



You can't contain it in a box, but...

The Gift of Sight is always **the perfect gift!**

With only three weeks left until Christmas, you may be worried about how you're going to finish your gift shopping. Thankfully, you have an easy option: **our Gift Guide!**

Stay warm and comfortable at home, while still getting perfect gifts for everyone on your shopping list. Yes, even for those people who are hard-to-buy for – the ones who seem to have everything!

This year, double your impact and give two gifts in one by sending a virtual gift – the Gift of Sight! It will bring a smile to the recipient's face **AND** help restore sight to someone in Asia or Africa – someone like Teresa. Read her story (at right).

Each gift will be sent to the recipient as a beautiful holiday card, along with a gift tag that describes the work you are supporting. Check out all our options today! We have ideas perfect for everyone... gifts for an entire family, a parent or grandparent, a friend or business associate, a teacher or coach. Why not put the Gift of Sight into someone's stocking this year?



Give two presents in one this holiday season, and give someone like Teresa the Gift of Sight!

To order today, visit **operationeyesight.com/giftguide**, or pick up the phone and call our friendly staff toll-free at **1-800-585-8265**. They'll be happy to help you make your selection.

And on behalf of everyone at Operation Eyesight, our warmest thanks for your support over the past year, and our very best wishes for a merry Christmas. May you celebrate in good health, and see the faces of the ones you love!

Teresa lives in Arunachal Pradesh, India. She's proud to be a traditional handloom weaver. It's beautiful, intricate work, and she's very good at it.

But three years ago, Teresa started losing her sight – a great tragedy for someone who needs eyesight to earn a living. She suffered silently until she could work no longer. Imagine her despair!

Then, one day, a community health worker in her village told her about an Operation Eyesight screening program held in a nearby village. There, Teresa was diagnosed with bilateral cataract and referred for surgery – funded by a generous friend like you!

After successful surgery, Teresa's vision was restored; and today, she's able to weave again, thanks to your kindness. **A Christmas miracle indeed!**



Want to maximize your tax credits? Consider donating shares!



This time of year is the perfect time to make a gift of securities to Operation Eyesight. Your gift will entitle you to a donation receipt for the resale of your contribution, and you'll receive a non-refundable tax credit that can either reduce your income taxes in the year of your gift, or be carried forward for up to five additional years. You won't pay any capital gains tax on the appreciated value of your securities.

By donating securities directly to Operation Eyesight, you'll avoid capital gains taxes, maximize the return on your investment and preserve your tax credits to be used against other taxable income. **Talk to your financial advisor today for more information.** And thank you... **For All The World To See!**

SEE your faithful support at work

We couldn't have done it without you!

Due to your ongoing support, we received a Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) award in September.

Presented to us from the Canadian network of the United Nations' Global Compact, the award recognizes our work in embedding seven of the world's 17 SDGs in our work. **And we have you to thank for this recognition!**

With your help, we're meeting our goals to: **1) reduce poverty; 2) promote good health and well-being; 3) provide quality**

education; **4) ensure gender equality; 5) provide clean water and sanitation; 6) ensure reduced inequalities; and 7) create partnerships to fulfill the goals.** It's your loyalty and our collaboration that made this award possible!

As you know, blindness can be a death sentence for poor people in developing countries. Without sight, people are robbed of their ability to earn a livelihood. Adopting and aligning these SDGs with our work have benefitted millions of people in the countries where we work.

Your donations helped us screen more than 3.4 million patients last year and establish 107 vision centres in India, and since 2006, we've trained 15,300 community health workers — 80 percent of them women.

Working with you and our partners, we're reaching the unreachable. We're restoring people's sight and breaking the cycle of



poverty to give entire families hope. Imagine! They'll be able to see the world around them to be able to work, study and play.

Truly great things happen when we work together – and that's priceless!

Learn more about this exciting award by visiting globalcompact.ca and searching for Operation Eyesight.



Warmest thanks to the following milestone donors for your decades of support. You've made such an amazing difference over the years, and we're so grateful for your loyalty!

- **Vidyut Mehta:** 30 years
- **Peggy and Bob Nicholson:** 20 years
- **Sydney Deitch:** 20 years
- **Peter and Patricia Glennie:** 10 years

One problem you can't grow out of

Meshack lives in a village in Bungoma county, Kenya. By the time he turned five, his parents noticed he was having trouble seeing clearly. They were distraught and didn't know what to do! They asked their friends for advice who said not to worry;

the little boy would surely grow out of the problem.

But Meshack's vision only got worse, and by grade four he was struggling to read. His parents tried assuring him he'd

eventually grow out of it, but Meshack grew frustrated and continued falling further behind in school.

But help was around the corner for Meshack! One day, a PEEK (Portable Eye Examination Kit) screening was held at his school. He was immediately referred for further testing to Kitale Eye Unit, built by Operation Eyesight in 2012. Sure enough, the little boy had refractive error, meaning he simply needed eyeglasses. And thanks to the support of kind people like you, he received his new prescription eyeglasses at no cost to his family!

Now that he can see, Meshack is eagerly catching up with his studies, and hopes to become a doctor one day. He and his parents are so grateful for your support.

Thank you!



Meshack can see to study now and dreams of becoming a doctor one day!



Sharing stories from the heart



Where there's a will – there's a wonderful opportunity!

What do many of our most faithful supporters have in common? They've named Operation Eyesight as a beneficiary in their wills. And on behalf of the children, women and men we help, we couldn't be more grateful!

"Wills are very important! I encourage everyone to make a will and consider supporting their favourite charities," says one longtime donor, Jackie (last name withheld by request) from Ontario.

"When my husband and I discussed our wills, we decided that we're willing to share whatever we have. It's not a huge estate, but we're so glad to be able to help Operation Eyesight."

A loyal donor since 1991, Jackie's endured vision problems herself for many years, and



Dr. John Welling

A grateful patient thanks you for considering a legacy gift!

appreciates the value of good eyesight. She grew up in a developing country in a family of eight kids with a single mom.

"I know how hard it is for poor people in Asia and Africa, especially women. They shoulder so many responsibilities and put up with so much. And the burden of blindness is very hard. Without eyesight, you lose so much – independence, education, the ability to get ahead and help your children. People don't want that; they want to be independent."

Jackie says that avoidable blindness can be such an easy thing to cure. "I think everyone should consider adding Operation Eyesight to their will. Together, we can help people get a better life, so their struggles are not so difficult," she says.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your many years of loyal support, Jackie! We're truly grateful, and so are the many people you've helped and will continue to help in the future.

SEE what your lasting gift can do

Designating a gift to Operation Eyesight in your will is your opportunity to give the gift of sight and leave a legacy of hope that will last for generations.

For more information, contact Susan at 403-670-2635 or toll-free at 1-800-585-8265, or email her at Deike5@operationeyesight.com.



Giving to others is a gift in itself

"When you give a gift, you get back so much in return. It does you good."

Those words of wisdom come from Joanne (last name withheld by request), one of our treasured donors from Ontario. Giving to Operation Eyesight is part of Joanne's family's lifestyle and has been since 1985.

"I wanted to encourage giving in others, and give gifts with meaning," she says. And now her children, grandchildren and great-grandchild love to receive these meaningful tribute gifts!

Joanne also appreciates the ease of giving gifts through Operation Eyesight. "It's unnecessary to wrack your brain to give things that people don't need." But more than that, she feels a Christian

duty to help others. "God gave us the gift of sight," she says. "These are small gifts in His name."

Joanne first learned about Operation Eyesight from her son, who had applied for a job with us. He didn't get the job, but when she started researching Operation Eyesight, Joanne realized it was the perfect charity for her. "It warms my heart to know people are receiving their sight," she says.

It warms our hearts to have amazing donors like Joanne! Her many gifts over the years have transformed the lives of others in need. Thank you, Joanne... your generosity certainly has meaning to us!

Tell us your story! How and why do you support Operation Eyesight? Call us toll-free at 1-800-585-8265 or email us at info@operationeyesight.com. We'd love to hear from you!



Peter Carrette

This young mom is so grateful for the support of people like you! "So many of us have so much more than we need," says Joanne. "It's important to appreciate what we have. I want others to be able to see and appreciate God's world."



Our focus on the world



Looking at our donors' work... in India!

We get excited when we hear or see first-hand our success from the field. And we can't wait to tell our donors, **because each success story is because of you!**

In September, a member of our donor relations team, Brittany Beatty, visited five states in India over two-and-a-half weeks. Her itinerary was crammed with visits to seven partners, and she came back brimming with personal stories of the great work that dedicated donors like you are helping us achieve.

"Our Indian team is passionate about their work and it's clear how knowledgeable and caring they are for the people they're helping," says Brittany. She adds that she had some "aha!" moments in India.

"It was clear to me that our donors are bringing real value to our partner hospitals by helping them transform



Dr. Shivam Mairni

Brittany (right) speaks with a patient at a screening clinic in Jorhat, India as part of a community-based diabetic retinopathy project.

their operations and outreach programs. Because of our donors, Operation Eyesight provides critical knowledge and training to eye care professionals, and our excellent reputation keeps growing," she says.

Brittany was struck by the gratitude and hospitality of the people she visited. "I was welcomed with open arms wherever I went, even in some of the over-crowded slums we visited," she says.

One of the biggest things Brittany learned is how much more work there's still to do. "I felt humbled in the

presence of our staff. It was amazing to experience first-hand the impact they're having on the people we're helping."

Thanks to your support, our work is creating ripple effects throughout the communities we serve. From eye care patients to the staff we train, your support is giving hope to so many children, women and men who deserve to see the world around them. Together, we are transforming entire communities!



Dr. Shivam Mairni

Brittany (left) learns about the work community health worker Kanchan is doing. Kanchan works at one of our partner hospitals, and says she begged for the position so she could work and support her family.

The world is seeing better eye health care, thanks to you!



Bandana Pokharel

Donors like you make it possible for this Nepalese mother and child to count on quality eye health care!

The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) held its annual Council of Members and Annual General Meeting last September in Katmandu, Nepal. Our Executive Director Brian Foster attended, along with our Global Director, International Programs, Kashinath Bhoosurmth, who sits on the IAPB board of directors.

"It's always wonderful connecting with colleagues and hearing about the great work being done to prevent avoidable blindness around the world," says Brian. "What became obvious throughout our four days of meetings was that

Operation Eyesight is recognized as providing sustainable and impactful programming, and a large number of delegates were vying to spend time with us to learn about our work — **work made possible by our many generous donors."**

The conference was an opportunity to meet with new and existing partners and World Health Organization officials. "Brian and I are truly grateful to our donors for supporting our achievements in advancing our community eye health programs!" says Kashinath.

For all the world to **SEE**



Make a special year-end gift from the heart today!

As we celebrate this wonderful Christmas season, we're especially grateful for your loyal support over the past year. Millions of people can see the world today, thanks to your kindness!



But there are still so many who need your help. Please make a special year-end tax deductible gift today to ensure that we can continue to provide sight-saving services to those who need it most. Your kindness will create ripples throughout many lives! **Just think:**

- ♥ Children will be able to go to school because they don't need to stay home and care for blind family members;
- ♥ Mothers will be able to care for their children;
- ♥ Fathers will be able to earn an income so they can provide for their families; and
- ♥ Grandparents will be able to help raise their grandchildren and contribute to their families.

If you've already sent your year-end gift, please accept our heartfelt thanks! And if you haven't found time to contribute, we urge you to take a moment now and send your special year-end gift. **Together, we can lift the darkness of avoidable blindness and literally change lives!**

Join the monthly giving club!

Become a monthly donor today – it's the easiest way to give! Just provide us with your credit card or bank account information, and your donation will be withdrawn automatically each month. At the end of each year, we'll mail you a consolidated tax receipt for income tax purposes.

Already a monthly donor? Please consider increasing your contribution. Just think... by increasing your monthly

donation by just \$5 a month, you could provide cataract surgery for one more person – or provide prescription eyeglasses for up to nine more people each year!

Whether you choose to give monthly or not, we're so grateful for your commitment. Your continuous gifts ensure our work doesn't end until we've eliminated avoidable blindness once and for all. Thank you!

Look!
New data shows how far we've come

36 million people are blind



217 million other people have moderate to severe visual impairment



115 million people could be blind by 2050

See visual maps of the new research at the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness's Vision Atlas, atlas.iapb.org.

In October, the World Health Organization released its latest research into the global number of people with blindness and visual impairment. Their estimate of 253 million people is both encouraging and a reminder of how much work we still have to do.

The good news? There are 90 million fewer people who are blind or visually impaired than were estimated, based on 1990 prevalence rates. That's better than expected and a huge success for the eye care community, including Operation Eyesight. **It couldn't have happened without our amazing donors!**

However, the total number of people with vision problems has continued to rise, up from 191 million in 1990. That means there's much more to be done. **We're counting on your continued support!**

7 ways you can connect with us!

1. Call our friendly office staff at **1-800-585-8265**.
2. 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!
3. Visit operationeyesight.com/newsletter and sign up for our *Glimpse* eNews bulletin for quick email updates.
4. Read our weekly posts at operationeyesight.com/blog
5. Visit us on Facebook: **OperationEyesightUniversal**
6. Watch us on YouTube: **OpEyesightUniversal**
7. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram: **@OpEyesight**



Make your gift today!



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

We do not sell, trade or 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 our mailing lists, please call 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.

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admin@operationeyesight.com

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My Special Year-End 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

Online: Go to operationeyesight.com and follow the links

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: _____

Yes! I'm making a special year-end gift of:

\$200 \$150 \$100 \$40 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

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

Full 2016 Report to Donors

2018-n11

Tell us your story!

I support Operation Eyesight because: _____

Please cut or tear this page out before filling it out and mailing it back to Operation Eyesight.



Thank you!