



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEE International Teams Up With NBA Hall of Famer in the Congo

Santa Barbara, CA - SEE International, a California based global nonprofit, is partnering with the Dikembe Mutumbo Foundation to provide at least 100 sight-restoring surgeries to blind patients in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) this July. This new collaboration will quickly transform hundreds, if not thousands of lives in one of the poorest countries in the world. Without the ability to see, parents are unable to work and provide for their families; children are unable to attend school; and elder family members need constant care from their younger relatives. SEE International aims to alleviate these problems.

Since being founded in 1974, SEE's volunteer eye surgeons have examined more than 3.6 million patients and performed over 440,000 sight-restoring operations. An estimated 39 million people worldwide suffer from blindness, 90% of whom live in developing countries. Even more tragically, 80% of all cases are caused by preventable or easily-treatable conditions, like cataracts. SEE's surgical sight-restoring efforts in the DRC will be led by Helena Ndume, MD, FACS of Windhoek, Namibia, and Scott Hickman of Lawrence, Kansas, USA. In addition, SEE's medical team will lay the groundwork for future expeditions and training, so that local ophthalmologists can provide care in the region year round.

Mr. Dikembe Mutombo, who was born and raised in the DRC, has garnered widespread acclaim in his post-NBA career as a philanthropist. He is widely hailed as a true "son of Africa" and a champion for the people of the DRC. In 2007 he opened the Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital, named in honor of his late mother. The \$29 million facility, funded by the Atlanta-based Dikembe Mutombo Foundation, was the first new health facility in the Kinshasa area in over 40 years. The presence of this hospital significantly increasing



access to all kinds of health care, vital to improving the lives of local residents and giving them the gifts of better health and hope for a brighter future.

This joint collaboration of dedicated humanitarians from throughout United States, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and the DRC is committed to improving the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in one of the poorest regions of the world. I hope you can help us bring awareness to this amazing project.

For more information about this project, the organizations or doctors involved, please contact Steve Bunnell, Communications Coordinator, at steve@seeintl.org at 805-963-3303 (office) or at 707-815-9503 (cell).

About SEE International

SEE International is a nonprofit, humanitarian organization that provides medical, surgical, and educational services by volunteer ophthalmic surgeons with the primary objective of restoring sight to disadvantaged blind individuals worldwide. Since 1974, SEE has examined over 3.6 million men, women, and children, and performed more than 440,000 sight-restoring surgeries. www.seeintl.org

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