



Every day, your support helps children see!

Look at the eyes of this beautiful baby!

This is little Darrel. Just over 18 months old, he lives with his family in a low income community outside Nairobi, Kenya.

When Darrel was nine months old, his mother Beatrice noticed a problem with her baby's eyes. They were always filled with tears and looked sore and red. Darrel's irises also appeared larger than usual, and he had trouble focusing on objects.

Worried, Beatrice took her son to a local health centre. The doctor referred Darrel to a hospital near Nairobi, which in turn referred him to a pediatric eye unit. There, Beatrice learned that Darrel had glaucoma, a disease that damages the optic nerve because of high eye pressure.

"I was shocked to learn this condition would gradually make Darrel blind," Beatrice told our staff. "I wanted so badly to have him treated, but it was very difficult because of our financial situation."

Beatrice also worried that if her son became blind, she would need to care for him for the rest of his life. "My prayer was that my child could grow up and live an independent life."



Photo by Ronald Keifa

You can be proud that your gifts have helped children like Darrel regain their vision!

Fortunately, our Kenya team met Beatrice during the 2015 Standard Chartered Bank Nairobi Marathon. As a proud member of the bank's Seeing is Believing funding initiative, Operation Eyesight had a booth to promote eye health awareness at the marathon.

When she noticed the booth, Beatrice approached our staff and was directed to clinicians stationed at the booth, who examined Darrel. Her son was given an urgent referral to one of our partner eye units, and Darrel's beautiful brown eyes were operated on in January 2016. The surgeries were performed at no cost to the family, thanks to the support of our funder Seeing is Believing.

Today, Beatrice is very happy! "The doctors have assured me that Darrel's condition has been contained and will not worsen anymore. I'm sure he will grow to fulfill the dreams we have for him!" She and her family are grateful to everyone who ensured that her baby's vision was saved.

She also has a message to donors like you who understand that operations can be unaffordable for poor people in developing countries. *"I appreciate the generosity of those who donated their money so that children like my son are treated free of charge. May God bless you abundantly!"*

Giving is good for your heart... literally!

Planning on making your health a priority this year? Well, as one of our wonderful donors, you're off to a great start! Research shows that donating to charities or volunteering can have a positive impact on your physical and mental health. Giving and volunteering can reduce stress and depression and help you develop social connections and a sense of purpose. Studies have even found that people who donate to charity have lower blood pressure.

So please continue to give generously; it may be just what the doctor ordered – and we're happy to help, of course!



See the impact your gifts are making!

Many hands make light work

*Thank you to all those who
put their hands up to help in Calgary!*



It's true, many hands make light work – and we're incredibly grateful for the many volunteer hands in our Calgary office. We currently have 19 office volunteers who help us with various projects on a weekly basis. They do everything from folding tax receipts to producing videos, approaching each task with a fun, can-do attitude.

In 2015, volunteers personally called 1,700 donors and hand-wrote over 1,500 "thank you" cards! Because of them, we're able to reach out to you, our donors, more often and manage administrative tasks more effectively than would otherwise be possible. This means that ultimately we're able to bring in more dollars for our cause and give the gift of sight to more people in need.

A heartfelt thank you, volunteers, for donating your time and talent to Operation Eyesight. Together, we're doing great things – for all the world to see!

Time to go green? Let us help!

Trying to cut down on paper? Provide us with your email address, and we'll be happy to send you *SightLines* electronically instead of in the mail. You'll also help us cut down on printing costs!

You can also let us know if you'd like to be included in our *Glimpse* eNews bulletin. We promise not to send too much email; just quick updates once in a while, and you can unsubscribe at any time. Contact us at 1-800-585-8265 or info@operationeyesight.com today.



A special gift from a loyal donor



Children like these will continue to receive the gift of sight and hope, thanks to Marjorie!

Marjorie from White Rock, BC began supporting Operation Eyesight in 1986. She gave a gift (or two) every single year – right up until 2014, when she was 103 years old!

Year after year, we were amazed by her unwavering commitment to our work and her passion to make a difference in the lives of others.

Marjorie passed away in January this year, at the age of 105. She is dearly missed by her two children, six grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Not only will her legacy live on through her growing extended family, but it will also live on through our work.

You see, Marjorie left a thoughtful legacy gift to Operation Eyesight in her will. She will always be remembered for her dedication to eliminating avoidable blindness – and her generosity will continue to change the lives of others for years to come. Thank you, Marjorie!

Check out page 6 to learn how you too can support Operation Eyesight's work in your will.

Thanks for the phone call, James!

We love hearing our donors' stories, which is why we were thrilled to receive a phone call from James Merkley! James lives in Calgary and has been supporting Operation Eyesight for over 30 years. He told us he's always admired the work of our founder, Art Jenkyns, especially since his family was personally affected by eye health issues.



Like this man, James had cataract surgery so he knows just how precious the gift of sight can be!

James' grandmother was diagnosed with cataracts in her 80s when surgery wasn't feasible, and his grandfather suffered from glaucoma with no solutions available to him. Years later, James and his late wife, Joan, both also ended up with cataracts. Fortunately, they were able to have surgery to restore their vision.

Having seen and experienced the effects of vision problems, James, now 91 years old, says he understands just how much of a difference we

can make in the lives of others by restoring their sight. James, thank you for giving the gift of sight – and for sharing your story with us!

Tell us YOUR story! We'd love to hear why and how you support Operation Eyesight. Call us toll-free at **1-800-585-8265**, email info@operationeyesight.com or fill out the form on page 7.

Gift giving made easy!

Now that the weather is warmer, your calendar might have more birthday parties, backyard barbecues and wedding showers than usual. But don't stress – we've got you covered in the gift department!



The gift of sight is always the perfect gift.

Going to a party? Rather than worry about finding the perfect gift, why not make a donation to Operation Eyesight in your friend's or family member's name instead? It's two gifts in one!

When you make a donation, you can request to have a greeting card or eCard sent directly to the recipient, or you can choose to have the card mailed to you (so you can give it in-person or attach it to a smaller present). Visit operationeyesight.com/giftguide to find the perfect virtual gift today!

Planning a party? If you'd rather not receive presents, but you know your guests would like to mark the occasion, consider asking them to make a donation to Operation Eyesight in lieu of gifts. It's easy to create a fundraising page online or collect donations at the door. Visit operationeyesight.com/events to get started, or contact us toll-free at **1-800-585-8265** for more information.

With every donation, you'll give someone in India or Africa the greatest gift of all: their vision! Thank you for your support – and enjoy those parties!



Give a tribute in someone's name

Losing one's sight can be much worse than simply being not able to see. In developing countries, where health care is often scarce or unaffordable, sight is life. Donating through a Tribute Gift recognizes someone you care about while also giving the gift of sight. Ask us about gifts that celebrate people and gifts given in memory of loved ones.

For more information, contact us at 1-800-585-8265 or info@operationeyesight.com.

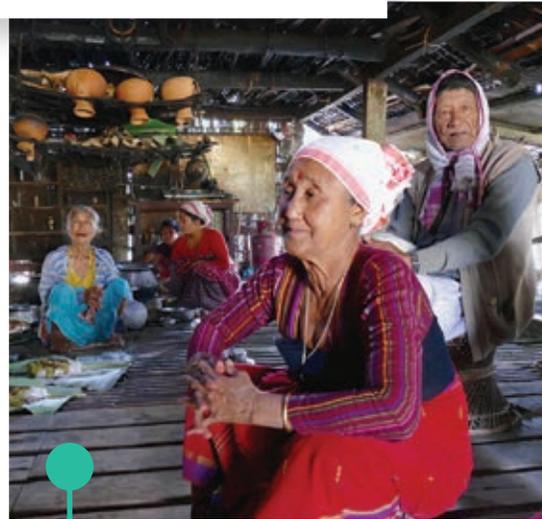
Majuli Island is flooded for three months of the year. High waters significantly erode the island and cut off the twice-daily ferry that is the only transportation to the mainland. These are just some of the issues our Hospital-Based Community Eye Health Program had to overcome.



Enuprabha Deori is one of 10 health workers (seven female, three male) on Majuli. Trained in eye and general health including methodology, they conducted the initial door-to-door survey of the island. Now they provide valuable health information, screen for eye problems and refer patients to an appropriate level of care.



Permanent vision centres are part of our Hospital-Based Community Eye Health Program. Open for walk-in visits, they're staffed by trained vision technicians and provide comprehensive eye exams, distribute eyeglasses, and refer patients for surgery and care at Chandraprabha. This photo shows one of the two vision centres now on Majuli.



68-year-old Dipali Gam (foreground,) lives in Lachon Dunaguri village on Majuli Island. "People used to assume that if they went blind, they would stay that way until they died," she says. "Eye health was never really considered or talked about. We knew nothing about it because there were no doctors. Now, recently, we're getting doctors who treat us and give us medicines."

SAVING SIGHT ON ASIA'S LARGEST RIVER ISLAND

Back in the Spring 2014 issue of SightLines, we told you about Majuli Island. Located in India's remote state of Assam, it's home to 168,000 people. Before Operation Eyesight launched a Hospital-Based Community Eye Health Program there in 2012, the island had no eye care at all.

Thanks to a video documentary created by our Canadian intern Adrian Parlow, you can check in on our community health workers, hospital partner and the people of Majuli and see how we're doing!

Operation Eyesight's hospital partner for Majuli is Chandraprabha Eye Hospital, located in Jorhat, Assam. Established in 2005, the hospital was our first Non-Financial Technical Partnership. It's now one of the most reputable hospitals in the region, houses two prestigious training schools and performs 4,200 surgeries annually.

Together, Operation Eyesight and Chandraprabha set out to eliminate avoidable blindness on Majuli Island. When our locally-hired community health workers began a comprehensive survey, they found that gender discrimination, vitamin A deficiency, poor sanitation, malnutrition and other issues all compounded the lack of eye health care.

Based on the survey, the project team and hospital management developed plans to tackle cataracts, blindness and other eye problems. To date, almost 3,800 people from the island have undergone surgery to restore their sight, over 5,000 pairs of eyeglasses have been dispensed and 83,500 people have attended health education workshops. Immunization of children under five and coverage of antenatal and postnatal care have all reached 85 percent.

In 2015, we were able to declare a total of 21 avoidable blindness-free villages on Majuli! Although there is much more to do, none of this work would be possible without you, our amazing donors. Without you, people in places like Majuli Island would remain in darkness. You have given them the gift of sight!

Watch Adrian's full 30-minute documentary by going to operationeyesight.com/majuli. From there, you can also watch a three-minute version. Thanks to Adrian for helping us see the impact of this important project!

see...what a lasting gift can do

The gift of sight transforms lives and communities. Designating a gift to Operation Eyesight in your will is your opportunity to leave a lasting legacy of sight and hope for the most vulnerable people in Africa and India.

For more information, contact Susan at 1-800-585-8265 or DeikeS@operationeyesight.com.



You can continue to give the gift of sight... for years to come!

The word "always" implies a pledge of faithfulness... for eternity. That was the reason we chose OPERATION EYESIGHT ALWAYS as the name of our new "society" for donors who have made the very special commitment to leave a legacy gift. We've heard from some wonderful people like these:

- A woman with a profound love for reading has decided to leave a gift in her will to Operation Eyesight. She wants to ensure others will have the chance to realize the magic of the written word in years to come.
- A nature photographer is also leaving a gift to Operation Eyesight so that others can appreciate the beautiful world in which we live. He cares enough to share this gift with people he's never going to meet.
- A grandmother has also decided to leave a gift in her will to Operation Eyesight so that others can experience the joy she's had watching her children grow up.

A legacy gift can be your way of making the world a little bit better for those who follow. Like the three people above, everyone gives according to their own beliefs and hopes for the world. By creating OPERATION EYESIGHT ALWAYS, we hope to connect with these special people and show our appreciation for their gifts to come.



Leave ^A Legacy
For All The World to See

If you've already decided to leave a legacy to Operation Eyesight, please let us know and we will add your name to the growing list of people in OPERATION EYESIGHT ALWAYS. There are no membership fees, no dotted lines to

sign, and we promise we won't bombard you with calls. But for those who do opt to join us, we will, on occasion, ask you to share your thoughts

about our work. We'll invite you to our special events taking place in your area. And we hope you'll feel free to contact us at any time to ask questions or share your opinions.

If you're interested in learning more about OPERATION EYESIGHT ALWAYS or considering making a legacy gift, please contact Susan at DeikeS@operationeyesight.com or 1-800-585-8265 or. And thank you (always!) for your caring, your compassion and your support. Your gifts are making a special contribution to the world's poorest people, giving sight and hope for generations to come!

A legacy of giving

John Masters, an Operation Eyesight board member, recently shared his own reasons for wanting to give back. He has promised to make a gift to Operation Eyesight in his will, and hopes that his example will be followed by others.

John has been giving back in his community for many years. When he was "touched by the great work of Operation Eyesight," he quickly realized that "the world we live in is one's community." John says his legacy gift will be in honour of his parents for what they gave him over the years.

Thank you, John!



One of our four print advertisements running in Ghana.

The power of media builds eye health awareness in Ghana

Like many developing countries, Ghana faces inadequate access to eye health services, which is why Operation Eyesight has been working there since 2006. Our Ghana team knows that many people are fearful of accessing eye health care because of lack of awareness, poor service, distance, affordability and long wait times.

Thanks to funding from our partner Seeing is Believing, our staff worked with a local communications agency to develop print advertisements and television commercials that build awareness of avoidable blindness.

The ads encourage Ghanaians to treat blindness as an enemy – being fearful of it because it can destroy their livelihood, while being grateful there's help available to effectively combat avoidable blindness. Good news: our team has noted an increase in eye surgeries in our operational areas!

Check out one of our Ghana TV commercials at operationeyesight.com/tv.

Send your gift today.

You can help someone see a brighter tomorrow.

Donate online!

It's secure, easy and puts your gift to work immediately.

Go to

operationeyesight.com
and follow the links.

Make your gift:



By telephone: Toll-free in Canada and the USA: 1-800-585-8265



By mail: Canada:
Operation Eyesight Canada, Suite 200, 4 Parkdale Crescent NW, Calgary, AB T2N 3T8

United States:

Operation Eyesight USA, 14900 Interurban Ave. S. Suite 271 PMB 35,
Seattle, WA 98168-4654



Fax or scan and email this form: Fax: 403-270-1899
Email: admin@operationeyesight.com



Yes! I will support Operation Eyesight's sight saving projects by making a regular monthly gift of:

\$50 \$30 \$20 \$10 Other \$ _____
(*\$5 minimum*)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

I prefer to make a one-time gift of:

\$100 \$75 \$50 \$20 Other \$ _____

Payment options:

I have enclosed my cheque payable to Operation Eyesight (or a blank cheque marked VOID to pre-authorize a Monthly Gift)

Charge my: Visa MasterCard American Express

Name on card: _____

Card number: _____

Signature: _____

Expiry date: ____/____ Security Code: _____

This donation is made on behalf of: an individual a business

Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more unless otherwise requested.

We do not sell, trade or otherwise share our mailing lists. The information you provide will be used to keep you informed and up to date on the activities of Operation Eyesight, including our programs, special events, funding needs, and more. If you have questions about our organization or wish to be removed from any of these contacts, phone us at 1-800-585-8265 or email admin@operationeyesight.com.

I understand that my monthly donation will be automatically withdrawn from my bank account or charged to my credit card. I can change or cancel my monthly contribution at any time. To obtain a sample cancellation form, or for more information about my right to cancel a PAD Agreement, I may contact my financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca.

I have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAD Agreement. To obtain more information on my recourse rights, I may contact my financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca.

Please note that if more funds are received for a particular program, project or item than required, Operation Eyesight will re-allocate the funds to areas of highest priority.

My details:

Title: _____

First name: _____

Last name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

Province/State: _____

Postal/Zip code: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Please send me:

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2016-nl2

Tell us your story!

I support Operation Eyesight because: _____

Operation Eyesight is an international development organization established in Canada in 1963. We are dedicated to eliminating avoidable blindness in the developing world.

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Rotary Club helps us reach the unreached

Last year, Operation Eyesight became the first and only NGO in the eye health sector to work in the challenging state called Jammu and Kashmir, India – and it's all because of the Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise! Many people in this mountainous state live in remote areas with no roads, making it extremely difficult to reach eye care services. Thanks to Norfolk Sunrise Rotary Club, we launched a Hospital-Based Community Eye Health Program in partnership with the Rotary Eye Hospital in Udhampur to overcome this barrier.

Locally trained community eye health workers who know their way around Udhampur are able to screen residents living in remote areas and refer those with eye health problems for treatment. Patients who require surgery are transported by bus to the hospital. Over the past year, 70,000 people have been surveyed. Of those, 1,900 were diagnosed with cataract and another 3,500 received a free pair of prescription eyeglasses.



Anup Zimba, Operation Eyesight's Senior Program Manager (far left) and the Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise in the mountains of Jammu.

In February, the Norfolk Sunrise Rotary Club travelled to Udhampur to see our projects first-hand. Here's what some of the members had to say:

- "I was very impressed with the quality of the staff. All seemed extremely competent and very motivated. We felt very comfortable that the project is in good hands!" – J.D.
- "Thank you for the opportunity to share in the dream of Dr. Gullison, the vision of Art Jenkyns, and the ongoing work of your team." – J.W.

- "The goal to eliminate avoidable blindness in India by 2020 can be achieved after bearing witness to the dedication and commitment of Operation Eyesight. There can be no greater gift than to restore someone's sight so they can regain independence and a productive life." – S.M.

Thank you, Norfolk Sunrise Rotary Club, for 20 years of dedicated support! You truly are making a difference in the lives of others. Read more about the Club's trip at blog.operationeyesight.com.

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