



Fiji

Eye Care

Location

Viti Levu, Fiji

Partner Church

Methodist Church in Fiji

The Situation

Blindness due to cataracts is the most frequent cause of blindness in developing countries due to injuries and inflammations as well as disease like diabetes. Many children also suffer from cataracts as a result of a severe infection such as measles, mumps or hepatitis in the early stages of pregnancy, and infants who suffer severe diarrhoea and dehydration.

In Fiji access to facilities and qualified doctors is very difficult and expensive as many Fijians live in isolated communities. Medical information is scarce and the cost of travelling to major centres is prohibitive. Many families with low income cannot afford to pay for cataract surgery and this significantly affects the education potential, work capacity and the quality of life.



The Project

Each year a team of Australians consisting of highly qualified eye surgeons, an anesthetist, theatre sisters and support people work at Lautoka hospital. The team carry out eye assessments, perform operations and counsel patients. Local staff are trained to use medical equipment and to carry out basic eye care. The project aims to be able to train staff to continue with complex surgery after the completion of the project in 2013.

Achievements

Since 2008, a team has successfully visited Fiji each year to carry out clinics and training of local staff.

In 2010 the 12 person strong medical team were able to operate on 120 patients during the ten day clinic. The teams was able to utilise two local operating theatres simultaneously. The Australian team were also able to train one local doctor and two local nurses in basic eye care. The local medical team were also able to carry out post operative clinics in 2010.

Specialist surgical equipment for eye treatment has been donated to Lautoka hospital to increase the capacity of the local team.





The Future

Yearly visits will continue until the end of the project cycle in 2013

At least one further local doctor and two nurses will be trained in complex eye surgery by 2013. This will enable the clinic to eventually be carried out by local health workers.



Get Involved

We invite you to get involved with the project by supporting the work financially, praying for the success of the project and receiving regular updates.

Contact UnitingWorld

Address: PO Box A2266
Sydney South NSW 1235
Phone: +61 2 8267 4267
Web: www.unitingworld.org.au



Yes, I'd like to help provide eye care for isolated villages in Fiji.

I would like to make a one off gift of:

\$40 \$80 \$200 \$500 Other \$ _____

Donor ID (if existing) _____

Mr / Ms / Mrs / Miss / Dr / Rev (Please circle)

Name _____

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Should the funds raised exceed the amount required to meet the needs of the Fiji Eye Care project UnitingWorld will use the excess funds to help people involved in similar projects.

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