

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Seeing the Light with SEE International**

**September 27, 2018, Santa Barbara, CA** – SEE International, a global vision care nonprofit based in Santa Barbara, hosted an innovative and inspired speaking event. Entitled “Seeing the Light,” the symposium featured engaging conversations with leading humanitarian eye surgeons, screenings of the organization’s award-winning short films, and more. The talks took place at the New Vic Theater in downtown Santa Barbara, Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. A VIP reception followed at the Impact Hub Chapala Center.

The World Health Organization projects that the number of blind people worldwide will triple by 2050. Yet nearly 80% of all cases of blindness and vision loss can either be prevented or treated. The only barrier is a lack of access to treatment. Seeing the Light told the stories of an amazing group of doctors who have dedicated their lives to solving this impending crisis, and helped Santa Barbarans learn what they can do to make an impact.

Speakers included Doctors Janak and Preeti Shah, two of SEE’s most prolific volunteer ophthalmologists. The Shahs hail from Mumbai, India, and also taught a seminar on advanced surgical techniques to prospective SEE volunteers during their trip this September. Seeing the Light also featured SEE’s Chief Medical Officer Jeffrey Levenson, M.D., and longtime SEE volunteer Mike Colvard, M.D.

SEE’s event was supported by the Santa Barbara community; generous sponsors included Alcon, BMW Santa Barbara/SB Auto Group, Mission Wealth, Impulse Advanced Communications, Sansum Clinic, ACI Jet, Andrew and Elizabeth Butcher, TrackR, and Noozhawk.

SEE also awarded its very first Community Philanthropist Award to Yardi for their continued support and generosity. This award also acknowledges Yardi's unique achievement as the first Santa Barbara based company to have restored sight to over 1,000 SEE patients. Yardi's Vice President of Human Resources, Sally Parks, and Culture and Philanthropic Coordinator, Kelly Johnson, accepted the award on behalf of Yardi. Johnson added, "Everything that SEE does in both our community and worldwide is amazing." SEE's Community Philanthropist Award recognizes Yardi's community philanthropic accomplishments worldwide.

More information on this joyous, heartwarming event can be found at [www.seeintl.org/seeing-the-light](http://www.seeintl.org/seeing-the-light).

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### **About SEE International**

SEE International is a global organization dedicated to ending avoidable blindness everywhere. SEE's heroic medical volunteers work in more than 40 countries every year, providing critical vision care to underserved populations, free of charge to the patient. Since 1974, SEE has examined more than 4 million patients, and performed over half a million sight-restoring surgeries.

[www.seeintl.org](http://www.seeintl.org).