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30th August 2019

To Whomsoever it may concern

The Rotary Foundation which is the charity wing of Rotary International, a 114 years old International Non-Government Organisation, has been supporting humanitarian projects under six focus areas;

- Peace and conflict prevention/resolution
- Disease prevention and treatment
- Water and sanitation
- Maternal and child health
- Basic education and literacy
- Economic and community development

Avoidable Blindness (AB) is one of the thrust areas of the foundation since 2000-01 under 'Disease prevention and treatment'. I have been involved with AB projects in Rotary since 2000-01 in various capacities.

Having worked with several reputed eye hospitals of different sizes that are in the field of Community Ophthalmology, supporting them under Rotary Foundation's Global Grant Projects for strengthening the hospital's clinical / OT infrastructure by donating Ophthalmic equipments or providing subsidy for treatment, I was fortunate to work with **Dr. K.V.Ravishankar** and **Dr. Uma Ravishankar** of **Usha Kiran Eye hospital**, Mysore. Though I have known them for over 15 years, I have closely worked with them on **Children Eye Care Projects** during the last 8 years.

Mysore being a second tier city, many middle class families and poor families cannot really afford to pay for their health-care in general, eye-care in particular. This Ophthalmologist couple have been very kind and accept whatever the consultation / professional fees that patients are willing to pay, but treat the patients without compromising on the quality. This humanitarian nature of the couple has won them several accolades in the society.

Apart from their busy professional schedules, the couple find time to offer free professional service, mainly by performing surgeries, not only in India, but in several African countries and Bangladesh, atleast once in a year for the past couple of decades. I had the good fortune of accompanying Dr. Ravishankar on couple of occasions to Africa as Rotary volunteer and have personally witnessed his enthusiasm and commitment to support cause of children eye-care. Being Vitreous-Retina specialist, Dr. Ravishankar has been helping in restoring sights of several hundreds of children year after year immaterial of their country of origin or status.

I wish the couple great health and continued enthusiasm to serve the community!.