



Mercy Vision – South Africa

Reducing Blindness among the poor

Introduction

Blindness and vision impairment in South Africa, a country of forty six million, creates a detrimental impact on human and socioeconomic conditions. WHO (World Health Organisation) estimates nearly 80% of blindness is preventable or treatable with medical and surgical interventions. Cataracts are responsible for 48.7% of blindness. In addition, a growing number of children with treatable vision impairment do not have access to the necessary treatment.

The Need

An estimated 400,000 South Africans are already blind – with approximately 240,000 of these blind from cataracts (official estimations). The cataract surgery rate for South Africa is higher than most other African nations, but still far below the Vision 2020 goal of 2,500 per million of population. The number of cataract cases is increasing each year and there are those who unofficially estimate the number of blind people from cataracts to be approaching 500,000. In addition, it is often children who are asked to care for the blind person in the family, thus disempowering them as far as formal education is concerned.

Goal

To reduce the prevalence of blindness/low vision due to cataracts by building sustainable capacity of the local eye care system particularly in the Eastern Cape.

Objectives

- To train 2 cataract surgeons per year on board our Hospital Ship *AFRICA MERCY* (docked in Benin, West Africa at present)
- To provide a minimum surgical experience as Observing Surgeon in 20 cases, and Primary Surgeon in 100 cases.
- To train surgeons in techniques and technology that is replicable in most developing nations (sutureless extracapsular).
- To qualify surgical trainees to a surgical standard of care that is defined by inadvertent vitreous loss of less than 10% and post op visual acuities of 6/12 or better in 95% of cases.
- To raise adequate funds to allow the project to be sustained for 3 years.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of the training by tracking surgical activities of trainees for the 3 years following the training.
- Trained Surgeons will return to Sabona Eye Hospital in Queenstown, South Africa to perform cataract surgeries for a combined 12 months per year, at the minimum rate of 20 per day.

Results/Outcomes

- A total of 220 surgical days per year.
- 20 Cataract Operations per day per surgeon (against a current average of 5 per day per surgeon)
- 4,400 Blind people to regain their sight and be re-empowered. A 4 fold increase over the current average. **An additional 3300 blind people regaining sight per annum!**



Funding Need

The total budget for **MercyVision – South Africa** for 2010 is **R635,250**. Mercy Ships will contribute services and in-kind donations valued at **R204,750**. The funding balance for the program to be fully funded is **R430,500**.

Detailed Budget

Description	Need	Months	Cost/ Unit	Mercy Ships contribution	Donor Contribution	Total Cost
Operational						
Ship-Based Team						
Ophthalmic Specialist Trainer	1	3	R 50,000	R 150,000		R 150,000
Training co-ordinator	1	3	R 15,000	R 45,000		R 45,000
SA Ophthalmic Trainees	2	3	R 40,000		R 120,000	R 120,000
Land-Based Team						
Field Team Project Manager	1	12	R 17,000		R 204,000	R 204,000
Specialist to monitor progress	1	1	R 50,000		R 50,000	R 50,000
Subtotal Operational				R 195,000	R 374,000	R 569,000
Travel Costs						
Trainees to Ship	2		R 18,000		R 36,000	R 36,000
Subtotal Travel					R 36,000	R 36,000
Subtotal Project				R 195,000	R 410,000	R 605,000
General & Admin. @ 5%				R 9,750	R 20,500	R 30,250
Total Project Cost				R 204,750	R 430,500	R 635,250

Partner with us to make this a reality!

Our Details



Mercy Ships Southern Africa (Association incorporated under Section 21)

Registration No. 98/18381/08

NPO Reg. No: 006-142 NPO

PBO Number : 930 027 945 (including Section 18(a) of the Income Tax Act)

Account Details: Standard Bank, Blue Route,
Branch Code 025609,
Account No. 072051604

Address: 3 Kendal Mews, 134 Main Road, Diepriver, 7800
Cape Town, South Africa

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 290, Plumstead 7801

Telephone: +27 21 715 4944

Fax: +27 21 715 4945

E-mail: mssa@mercyships.org

Website: www.mercyships.org

Directors: B F Dudley (RSA), L. Dudley (RSA), J. Polkinhorn (Brit). R.J. Sangster

National Director : J.H. Rae (RSA)

