

Gift A Sight Project 2017

(Providing free Cataract Eye Surgeries for poor people)

Under Vision 2020

(A global initiative from the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)).



Project
Report &
Planning
for
2017.

Organized by:

Friends for Cause Foundation & **Various NGOs in India**

www.friendsforcause.org

What is Gift a Sight Project:



These projects support free eyesight care and cataract eye surgery in India for:

- Marginalized people .
- Old people living in financially challenged situations.
- People living on streets.
- Or any others in need not able to support themselves.

A large number of people get cataracts when they become old. If they live in financial challenging situations, they cannot even afford a simple surgery and eventually become blind.

Our small initiatives are life changing for these people. We find them living on the streets, in slums or select people living in financially challenged situations and provide them with free surgery.

Once their eyesight is restored, their lives are forever changed. Many return to working, thus being able to support their families once more.



- **Three locations are being covered in India this year for Cataract Surgery.**
- **For the first time, we are also targeting domestic workers & helpers and supporting their cataract surgery.**
- **We are also targeting young children from slums, students living in low income areas under a separate pilot project: Please see **Gift A Vision to Children-Pilot Project****

2017.

The History of Gift A Sight:

These projects were started in 2011, initially funded by an old woman, a 75 years old US



Citizen, in memory of her younger Son, Lt. Col Nitin Bhatia.

Nitin was a pilot and died in a helicopter crash in India. Her elder son is now the one organizing these projects. Since then, friends and relatives in US & Canada have joined and formed a small group called **Friends for Cause Foundation (FFCF)** in Canada. Nitin's mother has donated all her savings, compensation funds, which she received after the death of her son, and her property in India for charity purposes.

FFCF is a registered non-profit charity in Canada. In the last 6 years, from 2011 to 2016, over 750 people have received free

cataract surgeries and another 1,500 people have been provided free eye sight glasses. All funds have been provided by family, friends and members of FFCF.

Gift A Sight 2017:

We continue the work started in 2011. Last year we started covering slums of Delhi.

This year, three locations are being covered.

1. People living in slums and rural areas of Aligarh.
2. Widows of Vrindavan and Govardhan.
3. Pushta slum areas of Delhi.

As mentioned, for the first time we will be covering low income students by testing their eyesight under **Gift A Vision to Children - Pilot Project 2017**. We will also cover domestic workers under this Pilot project in Aligarh.

Expected costs and budget:

The total Budget for Gift A Sight 2017, is around 30 lakh rupees (Approx CAD \$59,500 OR USD \$47,000)

The details of the budget are as planned :

1. People living in slums and rural areas of **Aligarh: 25.75 lacs.**

FCCF and Lt. Col Nitin Bhatia Trust will be providing initial fund of Rs. 7.5 lakh for Aligarh project and the rest of the amount has to come from

- Public
- NGOs partnership
- Various groups
- Individuals

Rs 7.50 lakh for the Aligarh project will be used to organise at-least 20 to 30 informative pre-registration camps and 2 to 3 major medical cataract surgery selection camps. This will also fund first 100 to 150 surgeries.

2. Widows of **Vrindavan and Govardhan: 2.5 lac.**

FCCF and Lt Col. Nitin Bhatia Trust contribute 100%.

3. And **Pushta slum areas of Delhi: 2.5 lacs.**

FCCF and Lt Col. Nitin Bhatia Trust contribute 100%.

The details of expected expenditure & budget are given in Appendix A.

What's different this year:

This years initiative in Aligarh is very different from last few years in several ways:



- For the first time, we are trying to create a broad public/media/local NGOs partnership.
- A large number of low income students are being targeted for eye checkups.
- Over 10,000 people will be contacted and registered for eye checkups to find those with cataracts.
- 500 to 1,000 people are being provided with free cataract eye surgery .
- For the first time all local NGOs and social clubs like Rotary, Lions and Jaycees are being requested to join and fund surgeries.
- All local Ophthalmologists are being requested to join this initiative and help by performing 10 - 20 surgeries for financially challenged people.
- Aligarh Muslim University's Department of Ophthalmology as well as J. N. Medical College are also being contacted for the first time.
- For the first time, we are trying to target all domestic workers. This is the biggest labor force in any city and always lives in financially challenged situations.

Did you know?

With the target to provide 500 to 1, 000 surgeries in three months, this initiative can potentially be one of the biggest Projects in India.

Nowhere in the country such has such an initiative been taken earlier.

This year, the Project is being planned with the joint initiative of a local newspaper - Dainik Jagran.



Once the newspaper takes up this cause , it is expected that many local NGOs like Rotary, Lions, Local Schools, Colleges and Aligarh Muslim University, local religious groups, and business communities will join the cause of removing blindness and supporting marginalized people. If our cause gets wide media publicity then local ophthalmologists and other voluntary organizations may also help.

Another local institute - IIMT, Aligarh - is also being requested to provide their support.



The institute will help in organizing School's lecture series and publicity material for schools. Besides this, IIMT students will also work with Udaan Society to identify all slums schools where this project is to be implemented.

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- **A broad public, media, NGOs and local authorities partnership is being created and they will be requested to join the initiative.**
 - **A detailed list of Groups, NGOs and Individuals expected to join the Project 2017 at Aligarh is given on page 13 & 14.**
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The End Goal for this year:

- A minimum of 500 , and maximum 1,000 surgery will be achieved
- A large number of financially challenged people will benefit and their lives will change forever.
- A large number of young students living in financially challenged situations will benefit.



Did you know?

About 90% of the world's visually impaired population lives in developing countries like India.



Extra steps:

- Local hospitals are capable of getting permission if needed from Government of India and local authorities.
- Bigger infrastructure support from local NGOs for pre-information camps and main medical camps.
- Local Gandhi Eye Hospital is expected to support free surgeries besides paid ones.
- Medical College to support 200 surgeries.
- 20 Ophthalmologist providing 20 surgeries each making a total of 400 surgeries.

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- Need to involve all school and colleges and contact process to be started ASAP.
- The selection process will be done with utmost care so that genuine, deserving people are benefitted.
- Wide publicity needed in all remote areas, to all local labour force, so that right target population benefits.

Did you know?

285 million people are estimated to be visually impaired worldwide, out of which 39 million are blind. Of these, 16 Million live in India.



To reach the target population, pre-registration camps like the one above, hosted in rural areas, are very important.

Procedure for selection:

There is always a two step selection process.

Step 1

- Pre-selection process and information camps where an I-card is given to a deserving person. (Financial situation is the only criteria for this.)
- Aadhar Card based data developed and photo taken. (" Aadhar' Card is personal ID number in India and is a reliable source of information.)
- The Pre-selection camps are only organized in slums, peripherals and rural areas, where the target population lives.
- Local volunteers also collect information on selected people so that only deserving people are selected. Final lists are made before main medical camps.

Gift A Sight Projects are executed under WHO " Vision 2020".

VISION 2020 is a global initiative of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB).

Step 2

- These people are then called to a medical camp.
- Here proper medical tests are done by the team of doctors. Blood pressure, diabetes and other medical parameters are checked. Once they pass the medical test then ophthalmologists decide the cataract condition and selection is made for the surgery.
- Selected people are referred to hospital or taken to hospital for surgery.

- The surgery process starts, usually surgery is done next day and patient is sent home on the third day.
- Patients are called for proper follow up after 7 days.
- Direct payments are done to the hospitals on the behalf of patients.

Note: Medical camps are organised by Hospital staff and under strict GOI guidance.

Did you know?

- For the first time we are trying to target domestic workers.
- We wish to create awareness in the mind of their employers to support them during surgeries.
- We are also targeting school going children living in slums areas and children from financially challenged households.

For this we are asking the help of young students of convent schools.

- This way they learn community service.
- They support our cause by giving information to household workers in their house or in their neighbourhood.

The man on the left in this photo, lives on the streets of India. We approached him to offer medical help.



Why India needs more projects like Gift of Sight:

difference.

- We follow rules and take guidance from Vision2020.
 - India needs a large number of groups dedicated to making a
- 153 million people in India require reading glasses but do not have access to them.

- A large number of people living in slums and rural area need cataract surgeries.
- We target the right population, who otherwise are not able to get the required medical help.
- We always take help from local groups in organising these camps.
- We fund 100 % of the projects.
- The selection process is very transparent and open.

What is Vision 2020?

VISION 2020 is a global initiative of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). The initiative seeks to eliminate the main causes of avoidable blindness in order to give all people in the world, particularly the millions of needlessly blind, the right to sight by the year 2020.



Friends For Cause Foundation was formed by people who have done charity work for years.

The founding members belong to various organizations, all having a common cause of doing some good.

Globally, uncorrected refractive errors are the main cause of visual impairment; cataracts remain the leading cause of blindness in developing countries like India.

To find more details or to donate to us:

- Read about Junaid and understand our commitment - Page 13
- Donate to us - Page 13
- 1. [NGOs List, Appendix A.](#)
- 2. [Budget:](#) Appendix B to F.
- 3. [List of Schools, \(to be selected for lectures and volunteers for the project\),](#) Appendix G.
- 4. [Clubs selected for the project,](#) Appendix H.
- 5. [Schools from slums](#) (selected for eye screening checking of student under the project, **Gift A Vision Pilot Project 2017-18**) Appendix I.
- 6. [List of Doctors and ophthalmologist,](#) Appendix J.
- Miscellaneous details. All these details are in separate Appendixes and shared on our website. [Friends For Cause](#)



Who is this Boy?

He is Junaid, 3 years old. You can see him here with his mother. This woman is a single mother with no regular source of income. They live in an extremely challenging financial situation. I met Junaid and his Mom last year during the final week of our Gift a Sight Project 2016. His treatment had been started, but this boy vanished soon after.

We searched for him till the last day. His case has been discussed with doctors in Delhi and they need to further look into his case. It could cost us upto Rs 20,000 for his treatment and medicines. This is when doctors offer free surgery. We will again look into this particular case and will update you in Nov. 2017. We promised this woman help for her son who lives in constant pain. It is for those like Junaid that we continue.

Donations:

Please follow the link to donate to us on our Crowd Funding Sites:

1. Gift a Sight 2017 for Cataract surgery of Street people (only through website) [Friends For Cause](#)
2. **Gift a Vision to Kids 2017-18**, A pilot project for School going Slums Kids, Vision Screening, distribution of EyeSight Glasses and further treatment. [Crowdfunding Site Link](#)

Did you Know?

It's easy to donate.

- **All NGOs, individuals or groups funding the cause or providing monetary support for cataract surgeries can also directly give funds to hospitals or Doctors through Draft or cheque or e-transfers. Please contact Yogi through e-mail yogeshyb@yahoo.com or leave message on his facebook Yogesh Bhatia.**