

# A Solution in Sight

Seva Canada Society
Annual Report
July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004

#### **Mission Statement**

Through compassion in action, Seva Canada seeks to create a better world by volunteer and professional programs designed to alleviate human suffering – particularly through preventable blindness.

# **Our Current Focus**

Our current focus is to establish and expand Seva's sustainable eye care programs with partners in developing countries.

We strive to inform Canadians of our work and to inspire them to join us, thereby increasing our overall impact on global blindness.

## **Core Values**

We are guided by:

- Respect for cultural, ethnic, spiritual and other forms of diversity.
- Commitment to working with partners in a compassionate way to achieve appropriate goals.
- Belief that with adequate resources, all people can meet their own needs.

# A Message from the Chairperson

I have the opportunity to write this message on precisely the same day I have returned from 3 weeks in Tanzania, volunteering with my wife JoAn in providing management consulting to our partners, the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology and the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre. It is always very affirming and inspiring to witness first hand the quality of the work our partners carry out and the huge difference it makes in the lives of patients.

Seva Canada continues to make a very significant difference in the developing world through our partners in India, Nepal, Tibet and Tanzania. Our focus on "partnership" also extends to the international eye care organizations that are the founders of Vision 2020, the Right to Sight. Through a global collaboration, these organizations have committed to working together to prevent up to 100 million additional people from becoming blind by 2020. The challenge is enormous however, there is mounting evidence that through effective strategies such a goal is achievable.

Continued and growing support from our donors and volunteers in order to support our partners in putting successful strategies into practice is essential. Thank you for your support and please, continue to find it in your heart to help make the goals of Seva a reality.

Sincerely,

Michel Maurer

# A Message from the Sight Program Chair

For more than twenty years, Seva Canada has developed and maintained partnerships with eyecare programs in some of the poorest regions of India and Nepal. More recently, Seva has established partnerships with eye care programs in Tibetan regions of China and an interior region of Tanzania.

Seva follows several core principles in its work, emphasizing clinical and management training, income-generating self-sustainability, and meeting community needs. For example, as a result of the investment in training, the eyecare programs in India and Nepal have become self-sustaining in terms of trained personnel. These programs have also produced ophthalmology and hospital management personnel in their respective countries.

The 'income-generating self-sustainability' principle means that eye care programs are built around an economic model that leads to independence from foreign aid. Patients who can afford it pay for services, offsetting the costs for patients too poor to pay. In the older programs in India and Nepal, their income generation has led to new hospitals as well as to local manufacturing of eye glasses and surgical supplies.

In response to community needs, Seva Canada has helped all programs strengthen their services to reach women and children. Through the training of local individuals and an international network of community ophthalmologist and epidemiologists, Seva Canada has helped build capacity to monitor and evaluate population-based eyecare needs and to measure access to eyecare services.

Seva Canada actively supports the current WHO initiative, known as "Vision 2020: The Right to Sight", both directly and indirectly. Our direct support is through membership, involvement in committees, and program development. Our indirect support is through encouraging our international colleagues to follow our lead and to increase training of eyecare personnel, administrators and researchers.

As Chair of the Sight Program Committee, I welcome your questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ken Bassett

# Program Highlights from the Executive Director

### In Nepal your donations were used to:

- expand Lumbini's outreach program into the Chitwan region serving a population of over 30,000.
- establish a new surgical team at Baratnapur eye hospital.
- provide training for Tansen staff.
- design and implement gender-specific interventions in an attempt to correct the gender bias seen in eye care.
- support NNJS's childhood school screening program helping to detect children whose vision is at risk.
- support of Nepal's first Orthoptists Training program training Nepalis to treat children.
- further develop record keeping, data entry and outcome and evaluation assessment.
- provide high quality cataract surgery and follow up for adults and children at the Lumbini Eye Hospital and through the Lumbini outreach program.
- establish the Sherman School for Primary Care Management, Tansen.
- assist Lumbini's 11 surgeons to perform 28,724 surgeries in 2004.
- helped Lumbini's Vitamin A Deficiency program make 737 home visits. They found 15 children between ages 0-5, and 44 children between the ages of 6-12, with a blinding condition, xerophthalmia. Treatment was provided. A total of 2,355 children were checked.
- diagnose 83 children with vitamin A deficiency, 13 with tropia, 118 needing glasses, 2 with cataract, 23 with infection, 44 with corneal lesions (usually from injuries), and 27 other problems. All children were treated through Lumbini's School Eye Health Program.
- support Lumbini staff as they examined 16,799 patients through their rural screening program. 6,708 people were found with cataract. Refraction error was the next most common problem found with 3,693 people needing glasses.
- assist in the work of Lumbini staff who examined 196,338 people in their outpatient department. 44,614 of those examined were found to have cataract, 10,152 suffered corneal lesions, 2,092 had glaucoma and 35,090 people required glasses.
- support Dr. Basant Sharma, who completed a 6 month fellowship in oculoplastics in Vancouver and returned to Lumbini to set up a subspecialty department.
- support Dr. Samten Tenzing to begin an 18 month fellowship in pediatric eye diseases in Vancouver. When he returns in 2005 he will be one of two paediatric ophthalmologists in Nepal.

Vancouverites, Dr. John Pratt-Johnson, Dr. Karen Cardiff, Geraldine Tillson and Dr. Ken Bassett, gave countless hours of their time as expert volunteers to assist the Nepal program.

# In India your donations were used to:

- partially support Aravind's Centre for Children, Women, and Community Health linking poor communities with hospital services.
- process 1,090,117 patients through Aravind's out patient department.
- support the Kariapatti Pediatric eye care project which discovers and treats children at high risk for blindness.
- facilitate the women's network aspect of the Kariapatti project bridging the gap in service uptake by women.
- build capacity at Aravind especially in the area of research.
- support Aurolab with its foldable intraocular lens technology transfer which reduces complications following surgery.
- provide high quality cataract surgery and follow up for adults or children at the Aravind Eye Care System or through the Aravind outreach program. Screening camps examined 378,453 people and sent 88,145 for surgery at the hospital.
- assist Aravind's surgeons to perform almost 207,870 eye surgeries this year. Approximately 62 percent of those could not afford to pay for their surgeries.
- publish the results from the Kariapatti project, including an article in the British Journal of Ophthalmology, October 2003.

Nanaimo ophthalmologist, Dr. Martin Spencer and Vancouverite, Dr. Ken Bassett gave countless hours of their time as expert volunteers to assist the India program.

### In Tibet your donations were used to:

- provide high quality cataract surgery and follow up for adults or children at the Menzikhang Eye Department or through a Seva operated eye camp. (Almost all of the surgery is performed by Tibetan doctors and nurses).
- partially support staff and activities of the Seva Tibet office which coordinates all of Seva's work in Tibet.
- sponsor, in part, a three month's training for 9 people in clinical ophthalmology.
- sponsor a 3 week cataract surgical training at Menzikhang, including outcome assessment protocol.
- operate eye camps in Ngari, Nyitri Chamdo, Lhasa Municipality, Yushu, Gandze, Lhoka, Nakchu which reached the rural poor.

- sponsor a three month course in community outreach for Dr. Drudul, a new member of the Seva Tibet staff so that he may provide services to the rural poor.
- produce a 10 day course in refraction which lead to meeting the needs for glasses to correct low vision.
- build record keeping, data entry and outcome assessment capacity both at Menzikhang and at eye camps.
- perform 2338 cataract surgeries at 11 eye camps.
- introduce the yag laser.
- teach doctors how to surgically manage glaucoma.

Dr. Karen Cardiff, Dr. Isaac Sobol, Dr. David Fine, Dr. Ronald Greenberg, and Dr. Ken Bassett (all of Vancouver) gave generously of their time and expertise to support the Tibet program.

# In Tanzania, your donations were used to:

- provide high quality cataract surgery and follow up for adults or children at the KCMC Hospital which was up from 1,023 in 2002 to 1,604 in 2003.
- increase paediatric cataract surgeries to 99, up from 60 the year before.
- partially support the staff and activities of the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO) which will eventually impact eye care for all of eastern Africa as the program grows.
- coordinate eye care services within the Kilimanjaro region helping to manage limited resources.
- conduct research on childhood cataract in an effort to determine why parents fail to bring children for surgery in time to save them from serious life long blindness.
- build administrative capacity at KCCO and KCMC Hospital to enhance productivity and make better use of resources.
- build record keeping capacity at KCMC so that the quality of care and uptake of services can be monitored.

Vancouverites, Dr. Ken Bassett, JoAn Maurer and Michel Maurer gave generously of their time and expertise to support the Tanzania program.

Sincerely,

Maggie Westhaver Executive Director

#### Thank You for Your Generous Contributions

Listed here are the many kind individuals, businesses and organizations who gave their financial support to Seva during the past fiscal year, July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004.

Please let us know of any errors or omissions by calling 604-713-6622.

#### **Estate Gifts**

Mr. Lewis Sherman of Burlington Ontario now deceased. For information on how to make an estate gift, please call 1-877-460-6622.

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**Seva Canada Society**Statement of Income and Expenditures for the year ended June 30, 2004

Income	
Donations, Merchandise, and Events	318,905
Program Grants and Contracts (CIDA)	174,070
Project Grants and Contracts	23,857
Investment and Other Income	5,414
Donated medical services (*in kind)	500,000
Donated volunteer services (*in kind)	<u>29,250</u>
Toal Revenue	\$1,051,496
<b>Expenditures</b>	
International Programs	
India Eyecare Program (CIDA)	49,300
Nepal Eyecare Program (CIDA)	57,677
Tibet Eyecare Program (CIDA)	109,560
Tanzania and Other (non CIDA)	21,406
Program Travel	2,252
Donated medical services (*in kind)	500,000
Domestic Programs	
Public Education	23,074
Program Administration	64,798
Donated volunteer services (*in kind)	29,250
Development	118,586
General Administration	74,935
Total Expenditures	\$1,050,838
Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$658