

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

JAMES ROBINSON GIVES A YEAR END UPDATE ON RF ABTF FUNDS AVAILABLE

A report just received from James Robinson, Supervisor, New Programs and Initiatives Humanitarian Grants Programs Division of the RF shows a significant increase over the report of November 27th in our last newsletter.

Avoidable Blindness Pool Accounting

Sponsor Cash Pool Accounting

(Provides sponsor contributions for applications without an international sponsor)

As of 31 December 2000	
Total Deposits to Sponsor Cash Pool	\$606,892.00
Total Requests from Sponsor Cash Pool	\$ 57,982.00
Remaining Balance in Sponsor Cash Pool	\$548,910.00

DDF Matching Pool Accounting Totals

(Provides the Foundation’s match for Avoidable Blindness Applications)

As of 31 December 2000	
Total Deposits to DDF Pool	\$355,285.00
Total Requests from DDF Pool	\$ 92,382.00
Remaining Balance in DDF Pool	\$262,903.00
Total Intraocular Lens Surgeries	5,991

Avoidable Blindness World Fund Accounting Totals

As of 31 December 2000	
Total Requests from World Fund for Avoidable Blindness Projects	\$219,234.00
Total Intraocular Lens Surgeries	5443

Total Intraocular Lens Surgeries 11,434

DR. SANJIV DESAI, D. 3050, REPORTS 874 SURGERIES TO GOV. SHASHANK RATHOD

In an e-mail received January 14th, Dr. Sanjiv Desai reports to Governor Shashank Rathod, who is also an eye surgeon that he has completed 874 cataract surgeries in six eye camps. Thus his efforts have added six projects to the goal of 1,000 new projects in avoidable blindness that President Frank Devlyn established in the mission statement for our ABTF.

On behalf of our ABTF we congratulate Dr. Desai on his completing six projects and restored sight to many needy cataract blinded persons. We wish Dr. Desai and D. 3050 continued success as they have TAKEN ACTION!!

DR. ALBERT ALLEY, ZONE 32 COORDINATOR CONTINUES LEADERSHIP IN SURGERIES!

Rotary’s motto of “SERVICE ABOVE SELF” and Past President Cliff Dochterman’s theme of “Real Happiness is Helping Others” would indicate that **Dr. Albert Alley**, Zone 32 Coordinator for our ABTF is a most happy Rotarian, for he not only conducted our first ABTF project in Argentina, just prior to the Buenos Aires Convention, but he continues to give of both his expert professional skills and his leadership skills to plan and conduct surgical eye programs.

In a December 22nd report he reviews the year to date. His report includes Project # 1 in Argentina (112 operations – 20 strabismus-16 corneal transplants, and 76 cataracts). In November he reports on an eye surgical mission to Diriamba, Nicaragua, an undertaking **between D.7390** and the Rotary Club of Jinotepe, Nicaragua. 127 operations were performed (110 cataracts and 17 strabismus).

On January 13 to 20, a joint undertaking between **D.7390** and **D.7630** in the USA with **D.4600** in Brazil will be carried out. Cataract surgery will be performed on 100 to 125 indigent blind patients. **Dr. Bolivar Zinsley**, who is our Area Coordinator for Latin America, will be the local medical coordinator for this project.

(continued on next page)

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In March 2001 an eye surgical mission to **Nagua, Dominican Republic** will be carried out. This mission is a joint effort between **D.7390** and **D.7330** in the USA and the Rotary Clubs of **Nagua** and **Samana** in the **Dominican Republic**. The purpose of this mission is to perform approximately 50 operations on persons with cataracts and children with strabismus.

In addition he reports on several other projects being planned in his zone.

SUCCESS STORIES PHOTOS SOUGHT FOR INSTITUTE AND CONVENTION ! URGENT!!!

President Frank Devlyn is planning for a major display of "success stories" at the International Institute in Anaheim and the Convention in San Antonio. Task Force General Chairman Cliff Dochterman informs us that "we are looking for photographs of projects in action, with a short caption of information about the project, clubs or districts and city or area where it is happening."

Therefore we urge ABTF members to send one or two good pictures of action projects to:

**Ms. Kathy Kessenich, Program Division
Rotary International
1560 Sherman Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60201.**

Photos of Eye Camps, Patients before and after cataract surgery, Rotarians taking a blinded person to a surgery site, etc.

General Chairman Cliff says:"Let's help Frank tell these success stories with a beautiful display. Your assistance is needed **NOW!!** Please forward your materials as quickly as possible."

In Memoriam PDG RODGER ALLAN

We are all saddened at the passing on Dec. 18th of Zone 22 ABTF Coordinator Rodger Allan. Rodger who had recently resigned was an outstanding Rotarian and will be missed all across the Rotary world by all who knew him. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to his family and Rotary Club..

DISTRICT 7620 SUPPORTS EYE BANKS IN INDIA FOR CORNEAL TRANSPLANTS

D. 7620 Central Maryland/Washington D.C. USA, has an enviable record of establishing and supporting Eye Banks for corneal transplants.

PDG Rob Ketron shares their story. "Nine years ago I introduced a request by **PDG Unal Ural** of **D.2430, Ankara, Turkey**, to help his club establish an Eye Bank at a local government hospital. Eye Banks are created to collect, transport, evaluate, store and distribute corneas from whole eye tissue of the deceased to surgeons for transplantation. The cornea is the only part of the eye that can be restored with natural tissue, and no effective artificial substitute has been developed to date.

It is only in the past thirty years that even the United States has developed a successful system of eye banking to replace the 40,000 need for diseased or injured corneas.

D. 7620 raised the necessary \$25,000 and with the help of **Dr. John Sever, PDG**, they gained the technical assistance of the International Federation of Eye Banks, located in my home city of Baltimore."

The completion of that first project led to a second project to establish an Eye Bank at the famed **Aravind Eye Hospital in Madurai, Tamil Nadu State, India**. This institution has the largest cataract surgery in the world—more than 125,000 per year. This project was supported by **DG Mel Brickner (95-96)** along with **DG M.N. Nayagam, D. 3000**.

In 1990 **Rotarian Ketron** visited India to participate in dedicating a new eye bank in **Madurai**, which gave him the opportunity to meet key Rotary and ophthalmological leaders in several parts of India. His interest has led to the three additional projects to help existing Eye Banks in **Mumbai (Bombay), Hyderabad**, and in **Chittagong, Bangladesh**. There is much more to the exciting story—including the establishment of the **Gift of Sight Foundation** to develop additional funding. Rob's aim is to eliminate corneal blindness in South Asia and ultimately world wide.

JOHN WALLACE NAMED TO ZONE 22 COORDINATOR

President Frank Devlyn has named **John Wallace** from Simcoe, Ontario, Canada, **D.7090** to the position of Zone 22 Coordinator to replace the late **Rodger Allan..**

John, who was recommended by **Director Bill Gant** comes to the position with a long time friendship with our other Zone 22 Coordinator **Harold Cowie**. They have been friends since 1971.

John had visited an Operation Eyesight Universal project at the famous Kasturba Medical Hospital in India and has led a GSE Team to India. Thus he is aware of the great needs in India. He and **Harold Cowie** are happy to be working together for Rotary's ABTF.

We welcome **John** to our ABTF. His address information is: e-mail wallace@nornet.on.ca. Home address: **95 Davis Street W, Simcoe, Ontario, Canada N3Y 2RS. Phone and Fax (519) 426-7599.** He is a member of the **Norfolk Sunrise Rotary Club.**

CBMI NAMES 2001 "THE YEAR OF THE CHILD"!

CBMI has named 2001 "**The Year of the Child**" with the aim of responding to the cries of needy children throughout the Third World. They emphasize combatting River Blindness, Vitamin A Deficiency, and Trachoma. Even small contributions can help them reach these needy, neglected children to not only protect their sight, but to save lives as well.

CBMI Director Rotarian **Alan Harkey** who we cited in our August Newsletter for his idea of WHO's "Vision 2020—The Right to Sight" has forwarded a list of 60 projects that Rotarians can be involved in with CBMI. They include projects in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The list was too long to post to our web site, so for information contact Rotarian Harkey at CBMI at 450 East Park Avenue, Greenville, South Carolina 29601.

Visit CBMI'S web site at <www.cbmi-usa.org> for additional information.

NEW BOOK "LOW VISION SERVICE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE!"

Rotarian Ramesh N. Sathe of the **Rotary Club of Pune Mid-East, D. 3150, India** has made a significant contribution to Rotary's ABTF with the publication of an outstanding treatise entitled **LOW VISION SERVICE For Visually Impaired People.**

The cover contains the following statement... About 35 million persons are in need of low vision care. These figures are rapidly increasing as populations grow older. 80% legally blind persons can perform their daily activities if proper visual aid is made available."

While there are a number of technical books and works on Low Vision Aids available, this work by **Rotarian Sathe** is written in a style easily understood by the lay reader and meets a need to encourage Rotary Clubs and others interested in helping the visually impaired to be able to function using some of the currently available electronic magnifiers and other visual aids for the partially sighted—for example the increasing numbers of people suffering from macular degeneration associated with aging.

For more information contact Rotarian Ramesh N. Sathe at: "Nandanvan"18, Anand bag colony Navi Peth, Pune – 411030, India or email at: ramfeb@giaspn01.vsnl.net.in.

FIRST ARTIFICIAL RETINAS IMPLANTED IN EYES OF TWO BLIND PATIENTS AT UIC

President Frank Devlyn has shared with us a letter from **Rotarian Dr. Edward S. Peterka** of the **Rotary Club of Galesburg, Illinois**, that tells about landmark operations performed at the UIC (University of Illinois at Chicago). The surgeries involved implantation of silicon microchips about 1/10th of an inch in diameter and 1/1000th of an inch thick—less than the thickness of a human hair. The Artificial Silicon Retina (ASR) were implanted in the eyes of two blind (continued on next page)

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patients. It was part of a feasibility study approved by the FDA to determine if the implant is safe and can be tolerated in the human eye.

MG FOR 1000 CATARACT SURGERIES IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC APPROVED!

MG # 15586 has been approved in the amount of \$50,000 to enable Medical Ministry International to perform 1000 cataract surgeries in the Dominican Republic.

The project being conducted in **D.4060** has been funded by the following Rotary Clubs and Districts: **D.4060; D. 5340; Rotary Clubs of Escondido, San Diego, San Marcos, Poway, Fallbrook, Rancho Bernardo of D.5340; R.C of San Pedro D. 5280; R.C. of Aberdeen St. Fittrick D.1010, Scotland; and \$1,000 from OWSP (One World Sight Project).**

The \$50,000 from the above donors and the RF will be matched by \$50,000 from the **Dr. James P. Gill Foundation** to enable MMI to perform 1000 cataract surgeries. We express appreciation to all of the donors who have made this a truly international cooperative venture.

RIBI CLUBS SUPPORT MG FOR BUDGE BUDGE, INDIA, EYE HOSPITAL PROJECT

ABTF Vice Chairman **Neville Hackett** reports six **Rotary Clubs in RIBI** and the project club of **Budge Budge D. 3290**, have raised \$23,570 and applied for a MG of \$20,121 to purchase equipment for the Budge Budget Eye Hospital. **Brian Key**, ABTF Zone 18 Coordinator reported that in addition his own **D.1090** donated \$2,000 of it's DDF to the ABTF.

GOOD NEWS RE JASON YEOH

We are pleased to report that Jason Yeoh, who you may recall came from Malaysia to have eye treatment for ROP (retinopathy of prematurity), was reported to have his left eye retina fully attached. Thus the efforts of ABTF coordinator

Ed Osterman and **Gov. Paul Leavy, D.7930** and many Rotarians and friends in Malaysia have resulted in saving some vision for this young child. **Dr. Li-Chun Chen**, a friend who has kept us informed and is in the Endocrine Unit at Mass. General Hospital, expressed the appreciation of the Yeoh Family for all who have helped and demonstrated great love and compassion in action. He reports the Yeoh Family will return in May for a progress report and possible further treatment for his right eye.

THOUGHT FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY

LEADERSHIP

The leader is a great servant. The Master of Men expressed the ideal of leadership in a democracy when he said: "And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant."

The leader sees things through the eyes of his followers. He puts himself in their shoes and helps them make their dreams come true.

The leader does not say, "Get going!" Instead he says, "Let's go!" and leads the way. He does not walk behind with a whip; he is out in front with a banner.

The leader assumes that his followers are working with him, not for him.

He considers them partners in the work and sees to it that they share in the rewards. He glorifies the team spirit.

The leader duplicates himself in others. He is a man builder. He helps those under him to grow big because he realizes that the more big men an organization has the stronger it will be.

The leader does not hold people down, he lifts them up. He reaches out his hand to help his followers scale the peaks.

The leader has faith in people. He believes in them, trusts them and thus draws out the best in them. He has found that they rise to his high expectations.

The leader uses his heart as well as his head. After he has looked at the facts with his head

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he lets his heart take a look, too. He is not only a boss—he is also a friend.

The leader is a self starter. He creates plans and sets them in motion. He is both a man of thought and a man of action—both dreamer and doer.

The leader has a sense of humor. He is not a stuffed shirt. He can laugh at himself. He has a humble spirit.

The leader can be led. He is not interested in having his own way, but in finding the best way. He has an open mind.

The leader keeps his eyes on high goals. He strives to make the efforts of his followers and himself contribute to the enrichment of personality, the achievement of more abundant living for all and the improvement of civilization.

(Copied from The Art of Living by Wilferd A. Peterson).

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**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ABTF
NEWSLETTER INVITED**

All ABTF members are invited to submit articles or information for publication in our bi-monthly newsletter.

To submit material or for information or questions about any items, please contact:

O. Doyle Dannenberg, O.D., Chairman
Avoidable Blindness Task Force
340 Linwood Street
Escondido, California, U.S.A.
e-mail: <doyled@nctimes.net>

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