



Seva.org
1786 Fifth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MEDIA CONTACT: Aaron Simon
Communications Director
510-845-7382 x333
asimon@seva.org

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES AWARDS \$66,000 GRANT TO SEVA FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT CHILDREN AND PEDIATRIC EYE CARE IN CAMBODIA

Berkeley, Ca., (January 27, 2015) – The global office of [Ronald McDonald House Charities \(RMHC\)](#) recently awarded \$66,000 through its [Global Grants](#) program to support Seva Foundation and their pediatric objectives in Cambodia to prevent blindness and restore sight for children in need. The investments further the impact of RMHC by moving dollars quickly to organizations like Seva that work with vulnerable populations to help solve some of the toughest issues in pediatric care.

This investment will prevent blindness and restoring sight for 32,000 Cambodian children through community-based eye care education and medical eye services in partnership with Seva and their local partner the Angkor Hospital for Children.

Cambodia (population 14 million) has an estimated 140,000 blind persons. More than 80% of blindness in Cambodia is either preventable or curable, but most Cambodians lack access to eye care. In addition to barriers from poverty and rural isolation, present in most developing countries, Cambodia has a unique shortage of eye care professionals, due to the targeted genocide of educated persons during the country's civil war in the 1970s.

Since 1998, Seva has been building clinical capacity, supporting community outreach and subsidizing eye exams, surgeries, medication and eyeglasses. Last year, Seva and partners provided 102,111 eye exams (52,323 children), 8,557 sight-restoring eye surgeries, and 1,348 pairs of eyeglasses in Cambodia.

“For 40 years, we have worked to bring people together to find solutions that strengthen children and families during difficult times,” said RMHC President and CEO J.C. Gonzalez-Mendez. “There are children around the world that do not have access to the vital resources needed to support their health. We’re privileged to work with nine organizations this year that are helping to solve that issue and making a meaningful difference in the lives of millions of children.”

In the last 13 years, RMHC has awarded nearly \$100 million in grants to nonprofit organizations, helping to extend its reach and impact around the world.

About Ronald McDonald’s House Charities

Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®), a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) corporation, creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children. Through its global network of 300 Chapters in more than 62 countries and regions, its three core programs, the Ronald McDonald House®, the Ronald McDonald Family

Room® and the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile®, and millions of dollars in grants to support children's programs worldwide, RMHC provides stability and vital resources to families so they can get and keep their children healthy and happy. All RMHC-operated and supported programs, enable family-centered care, provide a bridge to quality health care, are a vital part of the health care continuum and give children and families the time they need to heal and cope better together. RMHC is the 2014 Harris Poll EquiTrend® Social Services Non-Profit Brand of the Year. <http://www.rmhc.org/grants>

About Seva Foundation

Since 1978, Seva Foundation has been a leading innovator in the delivery of vital eye care services to the world's most vulnerable including women, children, and indigenous peoples. Seva is headquartered in Berkeley, California, with regional offices in Nepal, Tibet and Cambodia and partner offices in 11 countries. Seva's Sight Program works to restore eyesight and prevent blindness in over 20 countries around the globe. www.seva.org

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