

WBOY TV: Morgantown Doctor Helps Eliminate Childhood Blindness Worldwide

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Part of his services fund the "Eye Foundation of America".

Story by Courtney Dunn

MORGANTOWN -- Researchers say there are about 1.4 million blind children in the world. In Morgantown, a doctor is on a crusade to end childhood blindness.

Dr. V.K. Raju established the Eye Foundation of America to help ensure adequate eye care for the underprivileged children in the world. For the past 30 years, the program has been a growing success and Dr. Raju says a large part of the reason is thanks to his patients in Morgantown and people in West Virginia.

"There is no medical project in the world which is equal to giving vision to the child," said Ophthalmologist Dr. V.K. Raju.

In 1979, Dr. Raju performed his first sight-saving surgery on a baby in India. Now he shows a picture of that baby now, alive, grown-up and a pharmacy major at Rutgers University.

"If you catch a child in the first week or first few months of life and do these surgeries, less than an hour operation under anesthesia, you give them 75 years plus," he explained.

Since then Dr. Raju has traveled to more than 25 countries, where he sees hundreds of patients at a time. His most recent trip was teaching other eye doctors in Iraq.

"Sharing that knowledge with them makes an enormous difference," Dr. Raju said. "Even after I left there, the legacy goes on."

The legacy continues also, back at his 23-year-old practice in Morgantown, where a portion of Dr. Raju's services, like his lasik surgeries, go straight to his program: The Eye Foundation of America.

"You get the lasik surgery, you help yourself and during the process, you help somebody else too, somewhere in the world," Raju added.

Seeing the impact Dr. Raju's program makes motivates patients and donors, like Joseph Swiger.

"I decided to get involved simply because it's a wonderful cause," Swiger said. "It's something you can do for your fellow human being."

Swiger added he is hoping to travel to India with Dr. Raju to see the life and sight-seeing program in action.

Back in Morgantown Dr. Raju is currently accepting new patients and seeking a matching grant opportunity. If you can help or for more information, click on the link below.

Related Links:

Eye Foundation of America

<http://eyefoundationofamerica.org/>