



**Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION**

PRESS RELEASE

Lions Clubs International Foundation and LDS Charities Partner to Provide Vital Eye Care to Ubaté, Colombia

Oak Brook, Illinois, USA— Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and LDS Charities will collaborate on a three-year SightFirst eye care capacity building project in Ubaté, Colombia. The project will upgrade and expand a secondary-level hospital to develop a comprehensive eye care facility that will increase access to vital eye care services including trained professionals, treatments and eye health education. LDS Charities will provide funding to purchase a portion of the surgical equipment for the facility.

The SightFirst project will increase comprehensive eye care for 8,000 new patients in Ubaté and its surrounding regions. Enhanced services will include general eye health screenings, cataract surgeries, laser treatments for patients with diabetic retinopathy, and glaucoma examinations for low income individuals and families.

“Lions Club International Foundation is proud to have support from LDS Charities,” says Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada, Chairperson of LCIF. “This SightFirst project is going to make a difference for thousands of people in the Ubaté area who need care and is also a true example of the vital eye care we provide that has improved or restored vision for millions of people.”

“It is a privilege to come together with Lions Club International Foundation to work on this project,” said Dean Walker, vision initiative manager for LDS Charities. “We feel the surgical equipment, along with the capacity building efforts led by LCIF will work well together to provide a long-term, sustainable impact on eye health in the local area.”

To reach these ambitious goals, SightFirst will train more than 300 medical professionals, Lions volunteers, and government leaders in topics related to eye health, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. In addition to training ophthalmologists and optometrists for the eye care facility, 10 general physicians and 20 nurses will also be trained on the diagnosis of common eye disorders.

Since 1990, SightFirst has developed and improved eye care programs all over the world. Through surgeries, treatments, and medications, 30 million people have received improved or restored vision.

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About Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)

Lions Clubs International Foundation is the grant-making body of Lions Clubs International, the world’s largest volunteer service club organization. The LCIF SightFirst program, Lions’ flagship initiative, builds comprehensive eye care systems to fight the major causes of blindness and care for blind and visually impaired persons. Since 1990, the SightFirst program has helped restore sight to

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more than 30 million people around the world. Lions have raised more than \$415 million to provide surgeries, to improve of hundreds of eye care facilities and train of thousands of eye care professionals. For more information, visit www.lcif.org.

About LDS Charities

LDS Charities is the humanitarian arm of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The mission of LDS Charities' vision program is to prevent avoidable blindness and visual impairment while strengthening eye care services to the poor. Along with mentoring vision professionals who work in health care organizations, LDS Charities members and specialists volunteer their time to help provide training, equipment, supplies, and organizational support to assist local eye care professionals and programs. Since 2003, more than 550,000 people in 72 countries have benefited from LDS Charities' vision projects throughout the world. For more information, visit the LDS Charities' [website](http://www.lsc.org).

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