A cornea from SightLife’s global partner eye bank in Hyderabad, India, restored Karthik’s sight...and superpowers. [story on inside back cover]

Our Vision is their vision

THE ANNUAL REPORT ON OUR PROGRESS ELIMINATING CORNEAL BLINDNESS FOR 10 MILLION PEOPLE.
Remembering the Donors

Every SightLife Annual Report begins with thanks to the corneal tissue donors and donor families who pass forward the gift of sight so others may see.

Vinay died at age 17 in a bicycle accident in Hyderabad, India. When told that their son could give sight to two other people, his parents agreed to donation without hesitation. They serve as testament to the humanity that leads donor families everywhere to help others in a way that honors the memory and generous spirit of a loved one. The comfort that so many find in reclaiming something positive from deep loss is another reason to spread eye banking throughout the world.

His mother says she hopes that, in addition to restored sight, the recipients of Vinay’s gift will experience some of the joy in life that made her son so vibrant. She asks that he never be forgotten.

Vinay’s parents personify the human generosity that leads donor families throughout the world to give sight.
I need to keep this simple and let Shria (photo at right) do the talking.

I was privileged to be at the hospital in India where Shria received the corneal transplant that saved her from blindness. I will always remember her mother Mayuri’s relief at finding someone who could not only make her blind daughter see, but would do it regardless of ability to pay. I can’t tell you how many times Mayuri thanked all of us at the hospital.

The growing number of men, women, and children saved from blindness in 2010 by new SightLife partner eye banks in developing countries is now our story. Or more accurately, the continuation of our story as history repeats itself.

SightLife was founded by Lions Club volunteers more than four decades ago to meet an urgent need. People in Washington State and Northern Idaho were waiting in needless blindness because there was no eye bank to provide corneal tissue for transplants. After 40 years of growth, nobody in our immediate service region — since expanded to Alaska, Montana, and Northern California — waits anymore. We met 100% of local need in 2010 with enough “surplus” tissue remaining to share with surgeons in 31 other countries.

But alone, SightLife is a tiny drop in the bottom of a vast bucket. Ten million men, women, and children in developing countries suffer in needless blindness today because there aren’t enough eye banks to provide tissue for transplant. Familiar story, familiar answer: urgent local need can be met only through local eye banks. As the world’s leading eye bank in volume of tissue provided for transplants, SightLife finds itself in a unique position to provide leadership in establishing sustainable, effective local eye banks in developing countries. This is the only way. And just like 40 years ago, supporters who see the importance of our charitable mission are leading the charge in making it happen.

Thank you! Starting with Jasima’s story (next page), this booklet serves as our report card for 2010. We strove to provide measurable information because seeing is believing. And I’m happy to say we ended the year with a lot more true believers than when we began. So thanks for reading. May these pages leave you as excited as we are for the year ahead.

Yours in sight,

Monty Montoya, President and CEO
Corneal tissue for the transplant comes from the Nepal Eye Bank, a SightLife global partner.

After a sleepless night, the whole family returns to the hospital to learn the results. Finally, Jasima’s bandage is peeled away.

Jasima’s Journey to Sight

Born blind in both eyes, Jasima waited 16 years for the corneal transplant surgery that would have happened soon after birth in the United States. In Nepal, blindness is considered punishment for sins committed in a past life, so those years were filled with taunts and accusations from the other children in her rural village. Often, Jasima would hide and cry, seeking out the comfort of her family.

With no school for the blind in her area, she is completely illiterate, as are her parents. As poor farmers, the family’s trip to Kathmandu comes at great personal expense. Her mother’s greatest hope is that the surgery will be successful enough for negotiations to begin for arranging a marriage. Without sight, Jasima is considered disabled and, therefore, not marriage material. Caring for a disabled daughter for the rest of their lives is a daunting prospect. The lives of all concerned are riding on a successful transplant.

1. Corneal tissue for the transplant comes from the Nepal Eye Bank, a SightLife global partner.

2. Surgeons at the Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology, also a SightLife global partner, perform the transplant.

3. After a sleepless night, the whole family returns to the hospital to learn the results. Finally, Jasima’s bandage is peeled away.

4. Everyone in the room holds their breath as the surgeon holds up her hand. “How many fingers? Yes, two. Wonderful!”

Jasima, middle, and her family travel nine hours by bus to Kathmandu and rent an 8’ by 8’ hut while they wait for a cornea to become available for transplant.
The Beautiful New Day
by photographer Toni Cervantes

A new day and a new life call for a new dress. After the doctor gave her the thumbs up, we went off to buy Jasima the dress of her choice. A beautiful, young, vibrant woman was emerging. She took off down the stairs at a scarily fast pace, as though she had been able to see all her life. Where did this effervescent brave young girl come from?

We went to a few stores. She wasn’t going to settle on the first thing she saw. “No, no, not this one. Let’s look at another place.” She settled on a bright red pantsuit with more bling than any hip-hop artist would dare wear. An elaborate design of sequins and shiny buttons was stitched over a gold façade. A flowing red scarf draped over both shoulders accented the outfit.

When she flew out of the dressing room to show off her new dress and look in the mirror, her excitement lit up the world.

Jasima is not out of the woods yet. She has to be vigilant about hygiene and avoiding infection. But today, there was a powerful feeling of hope for the future.

Thank you, SightLife supporters

Bring the mirror!

Sixteen years old and Jasima has never seen herself. She has no idea what she looks like. When she finally sees, she slowly turns her face from side to side, smiling, looking in disbelief, marveling as though she were looking at an alien being: lost in her new, far better world.

SightLife builds the Circle of Sight to spread the cure.

The Problem Now.

10 million people with curable corneal blindness remain blind.
Formerly blind patient can now see.

Eye bank notifies surgeon with blind patient that transplant tissue is available.

Surgeon receives tissue and performs transplant.

Eye bank donation counselor talks with family to respectfully discuss wishes regarding cornea donation.

If yes, eye bank technician recovers thin layer of corneal tissue from donor.

The Solution.

SightLife Partner Eye Banks ...

complete the circle of restored sight.

Damaged cornea removed Donor cornea inserted Donor cornea attached Transplanted cornea

Images © 1996 and licensed by Stephen F. Gordon
An estimated 1.1 million of India’s men, women, and children wait in total blindness (both eyes) for the corneal tissue that can restore their sight. Only eye banks can provide this tissue.

Another 6.1 million wait in partial blindness (one eye) for this same tissue. Yet current capacity of all eye banks in India is just 17,000 corneas per year for transplant. This shortage, plus a functional health care system and an existing network of corneal surgeons, is why SightLife chose India as the country of highest return for resources invested in restoring sight to millions of people.

“SightLife has created a momentum in India that holds great promise for those in need of corneal transplants to restore their sight. Because of the success already realized with SightLife, we now believe that corneal blindness can be eliminated in India and that the example here may be replicated in developing countries around the world.”

The happy face of progress

As conjunctivitis threatened to blind their son’s right eye, his parents made offerings to the gods at eight different Hindu temples. After a cornea transplant with tissue from SightLife partner Ramayamma International Eye Bank restored his sight, they revisited all eight temples and offered their gratitude.

Both plan to become eye donors, and urge other people to consider giving the gift of sight as well.

As for Palgun Sri, he has resumed doing the things he loves so much: watching cartoons, dancing, and whacking balls with a stick on the family’s rooftop terrace.

After 22-month-old Palgun Sri’s transplant, his parents revisited all eight temples they had prayed at to offer their gratitude.
How SightLife Helps India Partner Eye Banks Succeed

In 2010, SightLife formed partnerships with five existing eye banks in India. These partnerships are the first of many more to come. Here’s how we helped each of these eye banks to record-breaking performances in 2010:

- Made $753,000 in grants to individual eye banks,
- Hired a full-time SightLife Country Director for India,
- Installed full-time managers at each eye bank,
- Facilitated the hiring of 25 new eye donation counselors at these eye banks,
- Provided training for managers and eye donation counselors.

Drushti Daan:
2010 success opens eyes to potential

Don’t let the magnificent temples in the capital city of Bhubaneswar fool you. Drushti Daan eye bank serves one of the poorest states in India. Eighty-five percent of Orissa’s 37 million people live in rural areas. Rice fields and mines provide most of the jobs, with labor accidents piling on top of infection and poor nutrition to create a backlog of an estimated 74,000 blind people in need of corneal transplants.

This eye bank had limited resources when SightLife became a partner in 2009, so the first order of business was identifying where to concentrate recovery efforts. The hiring of a full-time manager and increased training for eye donation counselors helped, too. Recoveries soon began climbing each month.

By the end of 2010, this one small eye bank had more than doubled its capacity, enabling sight from blindness for 100 more people than the year before. And this is the very beginning! With growth continuing to accelerate, Drushti Daan recovered more corneas for transplant by May 2011 than for all of 2010. With a strong platform for progress now in place, Drushti Daan is reaching eagerly for its potential to enable restored sight for thousands of blind citizens of Orissa each year.

Nalini Sarma
Board Member, Drushti Daan Eye Bank

“When Drushti Daan started, we did not envision anything like this at all. It has been a wonderful experience, and I really feel excited about growing with SightLife.”

Drushti Daan has experienced 125% growth since becoming a SightLife global partner in 2010.
Native Son Returns Home to Help

Manoj Gulati chosen as India Country Director.

Late in 2009, Manoj Gulati cut short a fast track business career in the United States to make a difference in his native country. As SightLife’s India Director, Manoj serves as the vital link between our partner eye banks and the technological and monetary resources they need from SightLife to grow to meet the need for transplant tissue in India. Manoj also recruits new partner eye banks to meet this same need.

Manoj has an MBA from Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business, a post graduate diploma in business from the Institute of Management Technology, and a bachelor’s degree in Production Engineering from Bangalore University in India. Other essential background includes extensive community volunteer experience in the United States and India. Even as a teenager in Kolkata, India, Manoj organized an eye camp for 220 low-income and medically-deprived citizens. In more ways than one, he now finds himself back home where his heart belongs.

Nepal’s Soaring Vision

India’s neighbor gets SightLife partner eye bank of its own.

In October 2010, the Nepal Eye Bank became a SightLife global partner.

As India’s next door neighbor to the north, Nepal is a country of generous people with a spiritual landscape that supports cornea donation. This gives the Nepal Eye Bank amazing potential to replicate Ramayamma International Eye Bank’s success story in India. The five-year goal for this eye bank is to increase the number of blind served with tissue for transplants from 250 per year to 3,000 per year. Two world-renowned charitable sight organizations have joined SightLife on this project:

- The Himalayan Cataract Project has committed $500,000 over a five-year period. This U.S.-based charity will team with the Tilganga Eye Institute in providing training that expands the network of corneal surgeons in Nepal.
- The Tilganga Eye Institute operates the Nepal Eye Bank. It will hire a director with full-time responsibility for day-to-day operations at the eye bank.

At least eight able corneal surgeons stand ready to restore sight in this country where agrarian accidents and eye infections cause rampant corneal blindness for young and old. They now see a cure on the horizon.
Leadership through Partnerships

We serve as a global leader and partner to eliminate corneal blindness.

A few of our 2010 Partners

SightLife took its first public step in bringing leaders together to eliminate curable corneal blindness by hosting the Global Eye Bank & Corneal Transplant Congress in 2009. Nearly 70 of the best minds in eye banking and corneal transplant surgery from six continents and 24 nations gathered in Seattle to begin developing a global plan to cure unnecessary corneal blindness. Here’s why we feel responsibility to help lead:

- As one of the world’s leading eye banks, SightLife has the contacts to bring key players together in this effort.
- More than 40 years of continual learning in pursuit of our craft qualify us to provide the technical and operational training that start-up eye banks need to survive.

We welcome your support in getting corneal tissue into the hands of doctors and health administrators eager to end needless blindness in their own developing countries.
Ah, California. It’s a far different place than the developing countries where SightLife has focused its charitable efforts on restoring sight to the greatest number of blind people in need. Or is it?

When SightLife began serving Northern California Kaiser Permanente hospitals in 2009, California’s registered organ and tissue rate of 27% ranked in the bottom fifth for all states. Though no one in need of a transplant went wanting, surgeons and their staffs at Kaiser Permanente hospitals had struggled for years to fill a shortage in California by importing corneal tissue from other parts of the country. Those problems are now a thing of the past.

Two main developments in 2010 paved the way for better access to sight-restoring transplants in Northern California:

1. Kaiser Permanente hospital staff and SightLife referral coordinators teamed to increase the number of corneas recovered for transplant in the San Francisco Bay Area from 312 in 2009 to 584 in 2010.

2. The former Lions Eye Bank of San Joaquin Valley merged with SightLife in January of 2010. SightLife assumed responsibility for all operations in this new service area, which stretches from Fresno to Bakersfield, California. This doubled the number of hospitals that SightLife serves in California to 41.

Kudos to the hospital staffs at Kaiser Permanente Northern California and in the San Joaquin Valley for their work in teaming with SightLife to more than double cornea donor rates at their facilities last year. For both areas combined — San Francisco Bay area and San Joaquin Valley — recoveries for sight-restoring transplants jumped from 31 per month in 2009 to 69 per month in 2010. If this sounds familiar, refer back to the success stories in the India section of this report. From India to California, the year behind us brought inspiring proof that implementation of best eye banking practices yield the same results in every part of the world: more corneal tissue available for transplant to blind people who deserve to see.
They Chose to Help

Martin Sanchez wanted the world to know how the generous act of a stranger made it possible for him to see again.

Doug and Libby Lausch wanted to meet the man who received restored sight from their son. And they wanted the world to know that cornea donation helps families of the donor, too, by giving them something life affirming to focus on.

The three met after corneal recipient Martin and donor parents Libby and Doug contacted SightLife independently about their wish to know more about the people on the other end of a gift that held such meaning in their lives.

The meeting in Martin’s home town of San Francisco began with a heartfelt hug and ended in a friendship that will last forever.

A front page story in the San Francisco Chronicle and a long feature on the city’s highest-rated evening news program shared their story with the rest of the city.

Thank you Libby, Doug, and Martin for being such caring people. Your selflessness in going public to educate others about the importance of cornea donation will give joy and comfort to others for generations to come.

Doug Holsclaw Honored

Congratulations to SightLife Associate Medical Director and corneal surgeon Dr. Doug Holsclaw, who recently received a Sidney Garfield Exceptional Contribution Award.

This highest Kaiser Permanente Northern California award recognizes physicians who are instrumental in the implementation of new ideas that improve patient outcomes and enhance the health care experience for colleagues and the broader community.

Dr. Holsclaw was recognized for his work developing a partnership with SightLife that resulted in significantly improved access to higher quality tissue for corneal surgeries at Northern California’s Kaiser Permanente hospitals. Late cancellations of surgical cases due to poor tissue availability or quality is now a thing of the past. Moreover, corneal tissue recovery within Kaiser Permanente now exceeds their internal needs, making it possible to share widely beyond their hospital system.

“We can thank Dr. Holsclaw for his efforts in collaborating with SightLife. This relationship has improved the lives of our corneal surgeons and patients alike.”

– William Jerry Chang, MD
Chief, Ophthalmology, The Permanente Medical Group, Northern California
Paul Dubord, MD, FSCRC
Clinical Professor, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of British Columbia
Vice Chair, SightLife

“SightLife’s success in restoring sight belongs to the corneal donors and donor families who entrust us with their precious gift. Spreading eye banking to countries where the need is greatest is a great way to amplify their generous act of donation.”

On average, SightLife sends 12 corneas a day from its Seattle eye bank to restore sight to men, women, and children around the world. Our partner eye banks in the developing world enable restored sight for an additional eight blind people per day, on average. We expect that, by late 2011, our partners will surpass us in numbers of blind served. We further expect and diligently work toward the day when our SightLife global partner eye banks eclipse our own numbers by a hundred and then a thousand fold.

This is not pie in the sky. We only need look back to our own first year of operation, when we placed 30 corneas for transplant, to appreciate the exponential power of growth. Our partner eye banks in India and elsewhere are now on this same path, with more partners on the way. Hmm. Sometimes half of leadership is just keeping up.

### Domestic Growth Over the Last 5 Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of Blind Served</th>
<th>Increase over Previous Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2,630</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2,801</td>
<td>6.5% increase over previous year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>3,261</td>
<td>16.4% increase over previous year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>4,003</td>
<td>22.7% increase over previous year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>4,834</td>
<td>20.8% increase over previous year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# of Blind served

It didn’t happen without lessons learned. We’re sharing those lessons to establish successful eye banks around the world.
Cornea transplants put nurse back on track to fulfill career dream

Without the transplants, I do not think I would have completed my education and fulfilled my lifelong dream of becoming a registered nurse.

– Pelavi Mandalia, RN BSN

When I was first diagnosed with keratoconus I tried to wear contact lenses to treat the disease. Without them I was legally blind, but they made my eyes extremely sensitive to light. As things got progressively worse I began to experience headaches and piercing eye pain. It got to where I didn’t see how I could continue this way.

This is why the double corneal transplants that gave me back my sight are a miracle to me. They ended my pain and turned my despair into feelings of being both blessed and honored. The vision in my right eye is 20/20 without correction now, and my left eye is 20/20 with correction.

I know that these transplants allowed me to complete Seattle University and achieve my goal of becoming a hospice nurse. I work as a primary care team lead now, and am halfway through a master’s degree in nursing.

Because I was given so much, I feel the need to give something back. Transplants gave me an opportunity to see things more clearly not just literally, but spiritually as well. By sharing my story, I hope that I can inspire others to seek or provide help in facilitating sight-restoring — and life-changing — transplants.

Respectfully,

Pelavi Mandalia, RN BSN
January 30, 2010

Editor’s note: This is condensed from an unsolicited letter that Pelavi Mandalia wrote to SightLife asking what she could do to educate others about the importance of cornea donation and corneal transplants.
**Financial Review**

More than $1 million invested in partner eye banks.

Additional information available at www.sightlife.org/About (financial documents section)

**REVENUE GAINS/OTHER SUPPORT — $14.3 Million**

- **90%** EYE BANK OPERATIONS  
  $12.8 million

- **1%** LIONS PROGRAMS  
  $101,000

- **8%** CONTRIBUTIONS & OTHER REVENUE*  
  $1.2 million  
  *includes investment income and consulting revenue.

- **1%** AUDIENT **  
  $163,000  
  **AUDIENT is a national program that SightLife founded to help low-income citizens afford hearing aids. It is now administered by another organization under a partner agreement.**

**STATEMENT OF EXPENSES — $13.1 Million**

- **75%** EYE BANK OPERATIONS  
  $9.8 million

- **8%** GLOBAL EYE BANK DEVELOPMENT  
  $1.1 million

- **3%** LIONS PROGRAMS  
  $434,000

- **13%** GEN ADMIN & FUNDRAISING  
  $1.7 million

- **1%** AUDIENT  
  $119,000

Only 13% of SightLife’s spending goes for administration and fundraising. The rest is directly invested in our nonprofit programs.
Contributors List

We are grateful to the many individuals, Lions Clubs, corporations, and foundations who have partnered with SightLife to combat curable corneal blindness in the Northwest and around the world. It is this support that helps SightLife live out its mission. Whether it's building up the capacity of eye banks in developing countries to restore sight in their communities or providing Patient Care Grants to help restore sight in our own communities, your contributions help SightLife save and change lives every day.
Lions Pass the Hat

to raise funds for brand new Lions Health Screening Unit.

Operating under the SightLife umbrella, the Northwest Lions Foundation gives person-to-person help to individuals throughout Washington and Northern Idaho through charitable sight and hearing programs. Operation of the Lions Health Screening Unit is one of these programs. Schools across Washington and Northern Idaho count on this unit to screen more than 30,000 kids each year for vision and hearing problems.

- 2010 produced wonderful news relative to the Foundation’s Capital Campaign for the Lions Health Screening Unit (LHSU) trailer. We beat our goal by 60% and raised $95,000 from dozens of Lions Clubs and hundreds of individual Lions. Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) also approved our $60,000 matching grant. The total amount raised was more than enough to purchase a first-rate trailer.

The Bingham Bonus

- The great news got greater with an unexpected gift. Lion Red Bingham and his wife Beverly gave a common stock gift worth more than $145,000 to purchase a brand new Kenworth tractor to pull the new trailer.

Above: The new Lions Health Screening Unit in action at a school screening.

Left: Red and Beverly Bingham christen the new Kenworth tractor purchased through their generous gift.
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Every superhero has a nemesis, a mortal enemy sent to ruin the future they’re struggling to build. Even budding young superheroes in India.

The son of a hard-working but poor day laborer and an illiterate mother, Karthik’s love of school (and rambunctious heroics) were a source of joy to his family. But when a teacher realized he couldn’t see the blackboard, that joy began to die. Karthik was going blind.

But then some other heroes stepped in.

Thanks to generous gifts from people like you, Karthik overcame this fearsome foe. With corneal transplants in both eyes (and the subsequent return of his powers), he’s eager to excel at school again, where he plans to become even more super than he already is.
“This entire experience has benefited my community, my family, my friends, and my job. All have received as a result of my regaining sight.”

– Martin Sanchez
Cornea Recipient