2001** Task Force Chairs must submit via email or fax to RIPP Cliff Dochterman cliffdochterman@home.com
Fax: 1-925-376-8357 the final three selections made by the Task Force Chair for the respective Task Force. Submittals must be formatted as outlined above in "Criteria Guidelines". Additional materials such as brochures, mission statements, videos, tapes, photos, and other related items **should not be submitted**.
3. By **June 10, 2001** Cliff, in consultation with the Task Force Chair, will make a recommendation to President Devlyn, who will make the final selection for each Task Force **"Best Project/event" award**.

A SALUTE TO BUENA VISTA R.C. OF D. 5470'S NEW CENTER FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED!

By Natalia Ayers

The program operates on the assumption that the blind are just as intelligent as the sighted and they know from experience what they want and need. The sighted will act as facilitators to aid the blind, but the blind will make the major decisions. This is in response to the common complaint that the sighted decide what they need and get it for them and sometimes it is wrong.

Our program is just starting. We have held seminars for the blind. Our Public Library is upgrading one of their public computers so it can talk and we have arranged special typing lessons for those blind who want to use the computer but cannot type. My favorite typist is an 82 year old woman who is as excited as a child at Christmas.

This new center is scheduled to open May 15th. For more information contact: Natalia Ayers at natalia@bwn.net. **Note: Buena Vista is a club of 22 members in D.5470. Congratulations to them and Governor Eddie Blender for Creating Awareness & Taking Action!!**

VISIT ABTF WEB SITE AT: <http://frankdevlyn.org/blindness>

TASK FORCE WORKSHOP AT SAN ANTONIO 25 JUNE!

ABTF Members are invited to attend and participate in a Task Force Idea Exchange Workshop being held on Monday 25 June, 1530-1700. One of the workshops will focus on the work of our Avoidable Blindness Task Force.

We urge as many of you as possible to attend and help us review accomplishments and learn how we can do an even better job in the year ahead.

This has been an exciting and busy year as we have initiated the involvement of Rotary in caring for "God's precious gift of sight" on an international basis. You have helped us restore sight to thousands of cataract blinded and to "Protect, Save, and Restore" vision of men, women, and children around our Rotary World.

ROTAVISION IN NICARAGUA, PROVIDES SURGERIES AND LECTURES TO DOCTORS

"We have just returned from a Rotavision trip to Nicaragua, where good things happened. It seems important to share with you as Dr. Otis Paul, our Medical Director was joined there by Dr. David Romero from Mexico City, who is also a pediatric ophthalmologist.

Dr. Paul and Dr. Romero lectured for two days to 45 ophthalmologists from all over Nicaragua, on various facets of Strabismus. They were presented with new technology. The Rotary Club of San Francisco, with Rotavision gave each attendee a fine text on Strabismus written by Dr. Romero in Spanish.

Rotavision is rebuilding and equipping a surgical suite in Masaya. That is where all work was done. One hundred infants and children were screened in consultation with referring doctors. Each was given a diagnosis with the necessary procedure carefully outlined. Twelve of the most intricate cases were selected and surgery performed. Local doctors had the opportunity to assist. Each patient had a post surgery exam,

which included the referring doctors and others in attendance.

Rotavision provided an Anesthesia Machine with all components, including a ventilator and Pulse Oximeter. They were gifted with a set of cataract instruments and Strabismus instruments.

Rotavision has been invited to Armenia. We are looking forward to that in September. The next step may be Ghana."

Written by: Scharleen and Ernest Colant, Rotary Club of San Francisco.

RC of Jodhpur West Donates Iol's and Books to Seychelles Clinic

Dr. Sanjiv Desai reports: "This is to share with you the joy of knowing that our Rotary Club has approved an eye care project with the Rotary Club of Victoria, Seychelles.

Widely considered as "Paradise on Earth" or "God's own Country" there is a large waiting list of cataract surgery patients in Seychelles. But intraocular lense are not available to perform quality micro-surgery. Therefore the waiting list of patients has swelled.

To fill this gap,. Rotary Club of Jodhpur West (D.3050) has recently approved a project to donate 100 quality intra-ocular lenses to the RC of Victoria who will then pass them on to the Eye Clinic at Mahe; also will be included two sets of microsurgical instruments.

This is the only eye clinic in Seychelles and is Government run. The clinic is well equipped and staffed with excellent personnel. They cater to the entire nation which has a population of 80,000. Often, the staff feels the need to refer to books, but there are virtually no books at the clinic. Our club will also donate a 12 volume Ophthalmology teaching set to them.

QUOTE FROM ARCH C. KLUMPH

"...we should look at the Foundation as being not something of today or tomorrow, but think in terms of the years and generations to come. Rotary is a movement for the centuries."

---President Rotary International 1916-17

MG PROVIDES 1111 Cataract Surgeries in D.3290, India with aid from D.9830, Australia

Rotarian Vishnu Dhandhanian, President of the RC Cal Metropolitan, D. 3290, India writes: "In October 2000, the Rotary Foundation wrote to the RC of Launceston West, D.9830, Australia and the RC of Calcutta Metropolitan, D.3290, India approving MG of \$7,500 which was matched with an equal amount shared by both clubs—total project \$15,000.

Our club swung into action and launched the project formally by holding a meeting at Susrut Eye Foundation in November 2000, which was attended by 15 members and Susrut team led by Dr. Sunil Bagchi. Later the project was implemented from January 2001 by allocating the surgeries amongst following partners:

Netra Sevashram	300
Susrut Eye Foundation	361
Vivekananda Mission Ashram	250
GRSM Rotary Eye Hospital	100
Dr. Neeraja Rateria	100
TOTAL	1111

A series of rural and semi-rural camps were organized to identify the patients. 3 major camps were organized at our own RCCs at Joypul, Nabapally-Narayanpur and Malancha. Joypul RCC committee organized publicity on cable TV showing an enactment of a family resulting in an understanding that free surgery did not actually mean a sub-standard one. In fact, the first batch of 26 satisfied patients from Joypul was the best publicity in the entire rural neighborhood. GRSM Hospital is conducting the camps in April and surgeries will be completed within April 2001. The project is now almost complete and remaining patients are being scheduled for surgeries. A camp was organized at Ashoknagar in North 24-paraganas, in which 67 persons were provided with free eye-glasses and about 30 were shortlisted for IOL surgery.

It will be a great achievement to complete 1111 IOL surgeries within a span of 4 months from January to April 2001. **R.I. President Frank**

Devlyn has laid a lot of stress on Avoidable Blindness projects this year and this project truly fulfills his clarion call.

The best part was the involvement of club members and Rotaractors in camps and special occasions to mark surgeries at hospitals. Even the remote hospital at Chaitanyapur was visited by 10 of our members and spouses despite it being a very hot day. The Rotaract team led by President Deb Narayan Saha was always eager and available to coordinate the camps at Joypul.

India is a vast country of 1 billion people with 1% of the population blind, cataract being the major cause accounting for 85% of blindness. Eastern India accounts for 2 million victims of blindness. However, about 1.7 million sightless people can be cured by surgery. Our effort, therefore, is only a very small part but positive step to avoid blindness."

RC MEMPHIS, D.6800, and PUNE CENTRAL CLUB D.3130 Propose A Three Prong assault on Avoidable Blindness

We salute the Rotary Club of Memphis for another project in Avoidable Blindness. A recent e-mail from Janice Johnson indicates that the Memphis Club and District 6800 have raised \$20,000 and with \$1,000 from Pune Central they are seeking a MG totalling \$42,000 to do three different projects:

"(a) Corneal Transplant Project-Eyesight to the Blind. This is an ongoing MG project. There are over 2 million Indians who are mainly from the economically backward class who suffer from Corneal blindness. The only way to restore sight to such persons is by corneal transplant.

(b) IOL Project: To provide 850 surgeries to poor and needy blind. By restoring restoring their vision we bring immense joy and improvement in quality of life.

(c) Provision of Vitamin A tablets in slum areas where the people are not even aware of the problem and also provide 1150 pair of spectacles.

PHOTOS STILL NEEDED FOR ABTF BOOTH-SAN ANTONIO

URGENT REMINDER—If you have photos of ABTF projects—eye camps, surgeries, before and after photos of patients having cataract or corneal transplants, or Rotarians and signs of ABTF activities, please send them to your **ABTF Chairman: O. Doyle Dannenberg, O.D.**

340 Linwood Street, CA. USA 92027-3714

Photos sent earlier to Kathy Kessenich are being used for a display of Task Force Activities. We need photos for our ABTF Booth which is being chaired by our **North American Area Coordinator Dr. Robert Holcomb.**

S.E.E. INTERNATIONAL HAS WEB SITE OFFERING CLUBS EASY ACCESS TO PROJECTS

We received an interesting e-mail from Joe Gossett of S.E.E. International in Santa Barbara inviting us to view an easy way for Rotary Clubs to become involved at <http://www.eyetoeye.ws>.

The site presents the following information: **“Rotarians want to restore sight to the blind of the world...”**

The time is right!

Rotary International will multiply local fund-raising results with generous matching gift programs.

The need has never been greater!

Millions of people blinded by cataracts could have their sight restored immediately by a proven half-hour surgical procedure.

The technology is available now!

No long term research or technological breakthroughs are necessary. Sight can be restored now.

Volunteer surgeons are waiting!

Surgical Eye Expeditions (SEE) International is a 26-year-old nonprofit organization of more than 800 volunteer eye surgeons who provide free sight-restoring surgery to the underprivileged blind throughout the developing world. These volunteer ophthalmologists and the

Rotarians of your Rotary District can jointly restore sight [by completing three steps...](#)

Step One: Pick a Country. The clubs in your Rotary District can sponsor sight-restoring clinics throughout an entire country or region. The web site lists countries where SEE clinics are scheduled for 2001.

Step Two: Involve your club. The web site explains how a club can be involved and members will be inspired.

Step Three: Contact E. Russell Smith for more information.

E. Russell Smith

Telephone: (805) 964-4569

Fax: (805) 964-6547

e-mail: erussell@silcom.com

Thought for April—“Giving”

**I may be able to direct his faltering steps
whereby he may avoid the ruts of inexperience.**

**I can give a kind word which may bring cheer
to the soul.**

**I can give a cool drink which may quench his
thirst.**

**I can give a smile which may drive away the
clouds.**

I can pray that his pain may be eased.

**I can offer shelter which may change his
decision.**

**I can breakfast with him which may renew
the power of his body.**

**I can be courteous which may soften his
heart.**

**I can give a friendly hand which may bring
needed encouragement.**

**I can sympathize with understanding which
may give him peace and hope.**

**I can concede him his right of thought which
may give him strength.**

**I can honor his right to live which may
lighten his burden.**

**I can be considerate of his failures which may
bring him appreciation.**

I can bestow my blessing on his journey.

Yes—there is much I can give.

Everett Wentworth Hill. Pres. R.I. 1924-25

VISIT ABTF WEB SITE AT: <http://frankdevlyn.org/blindness>

The April Thought on the preceding page was another poem from Past President Everett Wentworth Hill's Book : 'HE WHO SEEKS GOLD'.

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REMINDER: CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THIS ABTF NEWSLETTER ARE INVITED.

To submit material or for information or questions, please visit our web site listed at the bottom of this page or contact:

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Phone (760) 745-5374
Fax: (760) 746-0204**

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Where to go to learn about eyes and vision?

**Go to:
<<http://webeye.ophth.uiowa.edu/dept/website/s/eyeres.htm>>**

[VISIT ABTF WEB SITE AT:http://frankdevlyn.org/blindness](http://frankdevlyn.org/blindness)