

### **Parents in despair, filled with hope!!!**

With desperation writ large on their faces, Khalid and his second wife Nazma were scuttling along the abysmal lanes of their miserable town, he hobbling along on a crudely fashioned crutch, a bamboo stick and she clutching the limp body of their baby boy Wahid- his extreme ill health, the reason of their despair.



***Baby Wahid and his father***

Having already been turned away from getting crucial medical help from 3 hospitals in the town, after assessing the dire condition of the baby and the obvious lack of monetary provisions of his parents refused to take on their case; Khalid was growing despondent by the minute.

Dismal thoughts troubling Khalid as his mind raced on the precarious stance of his entire family- debt ridden and impoverished, even more so since the accident he had at work 5 years prior where a blunt force trauma had rendered him a paraplegic or how he had lost his first wife Sayema to a venomous snake bite, again due to the nolation of the then

available medical facilities sighting his inability to foot the medical bills or how his 8 children (3 with Sayema and 4 girls and baby Wahid with Nazma) face a bleak existence with even basic amenities of life lacking, education et al.

Wrestling with these gloomy thoughts and wandering forlorn, a good Samaritan at last guided the couple to our hospital. They rushed to the Mission hospital, entering the gates with anxiety that was swiftly absolved when Wahid was taken in, no questions asked. His condition evaluated expeditiously and he was quickly admitted and started with resuscitation and his vitals stabilized as he was admitted into the NICU. Wahid spent the next week at the hospital ward battling gastroenteritis with severe dehydration and lobar pneumonia, triumphing thanks to the excellent care he received in the hospital. Initially Khalid was on edge especially whenever someone came in his direction with a piece of paper in hand, alarmed that it would be a bill and that they would demand payment. But not once was Khalid approached for anything. Wahid was given the necessary care and medicines completely free of charge and that too willingly by the hospital administration. Khalid couldn't believe the expansive empathy that they received while Wahid spend the 7 days recovering.

The hospital has been fulfilling its motto of serving the needy in the name of Christ, and being a vital help to someone facing a miserable situation selflessly.

We pray that with help of the government and the noble souls in the community, we reach such expertise by training and facilities that we may be able to offer our similar help to many more in the city and serve mankind like we have been doing always.



## Every little thing matters!!!

This is the story of a little wonder named Sonu from Kumarua village , Kasganj district.



It was the time when 22 year old Madhu and her elder sister Gudiya were married into the same family with two brothers. Being from an impoverished household and not much to their name, their parents were forced to sell their land for wedding expenses for both the daughters. Madhu was married to the younger brother Jay Prakash, who being a daily wage worker was forced to toil day and night to provide his family with basic necessities due to having many mouths to feed and more on the way. Madhu was pregnant.

Madhu being a housewife took care of the family well, 6 members including her in laws.

Every other day seemed like a year for them as her due date was approaching. Madhu had progressed to 22 weeks of gestation when her most horrifying nightmare turned to reality.

Jay Prakash suffered a fatal accident while riding his two-wheeler two weeks before the baby was actually born; he passed away while being taken to a hospital for treatment.

All dreams were shattered for the family. To rub salt into the wound, and with nobody to provide for her or her pre-term baby, Madhu was shunned by her in-laws and thrown out of the house.

Her baby Sonu was born 3 months after the death of his father. He was 5-6 weeks pre-term and was of very low birth weight, with little to no chances of survival. He fell deathly ill within a week after birth and was brought to Christian Hospital Kasganj with no money or help. The team of doctors, after listening to her plight, were moved to help her in whatever way possible. They contacted the hospital administration and they agreed to offer monetary support. The baby, diagnosed with severe dehydration and failure to thrive, was treated free of cost for 3 days and showed remarkable progress. The baby was given basic

provisions such as formula milk, baby blanket, feeding bottle, bed sheet and diapers. The family was very grateful to the administration and the doctors for the timely help extended in their vulnerable and fragile predicament.

We would appreciate volunteers to come up for the help of the needy like these through us.



As rightly said by Leo Tolstoy, 'the sole meaning of life is to serve humanity'. As health professionals it is our duty to help those who approach us meanwhile search our very own community for help and serve them.

### **Abandoned newborn got angel parents!!!**

Life can be endlessly tragic but no one is as unfortunate as the one whose life begins with tragedy; such was the case of an unnamed baby boy who was brought to our casualty on 7th May 2016.



His body bore many bruises and burns and was abandoned by his parents; he was discovered wrapped in a soiled cloth with some medicines strewn about under the seat on a train.

The police had rescued him and had delivered him to our hospital where on further examination it became evident that other than the grave injuries, the baby was afflicted with cerebral palsy that also caused frequent seizures.

This brought to light the reason for him being discarded by his parents and also his injuries where his superstitious simpleton parents had tried to 'exorcise' the disability out of him and had abandoned him when their stupid attempts had failed.

The government authorities pleaded the hospital look after the child.

With no clues about his parents or their whereabouts, the baby was quickly admitted into the ICU and intensive treatment started. After 7 days he was well enough to be moved to the pediatric ward where the staff lovingly doted on him like he was their own and nursed him back to health with round the clock attention, timely medication and feedings, all taken care of by the prestigious institution and its values for life.

Even though his physical injuries healed he still remained a special needs child due to his CP. Help was sought from the municipal corporation for his prospective adoption which they immediately backed out of apathetically once they realised that they were dealing with a special needs baby.



Many aspiring parents turned up to see the child and ignored adoption after realizing that he was a cerebral palsy baby. But that was not the end of the road for our brave little baby for he already had his guardian angels who would run to his rescue. The angels were our administrator Mr. Rajeev Gupta and his wife Mrs. Jyoti Gupta who is also one of the nurses here. Despite already raising three children of their own and providing the best education to them, with their 23 yr old boy pursuing MBBS and their two girls pursuing higher education on scholarships; they thought nothing of their limited finances and selflessly adopted the child, who has since thrived with the love and care he has received from all the members of the Gupta family. And now this previously nameless child has a beautiful name "Sonu". They have even managed, with the help of other hospital staff to take the child for regular

evaluations and management of his CP to Apollo hospital in Delhi, thanks to which the boy is living a happy life.

And for their selfless and loving gesture Mrs. Jyoti Gupta received an award in cash and the title of best nurse of the year by the DM of Kasganj along with other nurses who were honored for taking care of the baby.

The Lord made us in his own image. Every life is precious in its own way.

What we as medical professionals, carrying the values of our Lord aim at doing, is to serve mankind in all ways possible. And in order to fulfil this mission our hospital seeks help from the community too. In order to make a big change we need to take bigger steps. We as a health institution aim at growing every day and achieving better standards in order to make the world a better place for many.



**Honoured by the Govt authorities!!**



**Family of Mrs and Mr Rajeev Gupta, proud parents of Baby Sonu!!**

## Hope restored!!

Cataract usually forms slowly and you may not know you have it until it starts to block light.



*Shri. Ram Shankar after his cataract surgery!!*

This was the case with 58 years old Shri. Ram Shankar, who lost his parents several years back, leaving him alone in the house. Polio in his lower limbs kept him from acquiring any professional skills as he is unable to walk and uses wheelchair. His only source of income is the government pension which is worth only Rs. 500/-. He also lost his chances of having a soulmate because of his disability. For food he is dependent on the mercies of one of his neighbours who have been so kind enough to him so far. Because of his age and poor health (Cataract and Polio) he was abandoned in the society.

Off late in 2017, Shri. Ram Shankar developed cataract in both his eyes and was almost without vision since then. With cataract in both the eyes and having been crippled due to polio, it has been challenging for him to even perform the day to day tasks like going to toilet, change clothes, take bath and do other basic activities. Not being able to see not only made him prone to accidents, but also made him feel emotionally weak and dejected. His visit to hospitals was in vain because he didn't have money for getting operated.



Mean while, in the month of November during a free camp organised by Netra Vasant project, Eye services, Christian Hospital Kasganj, Shri Ram Shankar was screened and was diagnosed with cataract in both his eyes. On 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2018, Shri. Ram Shankar was brought to the Eye services Christian Hospital Kasganj along with other eye patients in a hospital vehicle. He was attended by the surgeon; all his investigations were carried out and finally his surgery was done next day without costing his single penny, which also included meals and stay. He was discharged from the hospital and was escorted back home.

After surgery Shri. Ram Shankar came to hospital for follow-ups. The surgery was successful and Mr. Ram Shankar got his lost vision back. He is happy and thankful and expressed his gratefulness towards hospital staff with folded hands. Spectacles were dispensed to him. He now finds hope to live. He will be getting his second eye operated soon. This operation did not solve all his problems, but yes it has brought back to him a hope to live and see. Now he can do his basic household activities.

Like Shri. Ram Shankar, many other patients whom we have served through Netra Vasant project have made us feel proud of the work that we do. We the team of Netra Vasant feel proud to reach out and give back vision to thousands who have been waiting for so long for someone, somewhere to hold their hands and pull them out of darkness and bring them to light. Thanks be to God for the wonderful work and responsibility that he has bestowed upon us.

## Meet Shri. Sunehri Lal

For those with no disabilities, it's hard to comprehend the challenges faced by the people with disabilities. I would like to introduce you to Mr. Sunehri Lal, a frail, weak bodied 90 year old gentleman whom our field workers from the organization had the chance to meet at an Old People's Home (Ashram) in District Kasganj (U.P).



*Mr. Sunehri Lal after Specs being dispensed*



*During his 1<sup>st</sup> followup visit to the base hospital*

Shri. Sunehri Lal comes from a family which is not very well off. Born to Lt. Shri Banwari Lal, he doesn't recall his mother's name. He lost his parents by the time he turned 25 years. Unlucky to not have a strong family, he was abandoned by his only son after his wife passed away. Having nowhere to go and no relatives to look after him, he somehow reached the Old Age Home. With no income and no savings, he adjusted to life at the Ashram.

In due course of time due to age related issues, his movement became restrictive. To do everyday chores was becoming hard for him due to failing eyesight and weakness in limbs. He was confined to the wheelchair. He also developed prostate enlargement due to which his need to use the toilet became frequent which at times became challenging. He would even fall from the wheelchair often due to physical weakness and visual impairment.

A ray of hope came via our field worker and an optometrist who visited the old age home to spread awareness about free cataract surgeries under the Netra Vasant Project of Sightsavers at the base hospital. Fortunately, Shri Sunehri Lal was screened and identified for cataract surgery in the right eye. He was brought to the base hospital for further check-ups and investigations on November 24, 2018.

He was operated in the right eye for cataract the very next day i.e Nov. 25, 2018. After surgery he was discharged the following day. He came regularly for checkups and follow-ups to the base hospital. Shri Sunehri Lal's surgery was successful restoring his vision. He was given prescription glasses too. This gave him the strength to overcome the challenges and manage to live his life and carry out his everyday chores without the restraint which he had faced earlier.

His other ailments too were taken care of at the Christian hospital, Kasganj for which he is still under treatment. The challenges, trials and hard times have become a thing of the past considerably for Shri Sunehri Lal. His life has been transformed through the dedication and commitment of the diligent members of the staff who work with sincere desire of well being for all.

Although there is always a potential for excelling in various fields, there is a considerable effort which has made a significant impact to the lives of the people especially having visual impairment. And this has been possible through Netra Vasant Project of Sightsavers, India. Now all our eye related services are free of cost, in the hope of making poor people see.

The team at Netra Vasant Project has worked relentlessly towards spreading a ray of hope and light in the dark clouds by reaching out to thousands of people every year. Catering specially to poor people of District Kasganj, who were deprived of Eye care, the team has become a shining essence of sincere effort, giving them the belief of care and well being. By seeking guidance from the divine in our endeavour, we at Netra Vasant Project thank God for being with us always.

### Case 3

What if the world you could see was only as far as how many fingers were being held in front of your face. What if you couldn't see any letters on the eye chart, at all?

This describes Mrs. Harpyari Devi, a 72 year old physically challenged woman from Kanchanpur, Aligarh. For the last one year Mrs. Harpyari had been suffering from severe visual impairment due to cataract in both her eyes with only Hand Movement (HM). She belongs to a family of poor socio-economic index. The family lives in a mud-brick house with ten members residing in it.



Till a few months ago, Harpyari's family had just one wish, they wanted her to be able to see again clearly. Since the vision started to decline, Mrs. Harpyari had become increasingly withdrawn, feeling as if her whole being was becoming darker and hopeless. She was not able to earn her daily bread and was not able to do basic household activities. The visual impairment (cataract) also made her emotionally weak and prone to accidents.

She visited several places in a hope to find treatment, but all in vain. Meanwhile, in the month of April she came to know about the facility of free cataract surgery under the Sightsaver's Netra Vasant programme of Eye Services, Christian Hospital Kasganj through promulgation.

Mrs. Harpyari Devi came to a free outreach camp organised by the Sightsaver's team where she was screened and diagnosed with cataract in both her eyes. She was attended by the ophthalmologist, all her investigations were carried out and finally her right eye cataract surgery was done on 26-04-2019. Her complete treatment and surgery, stay, fooding and transportation was free without her single penny being spent. After surgery Mrs. Harpyari devi was discharged on 25.04.2019. The surgery was successful. She was happy and thankful to the Sightsaver's team at Eye Services, Christian hospital Kasganj for restoring her almost lost vision. She expressed her gratefulness towards hospital staff with folded hands. With time her vision improved tremendously and the delighted 72 year old was back to her normal cheerful-self. She would now find hope to live and carry out her daily activities on her own. She will soon be getting her second eye operated.

The team of Netra Vasant programme at Kasganj has worked relentlessly towards spreading a ray of hope and light in the dark clouds by reaching out to thousands of people every year indeed more effectively after partnership with Sightsavers. Thanks be to God for the wonderful work and responsibility that he has bestowed upon us. We pray that our almighty God continue to guide and bless us to carry out the noble work.