



Cindeka! Celebrate! Zambia's new eye hospital opens.

The eye health care system in Zambia improved immeasurably in October 2012, when Operation Eyesight opened a new ophthalmic centre at University Teaching Hospital (UTH) in the capital city of Lusaka.

The original UTH eye clinic was a small and dilapidated heritage building, which needed almost total reconstruction to ensure it met clinical quality standards. The new ophthalmic centre treats pediatrics, vitreo-retinal, anterior segment, and glaucoma, and provides community eye health and research. It will train eye health professionals (including ophthalmologists) and provide a research and resource centre for all eye care services in the country.

The ophthalmic centre is the culmination of eight years of hard work and strong partnerships between Operation Eyesight, Nava Bharat Ventures Limited of Hyderabad, India,



Zambia's Minister of Health at the opening.

the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Zambia's Ministry of Health, and University Teaching Hospital.

"My government wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Operation Eyesight, who put in a huge capital-intensive investment to construct this centre," Zambia's Minister of Health, Hon. Dr. Joseph Kasonde, announced at the opening event, which was fittingly held on World Sight Day. "This eye centre of excellence will certainly raise the profile of eye health services the profile of eye health services delivery at UTH and in the country as a whole."

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"The UTH centre will strengthen the country's eye care system and ensure that Zambians can access the best possible eye care, so critical in the fight against avoidable blindness," said Brian Foster, interim president and CEO. "This facility is a great example of what is possible when we collaborate with generous donors and government."



The new ophthalmic centre welcomes patients.

Operation Eyesight has been working to prevent avoidable blindness in Zambia since 1985, and has been supporting UTH since 2005. The ophthalmic centre will serve about 1.2 million residents in Lusaka and surrounding areas, with the goal of expanding its reach over time.

WHO CARES?

New animated video marks World Sight Day 2012

Not only did we open our newest eye hospital on World Sight Day (October 11), we launched our latest animated video in honour of our upcoming 50th anniversary. Visit OpEyesightUniversal on YouTube to check out "Who Cares?" We know you care about preventing avoidable blindness as much as we do!

Thanks to you, people can see hope for their future

Why do you give to Operation Eyesight?

Many of our supporters have creative ways of raising awareness or money for our work, and equally interesting reasons for doing so. Why do you give to Operation Eyesight? Have you found a unique way to support our cause? We would love to hear your story and share it with our family of donors.

Send a note to admin@operationeyesight.com today. Your words may inspire others!

Meeting of the minds

Operation Eyesight was well-represented when more than 1,600 of the best and brightest minds of the global eye care community met in Hyderabad, India last September for the Ninth General Assembly of the International Agency for the



Members of the India team gather at Operation Eyesight's booth.

Prevention of Blindness. Dr. Boateng Wiafe and members of our India team, led by Kashinath Bhoosnurmath, delivered presentations, participated on panels and had many fruitful meetings with delegates. Operation Eyesight's exhibit booth was a gathering place, attracting about 300 visitors daily. Best of all, it is clear that the work that you – our donors – make possible is world-class and making a real difference. **Thank you!**

'Summer of Sight' significant for staff

Last August, the social committee at our Calgary headquarters launched the "Summer of Sight" fundraiser as both a teambuilding exercise and to raise \$1,500 for Operation Eyesight. That goal was far exceeded when we raised over \$5,000, mainly from a yard sale and employee and board member donations. The "Swears for Sight" jar in our office and a "25-cent penalty charge" for shots over par in numerous rounds of golf also contributed! **Thanks to everyone who donated or took part.**



100,000 cans for sight

"Beer Bottle Bob" Wilson has been an amazing friend of Operation Eyesight since 1999. A member of the Tuesday and Thursday Hikers club of Nanaimo, BC, Bob collects bottles from the members, sorts them in his basement and takes them to the bottle depot.

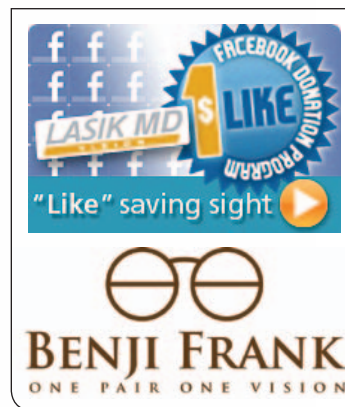


So far, he has raised over \$11,000, which would mean that he has collected over 100,000 cans and bottles. **Wow!**

Doris Nash, a friend from the Nanaimo hikers, says that Bob is "truly, in our eyes, a hero." We agree. Thank you, Bob! Everyone at Operation Eyesight wishes you well!

Two ways to save sight

Want two easy ways to save sight? Our friends at **LASIK MD Vision** have a \$1/Like donation program on their Facebook page (lasikmdvision.com). For every new person who "Likes" them on Facebook, they'll donate \$1 to Operation Eyesight. Visit them today; your "Like" can help save someone's eyesight!



Or, you could get a pair of stylish new glasses and be part of the solution to blindness! For each pair you buy from our friends at **Benji Frank** (www.benjifrank.com), they will help restore vision to someone in need. We really appreciate these two online champions who are helping us save sight and prevent blindness!



More great stories online!

Can't wait to read SightLines three times a year? Now you can read good news from Operation Eyesight every week!

Over the years, we've learned that the people who support Operation Eyesight love to hear stories about people in need of help, and how that help was delivered. We benefit from a rich supply of inspirational stories from our donors and medical partners, and we want to share them with you.

Visit our blog, Grey Mist Lifting, every Friday for our latest casual, frank, insightful post.

About the blog title, we call it Grey Mist Lifting because this expression – or words like it – are commonly heard in the clinics we support. When the bandages come off after cataract surgery, patients often describe what they are experiencing. For example; "Yesterday, all I could see was a grey mist. Today, the mist has lifted. I can see again." Visit blog.operationeyesight.com today!

Also, don't miss out on special updates from Operation Eyesight! Visit www.operationeyesight.com, click the tab that says "Glimpse. Sign up for eNews and updates" and follow the instructions.



'Such little money does such a big job'

Effie Higgins from Vanderhoof, BC has been a donor to Operation Eyesight for over 25 years. Effie and her husband, who has now passed away, chose to donate to Operation Eyesight because they believe strongly in our mission. "Such little money does such a big job," says Effie. Along with her donations, Effie sends us cards several times a year with encouraging messages. Our favorite message from her is "Bless you all for your good work – for making people happy." Thank you, Effie, for your kind words and for your generosity!



Photo of the Day

This eye chart on the wall of an African hospital may look a little different from something you normally see, but that's because not every person who comes to get their eyesight tested is able to read. He or she would point up, down or sideways to indicate which way the "C" shows up.



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 India and Africa.

For more information, contact Jennifer Diggins at 1-800-585-8265 or digginsj@operationeyesight.com.

Together, we can do great things – for all the world to see.



Celebrating 50 1963-2013 years

To mark Operation Eyesight's 50th anniversary in 2013, we'll feature an article about our history in each issue of *SightLines* this year. This one focuses on our first 20 years.



Art and his wife Una visit patients in Sundrani, India. Una was Art's number one supporter, and one of his most dedicated volunteers!



Art Jenkyns

The Club's inaugural banquet was held on June 25, 1963 and raised an incredible \$840 (about \$6,300 in today's money). Art worried Operation

Eyesight might be a fad, but the movement never stopped. Generous donors from across Canada caught the vision and Operation Eyesight took off.

As donors put their money and trust behind Operation Eyesight, the first 20 years saw many firsts:

- » trip to India (Art in 1968)
- » volunteer outside of the steering committee (Win Brubaker)
- » expansion to projects outside Arogyvaram and India (1970)
- » support from Rotary clubs and the Canadian Armed Forces (early 1970s)
- » \$150,000 raised in one year (1973)
- » \$1 million raised since the organization's start (1976)
- » paid employee (Art in 1978)
- » office outside of the First Baptist or Jenkyns basement (1982)

And most importantly, thousands upon thousands of people had their sight restored or protected, thanks to the efforts of Art, his wife Una and their family, his troupe of enthusiastic volunteers, and dedicated donors like you.

A chance meeting in Calgary at the Assembly of Canadian Baptist Federation changed the paths of millions of people's lives. When Operation Eyesight founder Art Jenkyns heard the passion missionary doctor Ben Gullison had for the plight of people of India, he knew he had to help.

There was no way Art, the humble, determined office manager and Scoutmaster, could sit idly when millions of children, women and men in India needed sight – especially since Art's own eyes were poor and he wore thick glasses his entire life. Dr. Ben's vision of the gift of sight struck a chord.

Thus, Operation Eyesight's precursor – the Dr. Ben Gullison Club – was born. Out of the basement of Calgary's First Baptist church, Art lead a handful of enthusiastic volunteers who raised money to pay for cataract surgeries at Dr. Ben's Arogyavaram hospital in Sompeta. Word of Dr. Ben's extraordinary work spread quickly through the Calgary Baptist community. The Jenkyns' phone was soon jangling with callers asking how they could help.

of remarkable generosity

Supporters offer congratulations on 50 years

In 2013, Operation Eyesight will celebrate 50 years of preventing blindness and saving sight. Thanks to our donors, we've been able to have an impact on the lives of many people. But don't take our word for it. See what some political leaders, hospital administrators, and officials from the eye care community have to say about us!

How long have YOU supported Operation Eyesight? What does it mean to you? Let us know at admin@operationeyesight.com, or call us at 1-800-585-8265 and ask for Communications. **We'd love to hear your story!**

This is a wonderful honour to congratulate Operation Eyesight on 50 years of outstanding service in various countries to combat debilitating eye disease. God is glorified by your remarkable record of splendid service to the most needy. Thank you so very much for all of this. God bless you.

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu
Cape Town, South Africa

What a fantastic achievement to have carried out your work for half a century and made such an impact on vision impairment in developing communities.

We have observed with admiration the wonderful difference you've made in India and many African countries, not just treating blindness and vision loss but methodically seeking to address many of its causes. It is a testament to the quality of people within your organisation across this time and their commitment that your efforts to create sustainable eye care systems and promote community development have been so successful.

We are fortunate to have had an association with Operation Eyesight Universal in recent times. In particular, Optometry Giving Sight has received valuable support from your organisation over the last seven years, especially your leadership's participation in our global, US and Canadian boards and national committees.

On behalf of the Brien Holden Vision Institute and Optometry Giving Sight, I offer my sincere congratulations on this wonderful milestone for Operation Eyesight Universal and wish you further success in the future in fulfilling your mission.

Professor Brien Holden, OAM
CEO, Brien Holden Vision Institute
Executive Chair, Optometry Giving Sight

Vision problems are reaching epidemic proportions in the developing world and Operation Eyesight's dedication to the prevention and treatment of avoidable blindness is greatly needed. Your focus on sustainable development ensures that the organization can create and support lasting change that is community-supported and sustainable without foreign aid. Congratulations again on 50 years of working towards eliminating avoidable blindness.

David Swann, MD
MLA Calgary Mountain View

From the beginning, you have implemented programs for "blindness prevention." Through your association with dedicated doctors, nurses, hospitals, eye camps, health care agencies, rural outreach staff have been provided with the necessary resources to educate and provide medical aid to those in need. More recently, your public health initiatives have included drilling water wells and building latrine facilities, thereby providing what we believe is the planet's most precious resource, clean water!

The Jenkyns family is so proud of the worldwide scope of this unique organization. We have witnessed the growth from very modest beginnings to international leadership in the fight against blindness.

We are truly grateful to the many generous supporters who have made this work possible. We believe the current leadership will sustain the work inspired by our father's passion and vision. We know that Operation Eyesight will continue to respond to the challenges of eliminating avoidable blindness in the future, in accordance with their mission.

On behalf of the Art and Una Jenkyns family, we are very thankful for the continuation of the work our father started "For All the World to See."

With sincere thanks and best wishes,

The Art and Una Jenkyns Family

My relationship with Operation Eyesight goes back to 2001 when we set up this hospital in a small village in one of the poorest areas of Andhra Pradesh. I can say without Operation Eyesight's support the project would never have taken off, since Balagram fully depends on its donors for all its activities. The support we have received since then is remarkable and the relationship still continues. We are now implementing an ambitious hospital-based community eye health program covering a population of 150,000 in 76 villages around the hospital, which we expect to go a long way in making the hospital self-sufficient. I wish you all the best for your future endeavors.

Isaac Thomas
Project Coordinator, St. Gregorios Balagram Eye Hospital

'Well Champions' program hits a gusher!

Not only do Operation Eyesight Canada's board members bring significant expertise, energy and commitment to their roles, they have created an exciting new financial initiative as well!

Canada Board chair Dan Parlow and vice-chair Rob Ohlson are leading the "Well Champions for Africa" program to raise funds for water wells in Zambia and Kenya. These two African countries suffer from a lack of available fresh water, which contributes to the agonizing eye disease trachoma.

With wells costing \$42,000/well in Kenya and \$22,000/well in Zambia, Dan and Rob hope colleagues, friends, corporations and members of the wider Operation Eyesight family will consider contributing to a well and becoming a "well champion."

Rob funded a well in Zambia, while Dan put together a network of four investors to fund two wells in the same country. "We are excited at the possibility to transform up to 6,000 lives with our modest investments and to watch the results unfold over the upcoming years," Dan says.

"As the cliché states, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," says Rob. "Not only is clean water the epicenter of eye health, it nurtures huge benefits from education to farming to healthcare to the ability to strive to a better life. It allows people to live, not just exist."



This schoolgirl in Zambia enjoys access to fresh water, thanks to our generous donors!

"Return on investment (ROI) is critical to us, as it is to other donors," adds Dan. "Operation Eyesight's clean water program provides an astonishingly high ROI on blindness prevention, which is readily measurable. This program provides an opportunity for individuals and small groups to participate in the dramatic transformation of an entire village. Your donation can help eradicate blinding trachoma, and provide immense additional benefits which come with access to clean water."

"This fundraising program proves our board members stand behind their passion for Operation Eyesight with their financial commitment," says Brian Foster, interim president and CEO. "They believe in and connect with our mission. It's a fantastic response to a very great need."

If you would like your donation to make a big impact on a community, contact Thérèse Takacs at takacst@operationeyesight.com for more information.

Sight and love in an Indian slum

Gaddam Naresh was devastated. The 28-year old resident of New Delhi's Fatehnagar slum had just learned that his marriage proposal had been rejected because of his poor vision. His sweetheart's family didn't think he could provide for her.

And he couldn't really argue with them. Gaddam's income from driving an auto rickshaw had dropped dramatically since he'd stopped driving at night – he couldn't see very well and was afraid that he'd cause an accident.

After Gaddam's father died, he became the chief breadwinner for his mother and two brothers. He felt that he didn't have time to get his eyes checked because it would take time away from work.

When Vijaya Lakshmi, an Operation Eyesight community health worker, checked his eyes, she saw the problem immediately –



Gaddam after his cataract surgery

cataract. She explained the condition and the surgery required to correct it, and recommended he attend the free screening clinic happening the next day.

Following Vijaya's advice, Gaddam soon found himself on his way to Operation Eyesight partner LV Prasad's secondary eye hospital with a member of our project team. He had surgery on Sept. 6, 2012 and regained 20/20 vision the very next day!

Gaddam is back driving his auto rickshaw at all hours of the day and night, earning additional money for his youngest brother's education and to gain permission to marry his chosen bride. "Because of you, I have regained my confidence. I can see properly, support my family and will marry

my sweetheart," rejoices Gaddam.

Perhaps we can soon add "matchmaker" to the long list of Operation Eyesight donor accomplishments!

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

www.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, 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

My details:

Title: _____

First name: _____

Last name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

Province/State: _____

Postal/Zip code: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Please send me:

information about Legacy Giving

current Report to Donors

2013-nl1jan

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.

Operation Eyesight is an international development organization dedicated to eliminating avoidable blindness in the developing world. For 50 years, our efforts have brought sight to more than two million people and delivered treatment to over 33 million others for a variety of potentially blinding conditions. We work in partnership with medical professionals and community development teams in Ghana, India, Kenya and Zambia to offer high-quality, comprehensive eye care services with long-lasting results.

SightLines is published three times a year by Operation Eyesight.
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Canadian registration #11906 8955 RR0001
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United States registration #20-2682468

Are you up for an adventure?

Intrigued by travel and open to adventure? If Spain, China or Jamaica is on your bucket list as a destination location, why not consider booking your dream trip... while at the same time doing something athletic AND raising money to prevent avoidable blindness?

In honour of our upcoming 50th anniversary, Operation Eyesight has launched a program called Race for a Reason, which offers you the opportunity to run, walk or bike in one of these three exciting destinations, while raising money for a cause you care about.

"Whatever your level of fitness and interest, we have an option for you," says Thérèse Takacs, Operation Eyesight's global director of Philanthropy. "There are different events for all levels of fitness: walking, running, biking, 5 km and 10 km. You can access an effective self-directed training program; and you can even bring a friend or spouse to share in the fun."

Thérèse, who has personal experience with similar adventure events, says that this program is particularly appealing. "We are very pleased to partner with Race for a Reason™, an event management company specializing in cause-related fitness and adventure travel. They have removed the hurdles and barriers, and made it very easy for you to plan your adventure."

Race for a Reason participants will raise money to cover their own trip expenses, with a percentage of the dollars raised going to Operation Eyesight. Thérèse says her team is ready to help you generate ideas for your fundraising.

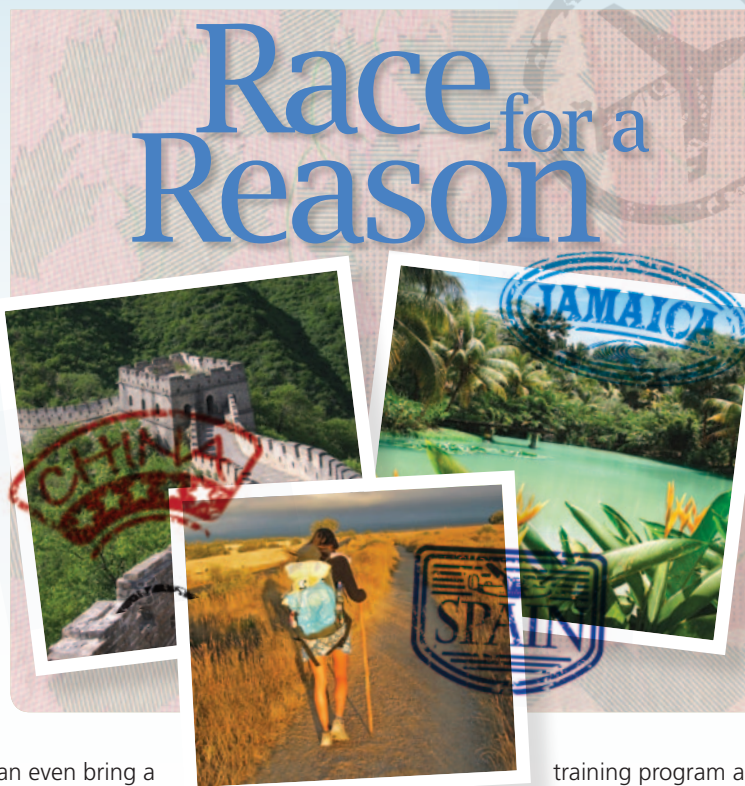
"We have some easy, effective yet fun ideas in our Fundraising Toolkit for you to consider. We can also help you set up a personal fundraising page for your own email campaign. This is the most efficient way to raise money, and it's 100 percent tax receipt-able for your supporters."

Each Race for a Reason travel package includes your flight, hotel (based on double occupancy) and hotel transfers, along with a meet-and-greet reception. Depending on the adventure you choose, your package can also include an in-country travel guide and/or trainer, the event registration fee, a

training program and even a victory celebration.

"This is something really different, something we know our supporters will love," says Thérèse, who urges everyone to get involved.

Interested? To learn more about Operation Eyesight's Race for a Reason, visit www.operationeyesight.com/1r4r, or contact Jennifer Diggins at digginsj@operationeyesight.com.



“Join the Conversation”

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