

A great return on investment

Making your donations work harder to help make blindness history

Stephen Sypula explains how matching grants from The Rotary Foundation can generate a 1200 percent return

Matching grants encouraged the R/C of Stevenage Grange, supported by the D1260 Foundation Grants Committee, to plan eye-care projects potentially worth over \$70,000. These will screen some 15,000 people, fund 1,500 cataract operations in developing countries and provide some 600 lens-free ophthalmoscopes to support preventative health-care programmes. The ophthalmoscopes will be targeted at trained mid-level eye and healthcare staff, working in outlying locations as well as ophthalmologists in hospitals.

The worked example (see box, bottom right) shows how earlier contributions to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) can make a huge difference for developing countries. The Rotarians' Ophthalmic Initiative is used as an example but the principles are the same for any eligible purpose.

A few basic points

A successful "mini-maxi" (\$5,000 to \$25,000) TRF application must meet certain criteria: Firstly, you partner, or find, a host Club or District that needs eligible help in its area. Secondly, the host Club or District must contribute a minimum of \$100 and, finally, the project that is put together must have a minimum value of \$10,000.



You may qualify from an appropriate Donor Advised Fund (DAF) cash supplement. Cash funding is match-funded by TRF at 50 percent. All District credits, known as District Designated Fund (DDF) contributions are matched at 100 percent.

Need help with your application?

Whether you wish to manage the process, or need help, we and others are happy to guide, match your needs to a qualifying location and provide a part completed application with primary 'host' contact details. The members of the Rotary Club of Stevenage Grange can also facilitate distribution of ophthalmoscopes,

in conjunction with Sightsavers, or other global eye-care charities.

Find out more

See and use the Optyse™ at the House of Friendship at both the RIBI and D1260 conferences. On the Friday of the Bournemouth Conference, why not visit us for drinks and nibbles at the Sightsavers' Reception at the Marriott Highcliffe Hotel (5.15PM), which will be hosted by Sir John Cole, Chairman of Sightsavers International?

Further information on this project with global reach, please contact Rotarian Stephen Sypula at stephen@sgrc.org.uk or visit www.roisight.org.

Worked example

- You receive a legacy of £640⁽¹⁾ to support an avoidable blindness programme
- Your Club agrees to match this⁽²⁾ on the basis that your District agrees a District Designated Fund (DDF) contribution of the combined amounts to support an eligible project. At this stage, you have cash of £1,280, and a DDF conditional approval of £1,280⁽³⁾ giving a value of £2,560.
- You ask the R/C of Stevenage Grange to find a suitable host Club or District to evidence need and possibly help distribute ophthalmoscopes to qualifying organisations in their location(s). You also seek an Avoidable Blindness Donor Advised Fund (cash) contribution of up to \$2,000 (say £1,020)⁽⁴⁾
- The host country produces club cash donations of £500⁽⁵⁾ and their District Foundation Funding Chair approves an equivalent DDF⁽⁶⁾
- You now have cash and pledges of £2,800⁽⁷⁾ 1+2+4+5 and combined DDF's of £1,780⁽⁸⁾ 3+6
- If approved, this will yield a TRF grant of up to £3,180⁽⁹⁾

In total, you now have a dedicated investment fund of £7,760⁽¹⁰⁾ i.e. 7+8+9 to support the original donor's avoidable blindness ambitions. This will purchase 280 ophthalmoscopes with a UK retail value of £12,590, or a mix of units and cataract operations costing as little as \$20 each.

Now that is a good return on investment.