We’re Better Together.

2020-2021 IMPACT REPORT
DEAR FRIENDS,

When the bandages are removed after a corneal transplant, or blindness is prevented with topical antibiotics, the response often brings tears of joy. This is because a second chance at sight renews hope as well as healing for patients and those they love, brightening the future for countless families.

In this report, we share how your support fuels these transformations, plus the global progress that comes from expanding livelihood opportunities for women and keeping children in school to pursue their dreams.

You make this possible. And because of you — from Seattle to Delhi, Addis Ababa to Beijing, Western Pennsylvania to rural Nepal — we’re one step closer to ensuring no one waits for the corneal care they need to thrive, even during a pandemic.

Your continued support is especially meaningful more than one year after the novel coronavirus first upended our lives, creating unprecedented cycles of suffering and loss in its wake.

Thank you again for your remarkable commitment during such challenging times.

We wish you strength, courage, and sustained health.

With gratitude,

Claire Bonilla
Chief Executive Officer
In March 2020, after corneal transplants were suspended countrywide to help hospitals flatten the curve, our U.S. eye bank faced an uncertain future. Thanks to COVID-19 relief funding provided by you and our local government, we forged ahead – rising to the challenge when surgeries resumed three months later.

By the end of the year, the SightLife eye bank team – many working remotely – advanced nearly 200,000 high-stakes calls in service to donation, engaged 8,500 donor families in frontline bereavement care, and recovered more than 11,300 corneas for sight-restoring surgery. These totals are particularly impressive because they were achieved as an increasing number of Americans tested positive for COVID-19 in their last month of life, rendering them ineligible to donate.

In addition, the SightLife eye bank team coordinated a record high number of musculoskeletal and cardiovascular recoveries for our tissue partners in Washington state, helping to meet the immediate and future transplant needs of 160,000 Americans.

SightLife’s international program also adapted by transforming our best-in-class clinical trainings into distance learning initiatives that reached 3,600 corneal surgeons and allied ophthalmic personnel from over 120 countries. Such efforts spurred similar learning design innovations in support of our global eye bank partners, strengthening efficiencies that helped them provide 12,400 corneas for transplant and light up lives across India, Nepal, Greater China, Malaysia, Bangladesh, and Ethiopia.

According to the World Health Organization, the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed an astounding 120 million people globally into poverty. To address this fallout, the data is clear – expand economic opportunities for women to reduce poverty, improve health, and rebuild communities worldwide.

Fortunately, SightLife was already doing just that by forging sustainable livelihoods for women on the frontlines of corneal blindness prevention in rural low-resource settings, where the need is often the greatest.

In 2020, SightLife trained more than 900 female community health workers (CHW’s) in rural India and Nepal to deliver just-in-time antibiotics that saved the sight of nearly 10,000 neighbors suffering from corneal abrasions.

When COVID-19 hit, SightLife partnered with Excelitas Technologies Corporation to develop remote, cell phone-based learning tools and monitoring procedures that helped these CHWs stay connected to their patients and maintain a 93% success rate in preventing corneal blindness.

Moving forward, SightLife is collaborating with Integrative Sciences to expand our program in 2021 by equipping each CHW with the knowledge, tools, and resources they need to detect and treat corneal abrasions in children in Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state of India. There, corneal blindness is the leading cause of pediatric blindness, perpetuating cycles of inequity, especially for women and girls.

While women and girls are just as vulnerable as men and boys to corneal injury and disease, they are more likely to care for a family or community member affected by corneal blindness, forcing them to leave paid work or school and lose out on future employment opportunities. Accordingly, SightLife’s work to prevent corneal blindness not only saves sight, it helps strengthen the economic independence and security of women and girls over time.

This work is generously supported by:
- Alcon Foundation
- Excelitas Technologies Corporation
- Himalayan Cataract Project
- King County Municipal Government
- PANI Foundation
- U.S. Small Business Administration
- Vijay and Marie Goradia Charitable Foundation

This work is generously supported by:
- Alcon Foundation
- Excelitas Technologies Corporation
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- Dr. Audrey Talley Rostov and David Rostov
- Tom and Dee Dee Mitro
Our progress on the journey to eliminate corneal blindness is funded by a generous community of corporate partners, charitable foundations, government bodies, and individual contributors. Two exemplary members of this community are Dr. Audrey Talley Rostov and David Rostov, who have donated more than $250,000 USD to SightLife in support of our mission.

As the Director of Cornea, Cataract, and Refractive Surgery at Northwest Eye Surgeons in Seattle, WA, Dr. Rostov brings a wealth of technical knowledge and expertise to SightLife as a member of our Board of Directors, which she joined in 2019. Her service on the board follows a five-year tenure as our volunteer Global Medical Director. In that role, she oversaw quality standards and curricula development for clinical training programs. She is also a longtime volunteer faculty member, who has trained over 120 surgeons globally in PKP, DSEK, DMEK surgical techniques as well as clinical cornea care and infection management. David Rostov shares his wife’s passion for improving corneal health outcomes through his work at CorneaGen, a for-profit processing, distribution, and innovation partner of SightLife that is similarly dedicated to eliminating corneal blindness.

**CORPORATE & FOUNDATIONS**
- Aerie Pharmaceuticals
- Alcon Foundation
- Excelitas Technologies Corporation
- HT Parekh Foundation
- John Moffitt Charitable Foundation
- LENSAR
- Ocular Therapeutix
- Overseas Polymers Pvt. Ltd.
- PANI Foundation
- Vijay and Maria Goradia Charitable Foundation
- Carl Zeiss Meditec, Inc.

**GOVERNMENT**
- King County Municipal Government
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- U.S. Small Business Administration

**PANDEMIC-RELIEF BRIDGE LOANS**
- Open Road Alliance
- Vijay and Marie Goradia Charitable Foundation

**WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM**
- Corneal Transplant Recipients
- Cornea and Musculoskeletal Tissue Donor Families
- Surgeons Helping Surgeons Program
- SightLife Corporate and Surgeon Partners Program
- SightLife Board of Directors
- SightLife Staff

**INDIVIDUALS ($5,000+ in unrestricted giving)**
- Anonymous
- Ann Burstiner
- Sanjay Chheda
- Marjan Farid, MD and Kamyar Tebyani
- Jeff Flinn and Kimberly Phillips
- Rick and Joan Fox
- Josephine Herbert Gleis Foundation
- Richard Hickman
- Robert LeRoy and in loving memory of Synnove Fielding
- Dr. Richard and Jaci Lindstrom
- Jeff McLaughlin
- Mitro Family Charitable Fund
- The Estate of Donald Moore
- Monty and Tiffany Montoya
- The Estate of Richard Poeth
- Pratt Family Trust
- David and Molly Pyott
- Jane Rady and Edward Gricius
- Dr. Audrey and David Rostov
- The Schoellerman Foundation
- Coke and Jacquie Shukla
- S. Lynn Vaughn
- Pamela Wilkerson

The SightLife Corneal Blindness Prevention Program in Uttar Pradesh, India, as described on page 3 of this Impact Report, is made possible with the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The program and contents are the responsibility of SightLife and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.