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Rotary International 2001-2002

Avoidable Blindness

"Next to life itself, God's most precious gift is sight - Protect it, Save it, Restore it."

Task Force

Summary of U.S. Vision Problems Symposium

RE: Prevent Blindness America (PBA) / Alcon Vision Problems in the U.S. Symposium 20-21 March 2002, Wash. DC
 PBA Medical Director Maurice F. Rabb, M.D., Professor of Ophthalmology at University of Illinois/Chicago, opened the symposium. A PBA booklet compiled primarily by the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University was distributed which gave detailed statistics on the extent of vision problems in the USA. Maps, charts and detailed stat-by-state tables of prevalence rates and numerical distribution for visual impairment, blindness, refractive error (myopia & hyperopia), AMD, cataract, diabetic retinopathy, and glaucoma were included.

I had the opportunity to meet with several of the participants, mostly doctors and optometrists. One ex-Rotarian introduced me to a most knowledgeable doctor from New York who may be of some value to us. Several were Lions or had worked closely with the Lions. Finally, I had a good, if brief, conversation with Congressman Pat Tiberi, who is a very strong advocate in the Congress for vision health. He also wants to know more of Rotary's commitment to vision programmes, and directed me to get back to him.

The bottom line is this: The primary problems in the USA are related to lack of patient knowledge of eye care conditions and treatment despite efforts by public and professional medical personnel to inform the public. Whilst great

strides have been made in treatment, often the timing that is most essential to the most efficacious treatment is lacking due to patient ignorance of their own condition. There remains a great need to communicate better to ensure that all who need eye care receive it. The issue of the uninsured was brought up though not addressed directly.

It was apparent from my discussion of these issues with participants that they all recognize the difference both in kind and degree between this country and most of the rest of the world. Basically, there are too few surgeons to meet world need at this time in either cataract or corneal transplantation. As well, diagnostic deficiencies may account for far fewer AMD, glaucoma and Diabetic Retinopathy cases proportionally outside the US, although shorter life spans and less dietary excess may also contribute to lower rates of these eye diseases outside the developed countries.

However, the contrasts between US and global eye care needs are diminished greatly if we but recognize that the very theme of this symposium focused on the need for better outreach to persons who suffer unknowingly from vision problems. In that the world is very much alike. Part of the major task of Rotary, as I see the emerging role of the Avoidable Blindness Initiative, is to help create the level of awareness necessary to provide better eye care.

In that Rotary is uniquely qualified (along with Lions) to utilize their infra-

U.S. Vision Problems Symposium (*Continued*)

structure in tens of thousands of communities toward this end worldwide, we certainly can become a major force in promoting better eye through greater awareness. But it is equally incumbent upon us to recognize that we must simultaneously help to provide the resources to

actually provide eye care when the needs are identified. This is a massive task, and it certainly goes far beyond what we have developed to date in permanent infrastructure establishment and support in the world.

ROBERT KETRON, PDG

Rotary Eye Clinic in Visakhapatnam, India

From March District 5010 Newsletter:

A clear vision of international understanding and good will is evident in the work of Rotarian and marine scientist Dr. Sathy A. Naidu. A 20-year member of the College Alaska Rotary Club, Sathy was born in India and educated at Andhra University with specialization in marine and nuclear geology before joining the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1969.

Although far removed from his birth country, Sathy furthers international understanding and good will by coordinating the College Rotary Club's Community Service eye clinic project at Visakhapatnam (Vizag), India. This long-established clinic at the Rotary Netra Eye Hospital provides visual screenings, eye-glasses, and surgeries for glaucoma and cataracts.

The College Rotary Club's World Community Service project promotes understanding and good will for thousands of individuals who can truly see more clearly because of this shared international vision.



Operation Zero Blindness

The Rotary Club of Jodhpur West received the RID 3050 District Award 2000-01, for the Highest Number of Eye Operations in that Rotary year. Following is a summary of some of the wonderful work they've been doing. For a more extensive article, please visit the ABTF website.

ROTARY CLUB OF JODHPUR WEST

Our club is a new club and was chartered on June 30, 2000. The President, Rtn. Dr. Sanjiv Desai, is an Ophthalmologist. It was observed in one of our early meetings that there is a trinity of eye care professionals from our club President to the DG of RID 3050 to the International President Frank Devlyn and so maximum eye care work should be accomplished in this Rotary year. The Chairman of the

Eye Care Committee was therefore asked to plunge full steam into the project. With the blessings of the GSR, Rtn. Mahaveer Kanstia, many eye camps were organized. What follows is a report on the achievements from a young club, which, in its first year of existence has undertaken a useful eye care project for the community of Rajasthan. We collaborated with the Tarabai Desai Eye Hospital & Research Centre, an NGO, in organizing the free eye camps. The hospital offered free services of its staff, surgical equipment and skills.

STATISTICS

The eye care efforts of RCJW began with the first eye camp organized at Har-solav on 15-9-00, where 25 cataract surgeries were performed free of cost. Worth mentioning is the Prevention of

Operation Zero Blindness (*Continued*)

Blindness fortnight organized by the club from 11 to 26 November 2000. Dubbed "Operation Zero Blindness" 15 separate eye camps in Jodhpur slums and in rural areas were organized on a daily basis and free surgery performed on 479 patients. All eye camps were organized under the leadership of President PHF Rtn. Dr. Sanjiv Desai. His involvement and total commitment to the project led to its success. Rtn. Desai was responsible for overall administration of the camp, performing free Outpatient treatment and surgery and follow up of the patients.

A total of 4130 patients were treated free of cost as outpatients in the 7 eye camps our club organized. A total of 1104 eye surgeries were performed free of cost in this Rotary year and out of them all except 3 were cataract surgeries. All 1101 cataract cases received a free lens implant too. Most uniquely, more than half of these cataract operations were performed by the phaco-emulsification technique of stitch-less surgery

OTHER EYE CARE ACTIVITIES IN 2000-01

(A) Intercity meet on Prevention of Blindness

The RC of Balotra organized this meeting on 30 December 2000. A delegation of RCJW members attended the meet. President Dr. Sanjiv Desai was also a guest speaker. He made a slide presentation on the Effect of Diabetes and other Systemic Diseases on the Eyes.

(B) Seychelles Eye Care Project

Seychelles is an archipelago consist-

ing of 151 islands in the Indian Ocean, located about 4500 kms away from India. There is only one Eye clinic in Seychelles and it is capable of doing eye surgery. At this large, well equipped government run eye clinic which is staffed with excellent personnel, we found out that cataract surgery was not being done for several months because there were no Intraocular lenses (IOL's) at the hospital. There was a large waiting list of 200 patients for surgery – a dangerous situation altogether - all for the want of IOL's. Our Club quickly approved a project to donate 100 quality intra-ocular lenses to the RC of Victoria who would then pass them on to the Eye Clinic. Often, the staff at the clinic had felt the need to refer to books, but there were virtually no books at the clinic. Therefore, our club also approved the donation a 12 volume Ophthalmology teaching set to them. This project will ensure that 50 % of the surgical backlog in Seychelles will be cleared soon. The good news is that the RC of Victoria is now keen to support the other 100 cases in the backlog. Seychelles will become cataract free in the very near future. We are proud we took the initiative and set the ball rolling.

CONCLUSION

With President Rtn. Desai at the helm of affairs, the RCJW is committed to eye care. This is but a small beginning. We plan to undertake many more projects like, Eye Bank, School Vision screening etc, so that a wide cross section of society benefits from our work.

'Dubbed "Operation Zero Blindness" 15 separate eye camps in Jodhpur slums and in rural areas were organized on a daily basis and free surgery performed on 479 patients.'

Young Man Benefits from Magnavision

This young man Salim, 15 years old, had - 12 dioptries in glasses but could still only see less than 10%. He lives in Stone Town in Zanzibar and attends Lumumba Secondary School. His school got one of the 8 Magnavisions we had brought, donated by our home hospital of Helsingborg, Sweden. The smile that appeared on his face when he realised he could read, had a magnitude of the largest solar eruption known!

BO AND HELENA HESSELMARK



From *Canadian News*, OEU/Rotary Highlights

World Sight Day High School Challenge



Left to Right:
Karim Munji, Salima Kassam, Ross Watson
Ruheeh Dahlla

Operation Eyesight Universal's World Sight Day High School Challenge campaign officially kicked-off on Saturday, September 15, at Rundle College, Calgary. This campaign involved the majority of high schools in the Calgary area to collect used eyeglasses and fundraise for OEU. Alqaim Giga, student leader, made the original proposal to proceed with this campaign and coordinated with several students from other schools to work with OEU staff on this endeavor. The friendly challenge ended on Thursday, October 11, World Sight Day. The campaign ended with a Celebration Dinner taking place at

H.M.C.S. Tecumseh, Calgary on Friday, Oct. 12. The students were recognized for their efforts and cash prizes were awarded to the winning schools. The special guest speaker for the dinner was blind mountaineer, Ross Watson, whose challenge to the teens was to reach for the impossible and make it happen. In total, over 3,400 pairs of used eyeglasses were collected during this campaign. Way to go Calgary & area High Schools!

Youth Initiative Makes a Difference! Deveney Gillies (center) and Taylor Eveleigh (right) of William Aberhart High School are shown at lower left with OEU Board member Michael Fisher. De-



veney and Taylor coordinated the collection of 926 pairs of used eyeglasses for the High School Challenge earning them first place in the comprehensive category. Deveney and Taylor went door to door collecting the eyeglasses in several Calgary neighbourhoods. You make us proud to partner with youth initiatives to

meet our program goals.

Rotarians Equip a New Eye Care Clinic

Thirty-one Rotary clubs from District 6330 (south-western Ontario and north-eastern Michigan) and the Rotary International Foundation have generously donated \$76,895 to fund equipment for a new eye care facility in Trivandrum, in Southern India. This clinic provides free eye care to people experiencing poverty in three local districts (an area with a population of 6.9 million). Dr. Philip and Dr. Sara Kurivilla, the ophthalmologists at the clinic, estimate that there are 30,000 curably blind people living in these districts and this number is growing by 3,000 people each year. With the new equipment provided by the district and foundation, the doctors will be able to help more people with the high quality eye care that they need. Thank-you Rotarians!

Hakim Optical, Rotary, and Operation Eyesight Partner to Collect Used Eyeglasses

Operation Eyesight Universal has partnered with Hakim Optical and Rotary District 7080 to collect used eyeglasses for distribution to people experiencing poverty. Eyeglass collection boxes are located in each of the 90 Hakim Optical stores where you can now drop off old eyeglasses. "It was a natural fit for Hakim Optical to partner with OEU to collect the eyeglasses that people aren't using any more." said Bijan MinBashian, General Manager, Hakim Optical. "As our customers change prescriptions or update frame styles, they now have the convenience of donating their used eyewear to a good cause."

"We hope that these eyeglasses will improve the quality of life of individuals in developing countries," says Barry Howie, Past Governor - Rotary District 7080. "We expect this project will lead to the collection of more than 100,000 pairs of glasses each year." Thank you to Rotary District 7080 and Hakim Optical for your commitment to eye care in developing countries.

Update on Western Samoa Project

An almost full load of equipment was donated by a Swedish Rotarian optician, friend of ours. Money was given by The Swedish Rotarians' Development Fund and from district 2400 DDF. The air freight for the equipment --two pallets, was given free by DHL and Air New Zealand from Stockholm to Apia, Samoa and on March 19 at 02.40 both the equipment and the two of us land in Samoa. We are staying as volunteers for 9 weeks and setting up the first optical lab in Apia. We are bringing around 2000 reading glasses and have also got 2000 used spectacles shipped directly from OEU. We will do a proper demographic survey all over the country to estimate the needs in the eye care sector. The project is in cooperation with RC of Apia, Samoa district 9920 and RC of Klippan Sweden, district 2400.

This is the 3rd time in 2 years we have had the honour of receiving Grants for Rotary Volunteers for an ABTF project. Zanzibar April-May 2000, Zanzibar September-October 2001 and now Samoa March-May 2002. We also did a WCS project to the Total Solar Eclipse in Zambia June 2001 with RC of Lusaka Central.

Update: We arrived in Samoa Tuesday morning 2 hours delayed. Started by attending a Rotary meeting. There were a lot of other visitors. In the afternoon we met the Min. of Health and the Secretary of State in the Prime Minister's office. We have also met the Hospital administrator and some other useful persons. There is a dispensing optician in Apia who worked for 15 years in USA. The project has had a flying start. The optical lab will have good space as soon as the room is cleaned out. (*continued pg. 9*)

Bo and Helena Hesselmark
www.hesselmark.just.nu



Trade Shows an Innovative Way to Promote Rotary

At the largest Trade Show for the Optical Industry in the USA, PRIP Frank Devlyn got a courtesy booth to promote the work of the Avoidable Blindness Task Force. This courtesy booth gave an opportunity to speak about Rotary projects in Avoidable Blindness to people in the optical and ophthalmologic field. Three large plastic banners gave a brief description of Avoidable Blindness projects such as three cataract operations in India for \$100 USD, requesting used eye glasses for developing countries, etc. Other information about the work of Rotary and the Rotary Foundation was given to interested persons.

PRIP Frank was glad that Rotarians in the New York City area such as PDG Gilda R. Chirafisi were able to help man the booth. It was surprising how many Rotarians came by to ask for information and how many non Rotarians found out about the work of Rotary; many professed of wanting to find out how to join. When volunteers were not manning the booth the message on the banners gave the story on the work of Rotary and that more information could be found by clicking on to the Rotary website. All

persons interested in Avoidable Blindness were told to contact their local Community Rotary Clubs to share with them ideas of Avoidable Blindness projects which could be carried out in their Community or in developing countries.

Frank Devlyn mentioned that he felt that the thousands of trade shows and Expos carried out worldwide are a great way to promote the work of Rotary among qualified prospective members. Courtesy booths can be requested from all kinds of Trade Shows and Expos. The organizers are more than willing to donate available booth space that has not been rented. Organizers of these events also like to demonstrate that they are helping to promote the work of Humanitarian Organizations such as Rotary.

Frank Devlyn commented to Susan Roth of Rotary International Public Relations Division that here is a new innovative way to proactively promote Rotary. Information about local Rotary Clubs where Rotarians can attend meetings is an added plus. Rotarians in similar activities attending these trade shows & expos can meet and come together and think of ways of promoting Rotary Projects.

'Frank Devlyn mentioned that he felt that the thousands of trade shows and Expos carried out worldwide are a great way to promote the work of Rotary among qualified prospective members.'

Corneal Eye Banking Program Objectives

Editor's Note: The March edition of the ABTF newsletter included an article about Corneal Transplantation and the Rotary Gift of Sight program. This month, we feature more detailed information about the program objectives. For additional information on this worthy project, including the stated program goals, an explanation of budgeted IFETB Program Implementation costs, and a 5-year budget spreadsheet, visit the Downloads section of the task force website.

Objectives at a Glance:

1. *Establish skilled, knowledgeable staff*
2. *Upgrade existing infrastructure*
3. *Incorporate an established training curriculum*
4. *Assist local leadership in the development of facilities*
5. *Establish low-cost Collection Centres at strategic locations*
6. *Maximize the corneal recovery results*
7. *Accurately evaluate the programme's success*

The implementation of the *ROTARY GIFT OF SIGHT EYE BANK TRAINING CENTRE* programme will accomplish the following objectives, resulting in the establishment of an effective, sustainable Indian eye banking infrastructure over the next seven years:

1.) Establish skilled, knowledgeable EBCRC training staff who will train new Eye Bank Medical Directors, Medical Supervisors, Eye Bank Managers, Transplant Coordinators, Eye Bank Technicians and Rotary Liaisons the technical skills required to operate productive, cost-effective eye banking programs.

- To accomplish this objective, upon receipt of grant funding, the IFETB, in conjunction with EBCRC leadership, will identify and hire one Eye Bank Manager, one additional Eye Bank Technician and one Transplant Coordinator to work with existing EBCRC staff in the comprehensive training to all eye bank trainees. (60% of time being spent advancing EBCRC work, 40% of time being spent advancing Rotary Gift of Sight Eye Bank Training Programme work).
- In year five of the Rotary Gift of Sight Training Centre program, one additional Eye Bank Technician and one additional Transplant Coordinator will be hired by the EBCRC to assist with the increasing number of trainees attending the Rotary Gift of Sight Eye Bank Training Centre.
- In addition, an Eye Bank Training Centre Administrator will also be

hired to coordinate the training programs of all Rotary Gift of Sight Training Center attendees. This individual will be a professional, not necessarily with eye banking experience, who will handle all organizational aspects of the training process, raise funds for the continuation of training centre operations following the grant period.

2.) Upgrade existing EBCRC infrastructure to establish technical and operational training facilities for the Rotary Gift of Sight Training Center.

- Specifically, a training center room will be built and furnished with required office and medical equipment including desks, chairs, computer equipment and audio/visual equipment.
- In addition, office space will be acquired within the EBCRC facility for the Eye Bank Training Center Administrator and Transplant Coordinator.

3.) Incorporate an established training curriculum developed by the IFETB, designed to teach all Eye Bank Medical Directors, Medical Supervisors, Transplant coordinators, Eye Bank Managers, Eye Bank Technicians, and Rotary Liaisons the professional and technical skills required to structure a comprehensive operational team in their local community eye bank.

- Training curriculum will be based on a practical and theoretical learning model, allowing each trainee to perform all duties of his or her specific job function numerous times over the course of the training session.
- All Eye Bank Trainees will be required to pass standardized, comprehensive exams administered by training personnel at the conclusion of the designated training course.

4.) Assist local ophthalmic leadership in the development of eye banking facilities to complement existing Indian eye banking locations, incorporating design and operational features to ensure strict adherence to EBAI and IFETB standards.

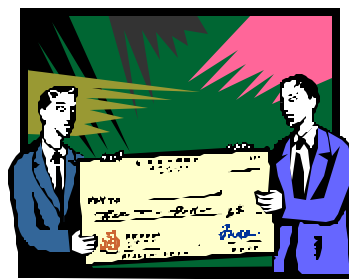
Corneal Eye Banking Objectives (*Continued*)

- Medical Director and Eye Bank Manager educational curriculum will include extensive training regarding existing standards for the construction of effective, cost-efficient eye bank laboratories/offices. In addition, the IFETB and the EBCRC will provide technical consultation for the planning and construction of new eye banking programs initiated by Rotary Gift of Sight Eye Bank Training Center trainees.
- 5.) Establish low-cost Collection Centres at strategic locations within each eye bank catchment service area, utilizing established protocols for recovery, storage and transportation of tissue to central eye bank facility.
- IFETB and EBCRC staff will serve as consultants in the establishment and implementation of local Collection Centres, following training at the Rotary Gift of Sight Eye Bank Training Programme.
 - Rotary Liaisons trainees will be provided with education regarding the Collection Centre model. Trainees will interact extensively with EBCRC's Collection Centre volunteer staff, and receive instruction on how to implement this model in his or her local community through the mobilization of community volunteers.
- 6.) Maximize the corneal recovery results of all individual eye banking programmes, with a goal that all programmes established by Training Centre attendees recover adequate tissue to meet local needs with surplus tissue for distribution to other locations by the end of the seven year grant period.
- As an integral part of the training programme, Medical Directors and Eye Bank Managers will develop annual target performance goals for tissue recovery within their local eye banking programs.
- Transplant Coordinators and Rotary Liaisons will learn how to effectively work together to increase public acceptance of eye donation, utilizing efforts of local charitable, religious, media, business and governmental organizations.
 - Educate all Rotary Gift of Sight Eye Bank Training Programme trainees about effective methods of working toward the enactment of Presumed Consent laws.
- 7.) Accurately evaluate the programme's success in achieving overall goals and each of the objectives listed above.
- Eye Banking trainees will provide a baseline evaluation of Eye Bank operations before training, including the number of corneas being collected, as well as Standard Operating Procedures in collection and processing.
 - Following the training session, trainees will provide quantitative feedback regarding the training received at the Rotary Gift of Sight Training Center.
 - Annually following the training, participating eye banking programs will be required to submit annual quantitative data, reporting important statistics including the number of transplantable corneas being collected.
 - Rotarians in each district with an eye bank staff participating in the program will independently evaluate the program based on quantitative measures such as the number of corneas being collected, the effectiveness of the eye bank's Collection Centres, as well as the eye bank's adherence to standard operating procedures.
- For more information, contact PDG Robert Ketron at 1.410.464.2788. Email: interact@bigplanet.com or go to his web site <http://www.computerdummy.com>*

One District Governor Makes a Big Difference

As Governor Tom Powell made his Governor's visits to the clubs in D6670, he invited Rotarians to "leave a dollar or two if you wish" to be used to purchase Vitamin A supplements and antibiotics to fight Vitamin A deficiency and Trachoma in India and Africa.

He reports Rotarians donated \$11,772.00. He has forwarded a check in that amount to the RF for Avoidable Blindness and has asked that a matching amount be transferred from his District Designated Funds to this same project and the total of \$23,544 be used to obtain a Matching Grant from the RF--in order to hopefully change the lives of more than 20,000 children.



A Job Well Done: Dr. Umesh Megur, our Area B Coordinator, was recently recognized for not only helping in his assignment as Area B Coordinator, but additionally he personally provided more than 2000 free cataract surgeries with IOL implants.

Multan Cantt Club Seeking Matching Grant

The Rotary Club of Multan Cantt in District 3270 was chartered on the 9th of May 2001. We have been able to complete almost 7 projects, all of them community project with a cost of rs. 600,000. within the first six months since the club was chartered.

We have taken up a new project donate an operating microscope for performing cataract operations and a slit lamp for eye check ups. These machines will be donated to a local charity hospital working in the community for poor people since 1985. The project has a net cost of US\$ 12,000. Our club has agreed to

contribute US\$ 2000. Our District Governor for this year has also promised US\$ 1000. from his DDF fund. We are seeking an International partner to help us complete the project.

All the preliminary work is almost done. We can furnish all details about the project through courier. Please help us to find a suitable partner to match our project for the matching grant.

Yours in Rotary,

MIAN SALMAN MUBARAK
President, Rotary Club of Multan Cantt
salmanmubarak@hotmail.com

Matching Grant Request, Revisited

The following request from Manjit S.Sawhney, 1993-94 Governor RID 3010, was published in the March newsletter. We revisit it again this month in order to gain assistance where possible.

"I plan to conduct 5000 cataract operations for the very needy and below poverty line people in various parts of our country. Each MG Application will be for 500 operations. The cost of each operation is about US\$ 16.70. The total funding for each MG is US\$8335. We are looking for a MG Partner to fund US\$3125 . Our contribution will be US\$ 1042.50 and the balance US\$4167.50 we will get from TRF. The other coordinating agency in all cases will be HelpAge India. I will be grateful if you will help in locating MG Partners for this very important project as in most cases the need for the cataract surgery is very urgent."

maneeta@satyam.net.in

Number of Cataract Surgeries Continues to Grow

I am pleased to report to the Rotary Foundation that a recent report from Nicole Ashley of Medical Ministry International indicates that in February they did another 87 cataract surgeries under the Matching Grant # 15586 for Districts 5340, San Diego, USA and 4060 , Dominican Republic. This brings the total to 738 in our quest to provide 1000 cataract surgeries. I want to recognize Medical Ministry International for the continuing reports and for following through on our goal of 1000 cataract surgeries--even after they did not receive the \$100,000 from the James P. Gill Foundation due to the fact that the Grant was not completed before the cut off date for funds from the Gill Foundation. Willie Hunter assured me that MMI would do the 1000 surger-

ies as they had promised.

I want to express my grateful appreciation to MMI Executive Director Willie Hunter and to Nicole Ashley for her regular monthly reports as we move toward our goal of 1,000 cataract surgeries. While we have many projects in India and other parts of our Rotary world, this is one of the largest number in our North America programs. Because "MANKIND IS OUR BUSINESS" it is rewarding to hear of the progress being made by MMI in this project and we Thank MMI for the work they are doing. Appreciatively,

O. DOYLE DANNENBERG, O.D.
Asst. Gen. Chairman
Avoidable Blindness Task Force
2001-2002

Another Successful Matching Grant Project

Photograph from the packing of 11,727 eye glasses for Matching Grant project nr 19656 "Eye glasses for needy people in Kandy, Sri Lanka".

Left to Right: Sven Linnman, Carola Linnman, Knut Bertelsen, Pär Skåntorp och Bengt Bengtsson



In gratitude for God's gift of life to us we should share that gift with others. The art of giving encompasses many areas. It is an outgoing, overflowing way of life. Basically we give what we are. "The thoughts you think," wrote Maeterlinck, "will irradiate you as though you are a transparent vase." The gifts of things are never as precious as the gifts of thought. Emerson said it well: "Rings and jewels are not gifts, but apologies for gifts. The only true gift is a portion of thyself."

We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the heart: love, kindness, joy, understanding, sympathy, tolerance, forgiveness.

We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the mind: ideas, dreams, purposes, ideals, principles, plans, inventions, projects, poetry.

We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the spirit: prayer, vision, beauty, aspiration, peace, faith.

We should give of ourselves with the radiant warmth of sunshine and the glow of the open fire.

We should give our community a good man.

We should give our home a devoted husband and father.

We should give our country a loyal citizen.

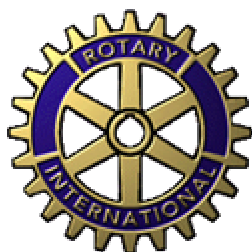
We should give our world a lift toward "that one far-off divine event toward which all creation moves."

The finest gift a man can give to his age and time is the gift of a constructive and creative life.

(Adapted from *The Art of Living* by Wilferd A. Perterson).

Rotarians give of their talent, time, energy, and resources to make this a better world for all mankind, "BECAUSE MANKIND IS OUR BUSINESS".

O. DOYLE DANNENBERG, O.D. Asst. Gen. Chairman Avoidable Blindness Task Force



www.rotarytaskforces.org/avoidable_blindness

Indian Rotarian Ramesh Sathe Volunteers to Serve Low Vision Needs

Rotarian Ramesh Sathe of District 3130 of the Rotary Club of PUNE MID EAST has developed a concept of basic low vision service and has manufactured a kit for assessment of Low Vision. He has the capacity to manufacture devices both optical and non optical to aid those with low vision. He indicates the incidence of Low Vision is highest in Africa and some other densely populated poor countries.

He states he is interested in helping people with visual impairment and that he has assisted between 300 and 400 people

this past year--improving their quality of life. He is interested in projects of creating awareness and counseling people with poor vision and is prepared to work for more than 8-10 weeks out of his country.

If any Avoidable Blindness Task Force project or one of our cooperating NGO's could use his talents in a vision project please contact him:

820 Bhavani Peth, Sathe Complex

e-mail: ramfeb@giaspn01.vsnl.net.in

Telephone: 91-20-6353876/6353570

Fax: 91-20-6344027

Update on Western Samoa Project (*Continued*)



3/27/02: We have been here a week but not much has happened. The freight has not arrived and it is difficult to get help searching for it or organising anything. The optical workshop to be is still a room full of junk with the ceiling halfway down (see photo). This morning repairs were started. A good Rotarian in the building business came to look if the place for the optical lab was go-

ing to be OK. It probably will.

We have rented a small car to get around to the different project villages. We sincerely hope the air freight comes soon so we can get around to do our real work. There was an interview with us in the local paper with a picture and since then a lot of people on the streets and in the villages greet us. It is nice to feel welcome.