

DR. ILA SHAH, GLOBAL GRANT SUPERSTAR

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"My experience with global grants has given me many, many friends. There are so many of Dr. Shah's grants to showcase, but here are two more:

Women's Empowerment Grant. This \$200,000 Rotary humanitarian grant provided gynecological care for thousands of women in India. Monthly women's outpatient camps/clinics were scheduled for 32 months, covering 304 villages, with 10,000 patients examined. More than 1100 surgeries were anticipated, with the participation of three local hospitals. Each camp would train 10-12 midwives. In the final report, 7,139 women were examined in pre-check-ups, 1,152 surgeries were performed, with 1,013 post-op follow-ups, and 221 midwives were trained. Also, physician, surgical and paramedical services were provided free, along with free equipment and furniture.

Mission for Vision. "Imagine closing your eyes for 5 minutes and then imagine how your life would be if you cannot open your eyes for the rest of your life," asks Ila. Mission for Vision has provided thousands of cataract and corneal transplant surgeries and glasses to needy patients in India and Nigeria. When a lady who was blind received a bilateral cornea transplant, she commented to Dr. Shah that the "rest of my life belongs to Rotary." Ila notes that this kind of experience is so satisfying to the soul that she cannot put it into words.

Global Grant Record -- Ila had a goal of doing one global grant a year. As her medical practice started growing, she found she could do more grants, maybe three or four a year. The neighboring clubs also started their own projects. Over the last 20 years, Dr. Shah has sponsored 30 international grant projects in various healthcare and community arenas, many supplemented with her own contributions. She is currently working on ten global grants! While many of her projects are in India, she would like to contribute to health projects in Africa,



Russia, South America, and other parts of the world.

Some of her global grants:

- Mission for Vision \$113,000 - India 1,500 cataract surgeries,
- Mobile ophthalmology van to provide free eye checkups and surgeries
- Cornea Surgeries \$51,400 – 100 cornea transplants
- Mission for Vision Nigeria \$123,001 – 3,000 cataract surgeries
- Ophthalmology Equipment and Surgeries \$84,001
- Toilets, benches, computers, solar water heater for school in India \$124,000
- Mobile Clinic Bangalore \$67,750
- Mobile Dental Van for free checkups in Indian villages \$35,000
- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Karamsad \$66,234
- Heart Surgeries for Underprivileged Children with congenital heart defects in Mumbai \$146,200
- Dadai Village Sanitation Project \$86,400
- Reverse Osmosis plant in 40 schools in villages in India \$62,650
- Nepal Public Toilet Project \$50,700
- Relief & Rehab of Disabled \$13,000
- Harla Hospital Medical Equipment \$107,869
- COVID Ventilator, India \$66,667
- Mercy Ship \$1,125,956 (club \$10K, TRF \$400k) w/300 clubs in world
- Dialysis Equipment, India \$98,499
- COVID project in Italy \$41,790

- COVID project in India to provide an ambulance and equipment \$188,712

- Women's Wellness Initiative, supporting over 10,000 women with over 800 surgeries for the treatment of cervical & ovarian cancers and other gynecological issues. \$200,000 3H grant

- Rainwater Harvesting project in India

- Relief for victims of Lathur, Maharashtra and Kuch, Gujarat Earthquakes

- Pure drinking water relief and rehabilitation for 1715 disabled people

- After the Year 2000 earthquake, built 48 houses and renovated an orphan home for 800 girls

Biography - A family of doctors...

Dr. Ila Shah has been a Rotarian for 25 years. She has been member of the Charlotte Hall Rotary Club since June 1995, serving as president in 2002-2003 and International Lane Director from 1996 onward. She began her pediatrics practice in 1974, after earning her degree at Bombay University. She has been a past Chief of Medical Staff and a member of the Board of Directors for St. Mary's Hospital.

She has facilitated and actively participated in multiple international Rotary global grant projects raising funds totaling more than \$1 million dollars. She is a major donor for the Rotary Foundation. Over the years with the Rotary Club, Ila has received many awards, including the Service Above Self Award for District 7620 for 2004-05, the Rotary International Service Above Self Award for 2006-07, the Charles Bennett Annual Humanitarian Award in District 7620 for 2004-05, and Rotarian of the Year for 2007-08 from The Rotary Foundation of RI.

Dr. Ila Shah and her husband, Dr. V.K. Shah, have two children, a son, Dr. Amish Shah, and a daughter, Dr. Meena Shah. Amish and Meena are both Cardiologists, joined by their spouses, Dr. Arpana Shah, a Dermatologist and Dr. Nimesh Khatri, a Gastroenterologist. There are 27 doctors in her extended family!