**Take a pledge to donate your eyes**

There are currently an estimated 15 million blind people in India. Corneal blindness accounts for 6.8 million people with vision less than 6/60 in at least one eye, of which, about 1 million suffer from bilateral corneal blindness. If the present trend continues, it is expected that the number of corneally blind individuals in India will increase to 8.4 million in 2010 and 10.6 million by 2020. Of these, at least 3 million can be benefited by corneal transplantation.

To effectively meet the ever growing demand, we need around 150,000 corneal transplants to be performed every year. The shortage of corneas is so acute that a majority of the patients requiring corneal transplantation are not fortunate enough to undergo the procedure within a reasonable period. Eye donation can be done by all people regardless of age, gender or race. Even spectacle wearers and people suffering from diabetes and hypertension can donate their eyes. You can give the gift of sight by pledging your eyes at the Eye Bank, however, the consent of the next of kin is essential for making an eye donation.

**OUR EYE BANK**

Our eye bank is a most modern one and is working round the clock. The eye bank was activity started on the 2nd of October, 2005. H.V. Desai Eye Hospital’s eye bank services have emerged as the top eye bank services in the Pune region and the third in Maharashtra state. The Government of Maharashtra has felicitated our eye bank for the collection of the maximum number of eyes. It is very well equipped with a cornea processing unit and specular microscope for tissues as well as live models. We can select better-quality cornea with the help of a specular microscope, which has resulted in the successful rate of impact in patients. India has around 628 eye banks, of which, in September 2010, H. V. Desai Eye Bank was chosen by the Eye Bank Association of India (EBAI) for the accreditation.

**Shri Kumarbhai Shah**

India has around 628 eye banks. In September 2010, H. V. Desai Eye Bank was the only one from Maharashtra to be chosen by the Eye Bank Association of India (EBAI) for the accreditation program along with 8 other eye banks of the country. This program was undertaken by Sight Life, USA, which is a collaboration institution of the Eye Bank Association of America, along with the EBAI, to standardise and regulate the functioning of various eye banks in India. The eye donation appeal has been carried out to spread awareness. We give special credit to Shri Kumarbhai Shah, who has played a major role in encouraging people to participate in eye donation.

**Contributors**

Shri Harish Saxsena of the Rotary Club Pune Central, Mr. Nagpal of Lodge Burnett 3284 EC, Mr. Dinoobhai Gandhi (Reliance Drishti) and our team of advisers, which include Mr. Jitubhai Mehta and Mr. Pradeepbhai Munot are also among the major contributors to this program.

**Exclusive Facilities:**

* 24-hour round-the-clock service
* Dedicated phone line (24 Hours ) +91-9850100200
* Structured procedure for procurement and corneal button processing with sterile precautions under laminar flow
* Evaluation of donor tissue by slit lamp and specular microscopy
* Appropriate serological screening of the donor’s blood sample
* Preservation in storage media
* A suitable patient is called upon and corneal transplantation surgery is performed as early as possible

The hospital also provides special services through its contact lens clinic, which offers therapeutic and cosmetic contact lens trials as well as refractive surgeries such as LASIK.