

## Village Sponsorship Program

The **Village Sponsorship Program** is an exciting initiative from International Centre for Eyecare Education. The Program is designed to help provide the ongoing funds desperately needed to provide a long term solution to providing eyecare to communities in need. To create real change requires investing in training local people, providing equipment, building eye clinics and providing glasses. As the old adage states "better to give a fishing rod and teach someone to fish than to just give a fish!"

The **Village Sponsorship Program** will provide support for our optometrists to work with villages and communities in countries across the globe but particularly in sub-Saharan Africa; South East Asia; the islands of the Western Pacific and to Aboriginal Australians. The program will help provide glasses and eyecare to people who normally wouldn't get this help. Most importantly, the program will fund the training of local people in appropriate eyecare and train them how to test eyes. In this way ICEE helps build a village or community to become truly self sustainable.

For as little as \$15 a month our supporters and friends are asked to consider becoming a Village Sponsor. In Australia, the contribution is fully tax deductible.

Give hope and give sight, become a monthly **Village Sponsor** today!

*Since its founding in 1998, ICEE has provided eyecare services in more than 40 countries.*



## Above The Clouds – Papua New Guinea

*"I recently spent 45 minutes in a helicopter at 10,000 feet. We flew above the clouds to avoid crashing into the mountainside. I captured fantastic photos of a nearby 13,000 foot mountain range, enjoyed conversation with the pilot and other passengers and soaked up this incredible atmosphere. So why was I in the helicopter? Going to work of course. I was spending a week as a volunteer optometrist with ICEE in the Southern Highlands province of Papua New Guinea.*

*This was amazing country. Incredibly rugged terrain, making some isolated villages extremely challenging to reach.*

*We visited villages that seemed totally unaffected by the last few centuries. An anthropologist would feel like a kid in a lolly shop but it was also an enlightening, stimulating and exciting week for an optometrist. In total, we screened 330 people, of whom 187 received eye examinations, and 125 received spectacles.*

*If you need variety from your normal four walls and would like to challenge yourself in many different ways consider volunteer work. My memory of the smiles of very grateful patients will last for years." – Andrew Watkins, Volunteer Optometrist*

The Papua New Guinea pilot program is an excellent example of collaboration to help provide much needed eyecare to isolated communities which presently have no access to these services. The pilot program is drawing together ICEE, the local community, government departments, and a private commercial company - Oilsearch who already help supply healthcare to the local communities.

Picture of the clouds over Papua New Guinea – Andrew Watkins

## Making A Donation

In Australia, all donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible

Tel: 1300 66 42 33 Email: [donations@icee.org](mailto:donations@icee.org) On Line: [www.icee.org](http://www.icee.org)

### Yes I wish to become a Village Sponsor

I would like my monthly donation to be (please tick)

- \$15 each month - Bronze  
 \$25 each month - Silver  
 \$50 each month - Gold  
 \$100 each month - Platinum  
 or my monthly contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OR  I would like to make a single donation of \$

### Method of Payment

- Please charge my credit card (see details below)  
 Please send me a direct debit form to donate from my bank account  
 Please find attached my cheque - payable to ICEE

### Credit Card Details

- Mastercard  Visa  Diners  Amex

Card No:

Expiry date: / Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Contact Details

Mr/Mrs/Ms First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print clearly)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact No:  Mob  Work  Home \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to PO Box 383, Box Hill VIC 3128  
 To print, envelope & post this newsletter costs ICEE less than AUD \$1  
 ICEE is proudly supported by the Institute for Eye Research



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WINTER EDITION



# ICEE



Papua New Guinea – Photo Courtesy of Andrew Watkins

# giving SIGHT

International Centre for Eyecare Education

Thank You For Your Support

[www.icee.org](http://www.icee.org)

ICEE Newsletter 2007 Edition 2

## Message From The Chair

I am delighted that our very own Kovin Naidoo has been named 'International Optometrist of the Year' by The World Council of Optometry, the peak body that represents the interests of an estimated 250,000 optometrists across the globe.

Kovin has devoted his life in the sole mission of helping improve the quality of life for those in need. He is an inspiration to me and my fellow staff at the International Centre for Eyecare Education. He is tireless in his efforts to bring about profound change – particularly within the African setting. This prestigious award truly reflects his courage and commitment to the cause of giving everyone the fundamental right to sight.

To create real change requires an ongoing and lengthy commitment. The key to success lies in training local people to provide their own eyecare to their village or community. ICEE is leading the way in training and providing people with the necessary equipment and resources to develop a long term solution to eyecare problems. As such, I am pleased to announce that we are introducing a new way for our supporters to assist ICEE in giving sight. Known as the 'Village Sponsorship Program', we invite all our supporters to consider becoming regular monthly givers at a set contribution per month. For less than a \$1 per day you will be creating a lasting legacy for change and helping build a difference for communities in desperate need of improved eyecare.

Professor Brien Holden OAM, Chair of ICEE



Professor Kovin Naidoo and Professor Brien Holden at the award ceremony

## Volunteer Raises Funds For Sri Lanka

Colette Kinsella, National Sales Manager of General Optical Australia, recently held a fundraising dinner for International Centre for Eyecare Education's Sri Lanka program.

Nearly 300 guests were dazzled at Sydney's Palais in Leichhardt with a variety of entertainment, live auction items and a very special tea bag prize draw! The event raised just over \$46,000.

After volunteering with ICEE's eyecare team last year, Ms Kinsella became very passionate

about the importance of these projects and how they assist in restoring sight for thousands of Sri Lankans. ICEE thanks Colette for all her dedication over the years and support of ICEE's work in the field.



*Since the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004, ICEE has tested the eyes of 33,000 Sri Lankans and issued 28,000 spectacles free of charge.*

## ICEE Wins Award

ICEE's Professor Kovin Naidoo was recently presented by The World Council of Optometry with the International Optometrist of the Year Award. This annual award recognised Professor Naidoo as an optometrist who has shown outstanding contribution to both the profession of optometry and community at large.

Professor Naidoo stated, "The award is a tribute to all my colleagues in ICEE who work alongside me to make eye care more accessible to the disadvantaged in our world."

Apart from being ICEE's Global Director of Programs, Professor Naidoo is the former Head of the Department of

Optometry at the University of Durban Westville, South Africa and plays an active role in the development of optometry and eyecare services in Africa and other developing countries. A Fullbright Scholar, he received his Bachelor of Science in 1988 and his Bachelor of Optometry in 1992 at the University of Durban-Westville; his Doctor of Optometry from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1995 and Masters in Public Health from Temple University in 1995.

Professor Naidoo's expertise and commitment to public health has led to numerous national and international roles including as co-chair of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, Africa.

## Flying In Sight – South Africa



The Red Cross AMS – Flying Doctor Service (FDS), which was launched as a partnership with the KwaZulu Natal Department of Health in June 1998, was developed as a response to the challenge of providing rural and remote communities with access to skilled medical practitioners and the appropriate standard of care "on their doorstep".

International Centre for Eyecare Education has supported the program since the outset by providing the eyecare component.

The days start early, and are long and hard. The program operates 5 days a week from Durban International Airport and uses a Pilatus PC12 aircraft. Typically, the ICEE Community Optometrist, and an assistant, travel to rural hospitals on a daily basis via the FDS. They form part of a team that consists of a maximum of nine people, including a FDS co-ordinator, who is usually a volunteer. The daily travel routine consists of a flight from Durban to a rural airstrip, the flight time

varies between 15 - 55 minutes and the airstrips range from a "flat piece of land" to tarred runways. Often the 'airfield' is occupied by cattle and schoolkids which necessitates the pilot executing a low fly past to scatter these intruders!

The team is met by the local hospital transport who then ferry them to the hospital which can be between 5 - 45 minutes away. The clinics are attended by patients who have been referred by the local hospital; these patients are initially screened by the optometrist for eye disease.

The ICEE team visits 16 institutions in a month, 13 of these clinics receive a monthly visit while 3 receive fortnightly visits. The program roster is based on a four week month with clinics visited on the same day in every month. The program is operational in 11 months of the year with the team taking a well earned break over Christmas.

Each clinic is attended by 35-40 patients on average, this aggregates to 500 patients

being consulted per month and 6,000 per year. Of these some 2,000 patients per year receive spectacles or approximately 1 in 3. In the eight years of operation the program has attended to in excess of 48,000 patients.

According to ICEE Service Delivery and Development Manager, Kesi Naidoo - "The whole necessity for this program in South Africa came about because the vast population was completely unserved by optometry. Most optometrists in South Africa work in private practices located in the major cities, leaving the regional and remote population without access. This service has been instrumental in creating an awareness of the need for optometrists within the public sector. As a direct result of ICEE's involvement in the program, 25 new posts for optometrists have now been created. Thirteen optometrists are presently employed by the Department of Health, and 49 optometrist managed eye clinics are in existence. Outreach has thus served as the stimulus for a sustainable permanent eye clinics."

## ICEE's Cycle For Sight Challenge

The International Centre for Eyecare Education has just conducted two extraordinary adventures through South East Asia. Known as the 'ICEE Cycle for Sight Challenges', the trips invited participants on a cycling adventure of a lifetime. ICEE's first challenges found participants riding through China and another group travelling in Vietnam.

The Challenge is a long term commitment; each participant makes a personal contribution of \$500 and then over a period of 6 to 9 months fundraises an additional \$5,000. Once the target is reached the participant then qualifies for a place on the challenge. Typically, each trip lasts around 10-13 days. The itineraries are well planned and thoroughly researched and take in truly spectacular scenery. The trips are designed to be challenging, but inclusive, so people of all ages can take part.

*"This was the most exciting and spectacular journey ever through Vietnam. The northwest is a captivating blend of beautiful landscapes and colourful tribes. This ride took us through stunning and isolated areas which have changed little over the centuries. Doing a trip such as this I would recommend for everyone to try once in their life. It is well worth it with no words fully be able to explain the feeling or satisfaction." - Olivia*

*"China is was an unforgettable journey. We rode past paddy fields, buffaloes and ancient villages, surrounded on all sides by sublime scenery. This trip delivered adventure and fun in equal measures and explored the fascinating country at handlebar level allowing for great interaction with the locals. This was probably one of the most rewarding experiences of my life" - Madeleine*

For more information contact Eliza Arrowsmith at ICEE at email [e.arrowsmith@icce.org](mailto:e.arrowsmith@icce.org)

Donate Today - [www.icce.org](http://www.icce.org)