



PRESS RELEASE

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Flags on State Street Celebrate Local Nonprofit

Santa Barbara, Calif., July 26, 2010 — From July 26 to August 2 flags will line State Street in Santa Barbara to celebrate the 36th anniversary of Surgical Eye Expeditions (SEE) International.

“When we boarded the plane for our first expedition, we had a vision of what we wanted to accomplish,” said Dr. Harry S. Brown, founder of the organization. “It’s truly wonderful to look at SEE International today and see that vision in action. And I am amazed at everything that we have been able to accomplish.”

Since its founding in 1974, local nonprofit SEE International has grown into a global humanitarian organization with a network of more than 600 affiliated ophthalmologists who have restored sight to over 384,000 people worldwide. In 2009 alone, SEE International held clinics in 44 countries where 14,124 sight-restoring surgeries were performed.

“There is still such a need in the world and I am proud to be working alongside a very talented team that is dedicated to helping so many,” said Ken Stokes, PhD, CEO of SEE International.

SEE International helps coordinate eye clinics around the world, pairing traveling ophthalmologists with ophthalmologists in host countries. The organization also procures medical supplies and equipment necessary for a large volume of successful eye surgeries, preparing them for surgeons to carry to the clinic site. The volunteer surgeons put their practices on hold, pay for their own travel expenses, work long hours in SEE International clinics for three to four days to restore sight to 50 to 150 people, train local surgeons, and, when possible, leave in their care valuable medical supplies for use in future charitable eye surgeries.

Every five seconds, someone in the world goes blind and about half of all cases are caused by curable cataracts. Sight-restoration not only returns a productive person back to his or her family who can once again work, interact, and contribute to the larger community as they did before losing their sight, but it also frees their caregiver as well.

About the SEE International Flag

The SEE International flag depicts a blue background with the organization’s logo and the word SEE. SEE International’s unique logo is based on the design of the rod of Aesculapius, the god of medicine and healing. Situated atop the staff is the symbol of an eye with the ideogram of the planet Earth inside it, reflecting SEE International’s mission to provide sight restoring surgeries worldwide.

About SEE International

SEE International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit humanitarian organization that utilizes volunteer ophthalmic surgeons to provide sight-restoring surgery to blind individuals worldwide. Based in Santa Barbara, California, and founded by local ophthalmologist Dr. Harry S. Brown and several colleagues, SEE International provides the link between hundreds of volunteer eye surgeons and thousands of patients worldwide every year. To learn more about SEE International, please visit www.seeintl.org.

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