



GLOBAL SIGHT SOLUTIONS

UK ROTARY'S AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS PROGRAMME

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8th November 2023

Dear Sirs,

To Whoever it may concern

Ref:- Dr K V Ravishankar and Dr Uma Ravishankar

I am delighted to be invited to comment on my Rotary enabled friendship with Dr K V Ravishankar and Dr Uma Ravishankar.

We first met at an RI Convention, in I believe 2013, and again at their hospital in Mysore where we saw first hand the excellent pediatric eye care they provided to poor children.

On that visit they kindly facilitated meetings with several leaders in the field of Ophthalmology in south India, contacts which have stood us in good stead over the years.

I will never forget visiting Dr. Ravishankar's clinic, The Usha Kiran Eye Hospital in Mysore. Dozens of children accompanied by their parents, dressed in their best attire, were waiting to greet us in the most unforgettable and joyous way.

Dr. Ravishankar explained to me that they were just some of the children who had been saved from blindness by several Rotary Global Grant projects.

In their clinic, Dr. Ravishankar and Dr Uma Ravishankar have dedicated a large part of their professional lives for over 25 years to the most marginalized communities, performing thousands of "Pro Bono" surgeries for tens of thousands of adults and especially thousands of children.

What stands out for me is that they do not turn away any needy child for want of resources, even when the complexity of the eye problem that needs to be tackled surgically is complex and the procedure involves hours of surgical time in OR, or it costs huge amount of money.

We have had the opportunity of working with them alongside several Indian and Portuguese Rotary clubs aided by two Rotary Foundation global grants in 2016 and 2019.

Additionally we have also had the opportunity to work with them on three occasions when Dr Ravishankar was leading missions to perform /teach eye surgery in both The Gambia and Ghana, in 2017, 2019 and 2023.

We would welcome and hope for Rotary International recognition for Dr. Ravishankar and Dr. Uma's fight against needless childhood blindness. Humanitarian action of the highest order.

Yours faithfully

**JOHN R MILES TRUSTEE
and Rotarian**