

## IMPROVING THE WORLD'S VISION

### Operation Sight Information

#### Goal

To develop a nationwide network of volunteer surgeons and organizations which can provide surgical cataract care to needy American patients unable to access or afford it on their own.

#### Program

Through Operation Sight, the ASCRS Foundation is building a coalition of surgeons, ASCs, and organizations committed to caring for those who could not otherwise afford life-changing cataract surgery. The Operation Sight initiative provides administrative support to pre-qualify patients and a financial stipend to its volunteer surgeons and partnering organizations.

#### How Does it Work?

- ◆ Operation Sight helps to determine patient eligibility and provides a matching service with volunteer surgeons/organizations working in the patient's community.
- ◆ Once fully vetted, an eligible patient can be worked into a practice's regular surgical schedule, or can be treated during a larger charity surgery day initiative.
- ◆ Following surgery, volunteer practices/organization submit a patient intake form to the ASCRS Foundation and receive financial support stipend for each surgery completed to partially offset the cost of care.

#### Patient Qualification

- ◆ Patients must be uninsured and document an annual household income of less than 200% of the Federal poverty level. The Operation Sight program will work with volunteers/organizations using other eligibility guidelines on a case-by-case basis.

#### **Fast Facts**

- ◆ Since 2012, Operation Sight has provided over 1,200 free cataract surgeries in the US.
- ◆ Our current volunteer surgeon network consists of over 280 surgeons working in 35 states.
- ◆ Operation Sight delivered over 200 charitable surgeries during its 2016 National Sight week initiative.

#### National Sight Week

While the Operation Sight program runs year-round, the ASCRS Foundation hosts a National Sight Week initiative each October to raise awareness and encourage surgeons to join the growing volunteer network. Practices and partnering organizations across the U.S. provided over 200 free surgeries to needy patients across during National Sight Week 2016.

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### National Sight Week

Maria Scott, MD, and Heather Nesti, MD, Chesapeake Eye Care and Laser Center, Annapolis, Maryland, were among the participants in the 2016 National Sight Week. They saw the need firsthand in their community, and through their practice and Operation Sight provided 14 charitable surgeries to patients in their community. In recognition of their work, Drs. Scott and Nesti were awarded an Official Citation from Maryland State Senator Edward Reilly for their charitable surgeries.

Amar Atwal, MD, Ephraim Atwal, MD, and Kenneth Anthone, MD, Cheektowaga, New York, also participated in the 2016 National Sight Week, addressing the substantial need in Buffalo, New York. Atwal Eye Care Center delivered 31 procedures for 26 patients with the help of ophthalmology residents from the University at Buffalo's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

When interviewed by The Buffalo News, Dr. Anthone had this to say about the Operation Sight experience: "Of all the senses, losing your eyesight is probably the worst. The patients who get the surgery are so appreciative, and it's fun for us and makes us feel good."



### Partnering Organizations

The Operation Sight network includes established charitable organizations and ASCRS member volunteer surgeons. Whether treating many patients or just one, the members of the Operation Sight network have a direct, positive impact on the lives of those in their community.

#### **Our growing network includes:**

- ◆ AMSURG (Nationwide)
- ◆ Eyes on America (NY)
- ◆ Houston Eye Associates Foundation (TX)
- ◆ I Care San Antonio (TX)
- ◆ Kansas University Eye Center (KS)
- ◆ Minnesota Eye Foundation (MN)
- ◆ Moran Eye Center (UT)
- ◆ OneWorld Community Health Center (NE)
- ◆ Operation Access (CA)
- ◆ Operation Sight (SC)
- ◆ Samaritan's Touch (FL)
- ◆ Surgeons for Sight (NC)
- ◆ Surgical Care Affiliates
- ◆ University Hospitals (OH)
- ◆ Vision Care USA (NY)
- ◆ Vision Harvest (NJ)
- ◆ We Care (FL)

Please contact Evelyn Morales at 703-591-2220 or by email at [emorales@ascrs.org](mailto:emorales@ascrs.org) to explore becoming a partner organization.