



## Helping Africa help itself

THE NEED FOR RESOURCE CENTRES TO SUPPORT EYE CARE PROGRAMS IN AFRICA

### **The Need:**

Sir Frances Bacon said, “Knowledge is power.” The most efficient and effective way to build local and sustainable eye care programs in the developing world is to train local people locally. A major part of this sustainable solution is the establishment of Resource Centres (libraries) equipped with trained personnel, web connections and collections designed to facilitate access to useful, relevant information for trainees, medical personnel and management staff.



### **The Vision:**

The vision is to establish a culture of sustainable learning and teaching experiences that build critical thinking, knowledge and literacy capacity on-site. This will ultimately lead to more opportunity for local professionals to keep them informed and engaged.

### **The Goal:**

Seva's long-term goal is to create a series of regional hubs called

Centers for Community Ophthalmology (CCO) that will reach out and assist at least 100 eye hospitals to perform one million additional eye surgeries each year by 2015. Resource centres and libraries are critical to this plan.

In Africa, the short-term goals are:

- to optimize networking connections to access online materials;
- to build a locally relevant collection which will serve as a resource for African ophthalmology clinicians; and
- to develop a training program for vision science resource centre development to facilitate both clinical and research capacity.

### **What is ORCEA?:**

The Ophthalmic Resource Center for Eastern Africa (ORCEA) was originally a single small reading room established in 2001 by the International Centre for Eye Health in conjunction with the directors of Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO). The collection is now composed of newsletters, journals, textbooks and

primary texts, as well as on-line access to a wide range of material. In October 2007 KCCO moved into new premises, which includes an expanded Resource Centre and a separate study space for students. The move has dramatically increased the space available for collection development, computer equipment and study carrels and allows the space to function as a Commons - a space for discussion and gathering.



*The new Ophthalmic Resource Center for Eastern Africa located at the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology in Moshi, Tanzania.*

The resource centre serves doctors, medical students, ophthalmic professionals, teachers and ophthalmic residents at KCCO and across Eastern Africa.

ORCEA is unique and can be characterized as a *Level 3 Collection* (an Instructional Support Collection that supports undergraduate and most graduate study). ORCEA is also connected to a network of Seva –affiliated Resource Centres across the developing world.

**How you can help:**

To meet the needs of Eastern Africa, ORCEA needs more staff, training, website development and software to expand the online resources and capability, as well as more texts and journals.

**Budget:**

Resource Centre staff	\$9,000
Library training	\$4,000
Workshops on developing international network of Resource Centres including accommodation, transportation and workshop costs	\$8,000
Website development and software to expand online resources and capability	\$5,000
Expanded collection of print materials inc. textbooks and journals	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$36,000</b>

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