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The Forix Foundation Final Grant Report - January 2015

About HelpMeSee

HelpMeSee is a global campaign to solve the crisis of cataract blindness in two decades. Despite the fact that cataract surgery is an effective intervention, in many remote and poor areas of the developing world people remain blind from cataracts due to the lack of access to qualified cataract surgeons. HelpMeSee's unique strategy combines simulation-based proficiency training of highly skilled cataract surgical partners; high quality, patient-centered surgical service delivery; and community-based mobilization monitoring and patient follow-up systems to eliminate blindness caused by cataracts globally over the next 20 years. We are doing this by delivering low-cost, high quality Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgeries (MSICS) to adults and children in the developing world regardless of where they live or how underserved they may be.

Project Summary

Over 20 million people worldwide are blind due to cataracts (WHO) and 90% of the world's visually impaired live in developing countries (IAPB, WHO). The Forix Foundation's generous gift of \$6,000 was received in April 2014 and was earmarked for the purchase of 2,667 intraocular lenses to be used in life-changing cataract surgeries. The beneficiary was Shri Sadguru Seva Sangh Trust – a key partner hospital based in Chitrakoot, India in the state of Utter Pradesh. With these funds, the hospital was able to purchase IOLs and complete 2,667 safe and effective unilateral MSIC surgeries. In other words, 2,667 individuals have been given the gift of sight thanks to the generosity of The Forix Foundation and the hard work of the talented team in Chitrakoot.

Shri Sadguru Seva Sangh Trust was also the beneficiary of the Forix Foundation's 2012 gift of \$5,000, which covered full surgical expenses for 100 adults and 5 children. In addition to giving the gift of sight to a total of 2,772 deserving individuals over the course of two grants and two and a half years, Forix unknowingly participated in HelpMeSee's efforts to make Chitrakoot our first "cataract-free zone." We were able to make this claim in October 2014 after the completion of nearly 10,000 surgeries – the estimated backlog of cataract patients, including the 2,772 funded in total by Forix. We are now one step closer to our goal of saving or restoring the sight of millions of people throughout the developing world.

Documentation

Attached is the full report on the patients impacted by the \$6,000 gift from The Forix Foundation. This report is generated from the HelpMeSee Program Quality Assurance System and reflects surgeries that took place in September 2014.

Conclusion

HelpMeSee is successful because of the strength of our donor partnerships and founding leaders such as the Ueltschi Family and Ueltschi Family Foundations, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and our Board of Directors, as well as a network of local and international corporations, foundations, NGOs, governments and private individuals. Because HelpMeSee is a campaign model, we are uniquely positioned to build strategic partnerships. We continue to seek and establish new partnerships that will allow us to build and equip the training centers, purchase the simulators and courseware and sponsor trainees through the program. We also continue to seek support to underwrite as many surgeries possible in the coming year and beyond.

HelpMeSee has funded over 183,000 surgeries as of January 2015 thanks in part to your generosity. Your continued support will allow us to change lives. Together, we can rid the world of cataract blindness.