



“Ding dong, Operation Eyesight calling.”

Your support helps teams go door-to-door to find and help those at risk of blindness!

Evelyne, 28, is a wife, mother of three, and one of our most successful volunteers in her region of Kenya. As a Trachomatous Trichiasis (TT) case finder, Evelyne and a team of women and men travel long distances across Narok district’s dusty plains. When they reach tiny remote villages, the team goes door-to-door to identify, counsel and refer for surgery anyone suffering from **blinding trachoma** (see sidebar).



Our successful survey programs need dedicated people like Evelyne – and you!

In some cases, Evelyne faces fear and mistrust from villagers (mostly men), but thanks to the training our staff provided, she’s often able to convince them that surgery is needed. “I encourage those who’ve had successful surgeries to be ambassadors,” she says. “They can convince other patients that the surgery is safe and that it will change their lives.”

Since Evelyne was trained as a case finder last year, she’s referred 16 TT patients for surgery, all of whom were confirmed cases who have since been operated on. To date, only one patient among those she’s identified has refused surgery.

Since many villagers are fearful of *any* surgery, her success rate is considered remarkable. In fact, word has spread about her good work and villagers are now looking for her!

Evelyne says love for her people fuels her work. “Recently, two women were on the verge of losing their sight but through

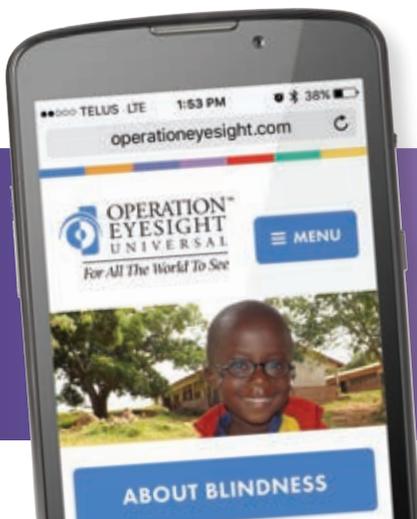
surgeries, they’ve fully gained their vision. These stories keep me motivated.” She’s grateful to kind-hearted donors like you who are contributing to the fight against blindness in Kenya. “Thank you!”

Learn more about our innovative door-to-door approach to fighting blindness on pages 4-5.

What is trachoma?

Trachoma is a bacterial infection and a leading cause of blindness in places like Kenya’s Narok district, where Operation Eyesight has been working since 2006. Left untreated, trachoma causes the eyelid to turn inward and the eyelashes to rub the eyeball, which scars the cornea and ultimately leads to agonizing pain and irreversible blindness.

But a patient’s remaining vision can be preserved with early diagnosis and surgery – thanks to your support!



SEE our new website!

If it’s been a while since you checked us out online, now’s a good time! Whether you visit our website on your desktop computer, tablet or smartphone, you’ll find heartwarming photos and stories about the people you’re helping. See the difference donors like you are making, learn more about where we work, and find out about the sort of work we do. You can also donate and learn more about how you can help us end avoidable blindness forever. Visit us today at the same url, operationeyesight.com!

Thanks to you, people can see a brighter future

2016 Annual General Meeting: Now that was a party!

If your ears were ringing a few months ago, it was probably because we were talking about you, our wonderful donors, at our "Halfway to Christmas" party and Annual General Meeting. (And if you were in Calgary, it may have been because you could hear our friends from the First Baptist Church playing their Christmas handbells.)



Photo by Laura Douglas

Thank you and merry Christmas, from all of us at Operation Eyesight! This year, our Calgary staff were lucky to have Kashinath Bhoosnurmath, our Global Director of Programs, (far left) join us all the way from India.

Thanks to everyone who joined us on June 23 for presentations, celebration and, of course, turkey dinner at the Delta Calgary South Hotel. Nearly 100 donors, volunteers, staff and friends of Operation Eyesight were in attendance – and all of our supporters were with us in spirit – as we celebrated the amazing work you helped make possible in 2015.

We're especially grateful for our generous sponsors who covered the cost of the event: Active Accounting; Data Communications Management; EBI Group Benefits Inc.; Greg McKernan Graphic Design; ICICI Bank of India; Marketwired; MNP LLP; SerVantage; Sure Systems; Topline Printing; Western Union Business Solutions; and two anonymous Santa Clauses.

All our donors, in Canada and across the world, make every day feel like Christmas. Thank you for helping us keep the spirit of giving going all year round!

Your opinion counts!

"Everyone should have the gift of sight." That's the message we received in our *SightLines* reader survey earlier this year. We love to hear from you, so we were thrilled with the wonderful stories and messages you shared.

Some common themes emerged from your replies. There are still many people who personally knew Art Jenkyns or Dr. Ben Gullison. These two remarkable men, who respectively founded and inspired our organization, clearly had an impact on the lives of many people.

Other readers have struggled with eye problems themselves and can understand what it means to live without good eyesight. It heartens us that so many of you believe in the work we do and that so many of you have been giving for so long. **We feel proud to have fantastic supporters like you! Thank you!**

Here's what some of our readers had to say:

- "I appreciate seeing the people who Operation Eyesight helps, as we never can fully imagine their lives and the importance of eyesight."
- "Eyesight is so important to people's independence. I think it is so neat that it's possible to restore somebody's eyesight with a short and relatively cheap operation."
- "I believe eyesight is a beautiful connection to the world and if there is a chance that someone's eyesight can be restored or retained, I like to be part of it. Great work is being done by you."
- "Operation Eyesight does excellent work in places we will never get to. I know that every bit makes a big difference."
- "Vision is a terrible thing to lose, especially if it is preventable. My mother struggled with vision problems all her life, so I try to help if I can."
- "I have been a supporter for over 30 years. I can imagine how devastating the loss of eyesight must be. If everyone restored eyesight to just one person a year, what a difference this would make. We are just doing our small part in helping those who so desperately need it."
- "Eyesight is enormously important, especially in underdeveloped countries. Eye diseases and blindness can often be treated or prevented, but these people depend on organizations like this for help. I admire and support the work that you do."



Thank you for sharing your opinion about our newsletter!

Operation Eyesight returns to Nepal

When we established Nepal Eye Hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal in 1973, we were responding to a critical need for eye care services. It was the first full-fledged eye hospital in the country, and we worked there for many years.



However, in 2002 we performed a strategic assessment of our global partners, and we realized we could have a greater impact by narrowing our focus and working more closely with fewer partners. As a result of this assessment, we withdrew from Nepal.

Today, Nepal Eye Hospital performs over 3,500 surgeries annually, but blindness persists in its service area. Recognizing a need, we're now returning to the country in partnership with Nepal Eye Hospital and Fateh-Bah Eye Hospital. We'll provide training for health staff and implement community eye health projects, including **door-to-door surveys** to identify those at risk of blindness. Through our **Hospital-Based Community Eye Health** model, we'll help hospitals eliminate blindness in the regions they serve.

Wonderful donors like you are helping us restore sight to the people of Nepal. That's something to be proud of!

Giving so that others may see the sunset

In April, there was an amazing sunset over Langley, BC – so breathtaking that 83-year-old Yvonne Maddocks took photos from her balcony at Harrison Pointe retirement home. A few balconies down, 98-year-old Peggy McGregor was watching the same sunset and was inspired to write a poem.



Yvonne (left) and Peggy (right) selling their homemade cards in the lobby of their retirement home.

The next day, the two ladies put the poem and photo together to produce a beautiful card, which they displayed in the lobby of their building. They received so many requests for their creation that they decided to sell the cards in support of Operation Eyesight. They raised an incredible \$550!

"Had Yvonne and I not had our eyesight, we never would have seen that beautiful sunset," says Peggy. "Perhaps we can help others to have that gift."

Thank you, Yvonne and Peggy, for giving the gift of sight in such a unique way! And special thanks to Peggy's son, Jim, for sharing this wonderful story with us.

Tell us your story! Why and how do you support Operation Eyesight? Contact us at **1-800-585-8265** or **info@operationeyesight.com**, or fill out the form on page 7. We'd love to hear from you!

Chess club a champion for charity



The Eagle Butte High School Chess Club sells pizza and snacks to raise money for organizations like Operation Eyesight. Thank you!

Wow! Eagle Butte High School Chess Club from Dunmore, AB has donated over \$2,300 to Operation Eyesight. The students have collected nearly 100 patient identification cards over the years, which they proudly display.

"The cards show students the lives they've forever changed," says teacher Sam Montoya. "They feel good about being able to help others."

Sam suggested Operation Eyesight as a charity the club could support, and the students eagerly agreed. When Sam was 16, an accident with a nail left him blind in one eye. He says it's "a daily reminder to stop and smell the flowers, enjoy the sunset and be nice to people." He encourages his students to do the same. "I try to remind students that we might not be able to solve all of the world's problems, but we can help someone."

Thank you for your support, Eagle Butte High School! And thank you, Sam, for sharing the club's story!

Going door-to-door to end blindness

There are lots of causes of avoidable blindness. One that's especially common in the countries where we work is what's known as "poor eye health-seeking behaviour." It refers to people who have problems with their eyes, but don't seek medical attention. We've learned there are a lot of reasons for this, including a lack of awareness that help is available, myths or superstitions about eyesight, and an inability to pay for services or travel to a clinic.

This behaviour is a major barrier to eliminating avoidable blindness in developing countries. That's why we've adopted a community-based approach, part of which is the recruitment and training of local community health workers, who are often women and often volunteers. While these workers can diagnose basic eye problems and refer people to an appropriate level of care, one of their primary jobs is conducting door-to-door surveys.

Why are these surveys important? Well, our partners conduct them before they even begin working in a region. Community health workers return multiple times to ensure that everyone in an area is screened for eye problems. Then, working with community leaders, our partners create and tailor an approach for action. The health workers visit every household that has a blind or visually impaired person (multiple times if necessary) to help reassure patients and their families and make sure they get the care they need to protect or restore their sight!

In India, this approach has already helped us completely eliminate avoidable blindness in 66 villages by the end of 2015. And many more communities are still to come! We're the only organization in India conducting door-to-door surveys to end avoidable blindness.

In Zambia, in partnership with Standard Chartered Bank's Seeing is Believing program and the Ministry of Health, we're planning door-to-door surveys in three shanty towns in the capital city, Lusaka. These surveys are expected to cover about 450,000 individuals in 90,000 households, with the goal of eliminating avoidable blindness in all of them.

In Kenya, we're part of the Kenya Trachoma Elimination Program funded by the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust. To eliminate blinding trachoma, we work with village elders and local administrators to map villages. Armed with a list of every home, volunteer health workers make sure that every member of every household is screened for trachoma and treated if necessary.

These are just a few ways that going door-to-door can eliminate blindness... and thanks to your support and our innovative and dedicated teams, we won't give up until all the world can see!



A Kenyan boy is screened for eye issues by a community health worker. Women and children suffer from blinding trachoma at a higher rate than men.



Community health workers in Uttar Pradesh, India map out their strategy to visit every household in each cluster.



A community health worker performs an eye exam on a woman in India. In 2015, we had 42 community eye health programs in India, so scenes like this are being repeated every day across this huge and diverse country!

A mother's sight is restored, thanks to door-to-door program

Shakila, 52, is a widow who lives in Bhopal, India. She washes dishes and works at the market to support her daughters as best she can. However, these tasks became extremely difficult when her vision started to blur due to cataract in both eyes.

Soon, she became almost completely blind. On her way home from work, she'd fall down in the street, unable to see in the darkness. Eventually, she couldn't work at all, losing her family's only source of income. Sadly, with no money to seek help, she suffered like this for five years.

Then one day, our partner Aman Advanced Eye Hospital implemented a **Hospital-Based Community Eye Health Program** in Shakila's community. When Nagma, a community health worker, discovered Shakila's condition during a **door-to-door survey**, she made it her mission to help.

Soon, Shakila had one cataract removed. Imagine her joy to be able to see again! Currently she's awaiting surgery on her second eye.

Shakila is a whole new person today! With her dignity and independence restored, she's back at work and able to provide for herself and her daughters. She hopes Operation Eyesight's partners and donors will continue helping those in need. "The smallest help can have the most valuable results," she says.

With your support, we're reaching the unreached. Thank you!



Shakila's happy that she can see again! She had cataract surgery on one eye and plans to have the other eye operated on soon.



Thanks to our trained community health workers, patients like Shakila (centre) can be identified and referred for treatment.

Sharing our knowledge with the global eye health community

In October, representatives from Operation Eyesight will head to Durban, South Africa for the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness's 10th General Assembly. Our team will join 1,600 other delegates to discuss public health issues related to blindness and visual impairment. We submitted seven abstracts to the program committee, and we're delighted to report that all seven were accepted and will be presented at the Assembly.

Our poster presentations will include our child eye health project in Kenya, cataract surgery coverage in Ghana, sustainable vision centres in India and our successful program models. Dr. Boateng Wiafe, our Director of Quality and Advocacy, will also deliver a presentation on the national blindness and visual impairment study we spearheaded in Ghana.

We're excited for the opportunity to share with our international colleagues some of the things we've been able to learn and achieve, thanks to your support. You can read more about the Assembly at 10ga.iapb.org.



A doctor examines a child's eyes at Kapenguria Eye Unit. This hospital is featured in our poster presentation on our comprehensive eye care model in Kenya.

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Una Jenkyns - forever in our hearts

Una Jenkyns, wife of our founder Art Jenkyns, passed away in May at age 98. For staff and volunteers, donors, and Una's family and friends, the loss of Operation Eyesight's biggest supporter was an occasion of great sadness but also of reflection on the life of an incredible woman. It's because of Una's dedication to Art's work that Operation Eyesight grew to be the organization it is today.

Una supported Art's decision to leave his job at an insurance brokerage to become the first president of Operation Eyesight, allowing him to fully commit to the organization. It was a bold move, given that they had five children and were sacrificing their only source of guaranteed income, but Una placed her trust in Art and did everything she could to help him get the charity going.

"She was behind him all the way," says Sylvia Constable, a long-time friend of the Jenkyns family. "They were a true team."

When Art travelled for work, Una carried the responsibilities at home, taking care of their children and Art's administrative work. Like her husband, she had a lot of integrity in her personal life and in the business world, and Art was quick to give her credit for Operation Eyesight's success.

"She was a woman of substance," says Sylvia. "She was a role model for her children, and for everyone else, too."

Even in her final years, when she was faced with the challenges of dementia, Una remained the woman her family knew and loved, steady in her faith. The work started by her beloved husband always had a special place in her heart, which she demonstrated by leaving a thoughtful gift to Operation Eyesight in her will.

Una's kindness will be felt for generations to come as we continue the work she and Art began 53 years ago. Her legacy will live on through Operation Eyesight, her children, and those she inspired. "She really tried to be the best that she could be," says Sylvia. "And she succeeded."

Our deepest condolences to the Jenkyns family on the loss of their mother and grandmother.



Una and Art Jenkyns at the Taj Mahal in India.



Leave A Legacy For All The World To See

See what your lasting gift can do

The gift of sight transforms lives and communities. Leaving a gift to Operation Eyesight in your will is your opportunity to leave a lasting legacy of sight and hope. Contact **Susan** at **403-670-2635** or toll-free at **1-800-585-8265**, or by email at **DeikeS@operationeyesight.com**.

Plan ahead for holiday giving!



Give a meaningful gift AND help patients like Livia!

When it comes time to planning your holiday gift list this year, we have a great suggestion: consider giving virtual gifts to your friends and family that will bring a smile to their faces AND help restore sight to someone in need!

Visit our Gift Guide to learn about virtual gift options that touch many lives.

For instance...

- Only \$50** will purchase a life-changing cataract surgery for a blind person in Africa or India.
- Every \$20** will provide brand-new, custom-fitted prescription eyeglasses for up to three people.



Visit operationeyesight.com/giftguide or call **1-800-585-8265** to stock up today. And thank you for your loyal support!

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:

information about how to leave a gift in my will

current Report to Donors

2016-n13

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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A young cataract patient sees a kinder fate

Thirteen-year-old Manjula lives with her mother and three siblings in a rented room in a slum of Bangalore, India. For years, Manjula enjoyed a normal life, going to school, playing with her friends and helping her mother with chores. But two years ago, she started having difficulty seeing the blackboard in class.

She confided in her mother, but they couldn't seek help since the family is extremely poor. As the only income earner in the family, Manjula's mother works as a sweeper for the municipal government. Manjula's two sisters are physically challenged and their mother also has to pay for their treatment.

Over time, Manjula's vision worsened until she wasn't able to see anything clearly. Life was just a fuzzy blur! Literally unable to focus, she finally dropped out of school. Without an education, what would become of her?

Finally, Manjula's mother took her to a hospital, where they learned that she had treatable cataracts in both eyes. However, they could not afford the surgeries! In despair, Manjula's mother cried that blindness was her daughter's fate and Manjula would have to suffer for the rest of her life.



Manjula wears dark glasses to rest her eyes after cataract surgery.

But fate had kinder plans for this young girl! Three months later, two community health workers came across Manjula during a routine **door-to-door survey** (see page 4).

By this time, Manjula's vision was reduced to light and dark blurs, and she had just about given up hope of ever seeing again. Fortunately, the community health workers were able to convince Manjula's mother that her daughter could have normal vision after surgery.



With her vision restored, Manjula is able to read again! Thank you!

for cataract. And, considering the family's poverty, the surgeries were performed free of cost, thanks to our generous donors.

Today, Manjula is enjoying her good vision, and will return to school next term. She and her mother are grateful to the community health workers, the hospital and especially kind-hearted donors like you for changing the course of her life! Thank you!

They brought Manjula to the eye screening program at Operation Eyesight's partner hospital, Vittala International Institute of Ophthalmology, where she successfully underwent surgery

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