

Sample Speech

*Here are examples speeches that you can modify and use when speaking at an event.*

# Smaller, relatively informal event

Hi everyone. For those of you I haven’t officially met yet, my name is <<insert your name here>> and, as you know, I am fundraising for Operation Eyesight Universal.

More importantly, I’m fundraising on behalf of the **millions of people** in the world who are unnecessarily blind simply because they are poor.

Every five seconds, one person in the world goes blind. A child goes blind every minute. Yet for almost 3 out of 4 of these people, blindness was completely preventable.

Operation Eyesight is dedicated to eliminating avoidable blindness. Since their work began in 1963, they have brought sight-saving treatment to more than 35 million people. Today their work is focused on India and the African countries of Ghana, Kenya and Zambia – places where blindness can be deadly, especially to those who are very young, old or poor.

Their funds come from caring citizens like us who know that a small investment goes a long way. For example, **for only $50**, you can restore the sight of one eye through cataract surgery. For just $50 you can **change a person’s life**.

Operation Eyesight is addressing the root causes of blindness. Not only do they provide surgery and glasses, they also bring clean water, basic sanitation, immunization, education and nutrition to communities. Most importantly, they build the **sustainable development** of eye care services within a public health system which India and Africa can manage without foreign support.

It is **their hope** that **one day** these communities will no longer need their services.

I encourage you all to visit Operation Eyesight’s website, operationeyesight.com, to learn more about their work. Also, please feel free to ask me any questions you may have.

Again, thank you all for coming out and supporting this event.

Together we are doing great things – for all the world to see.

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# Larger, formal event

Good evening. My name is <<INSERT YOUR NAME>> and I <<SUPPORT/VOLUNTEER FOR/AM FUNDRAISING FOR >> Operation Eyesight Universal.

Tonight I am not only here on behalf of Operation Eyesight, but more importantly, I’m here on behalf of the **millions of people** in the world who are unnecessarily blind simply because they are poor.

Every five seconds, one person in the world goes blind. A child goes blind every minute. Yet for almost 3 out of 4 of these people, blindness was completely preventable. Operation Eyesight is an international development organization dedicated to eliminating avoidable blindness. Since their work began in 1963, they have brought sight-saving treatment to more than 35 million people. Today their work is focused on India and the African countries of Ghana, Kenya and Zambia – places where blindness can be deadly, especially to those who are very young, old or poor.

Through Operation Eyesight, people are helped regardless of means, gender, caste or creed. They work in partnership with medical professionals and community development teams, building essential resources that give **all** people, **including the poorest**, access to the help they need. Their focus on high-quality, comprehensive eye care ensures sustainable services for entire communities, with long-lasting results.

Their funds come from caring citizens like us who know that a small investment goes a long way. Restoring the sight of one eye through cataract surgery costs $50. **Only $50 to change a person’s life.** Restoring sight impacts a whole community at many levels.

A blind man cannot support himself or his family, and is unable to economically contribute to his community or country. A blind adult is often forced to beg to survive. Most blind children do not go to school and may be ostracized from their family and their community. With a blind family member, children, especially girls, are often kept out of school to provide care.

There is so much more to the causes of blindness than one would think of. Why is it that 90 percent of the world’s blind live in developing countries? Because blindness has a direct link to poverty.

From poor drinking water, to inability to pay for eye care, to lack of nutrition, blindness and vision problems are a burden of marginalized communities.

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Operation Eyesight is addressing these root causes. Not only do they provide surgery and glasses, they also bring clean water, basic sanitation, immunization, education and nutrition to communities. Most importantly, they build the **sustainable development** of eye care services within a public health system which India and Africa can manage without foreign support.

It is **their hope** that **one day** these communities will no longer need their services.

Now I’m going to tell you something shocking – but true: in the short time that I’ve been up here presenting this to you, **three children and 36 men and women in the world have gone blind**. With your help, we can achieve our goal and eliminate avoidable blindness.

Please feel free to come by <<INSERT LOCATION, EX: OUR TABLE>> for more information and to ask any questions you may have. With your donation, we will provide you with a cash receipt. An official Canadian charitable tax receipt will be delivered to you in the mail.

This has been a wonderful evening.

\*THANK HOST FOR INVITING YOU AND SAY “IT IS AN HONOUR TO BE HERE TONIGHT or THANK EVERYONE FOR COMING TO THE EVENT THAT YOU ORGANIZED.\*

On behalf of Operation Eyesight and all those you are helping, thank you.

Together we are doing great things – for all the world to see.