



*You helped open a whole new world!*

## A little girl journeys out of darkness

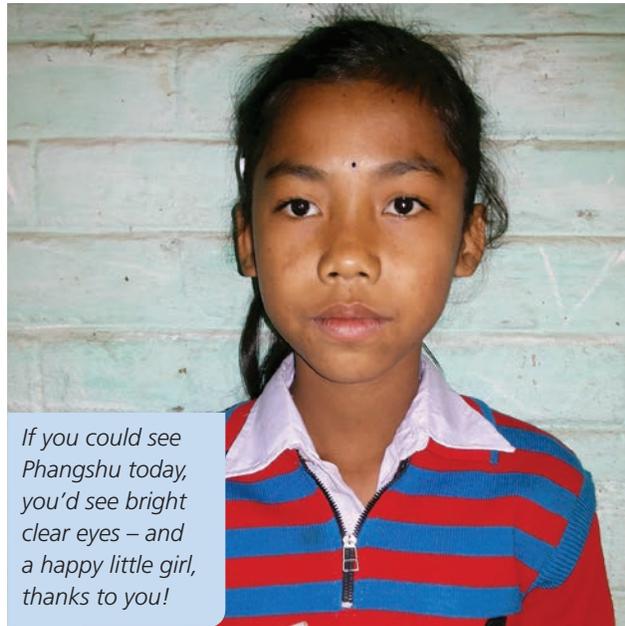
Think back to when you were 12 years old. Hopefully, you were playing with friends, (mostly) enjoying your days in school and generally having a great time being a kid.

Unfortunately, life wasn't like that for Phangshu, a little girl living in the village of Sonapur in India.

Not only was she born into a very poor and under-educated family, Phangshu was born almost blind. This was a great hardship for her family, as someone had to stay at home with her all the time, unable to work.

By the time she was 12, Phangshu's world was very dark. Barely able to see shapes, she stayed indoors most of the time, unable to attend school. **What future could she ever hope for?**

Then, one day, her misery came to an end! An Operation Eyesight-trained community health worker (CHW) visited



*If you could see Phangshu today, you'd see bright clear eyes – and a happy little girl, thanks to you!*

Phangshu's family and identified cataracts in both Phangshu's eyes. The CHW counseled Phangshu's mother, who was understandably apprehensive about the cost of treatment.

**Imagine the family's joy when the CHW was able to assure them that all treatment would be free of cost, thanks to generous donors like you!**

Soon, her mother took Phangshu to our partner hospital, Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya Eye Hospital. There, she was successfully operated on for congenital cataracts. She could see!

Life for Phangshu changed dramatically after the operation. In fact, she told our staff that **now**

**she's the happiest girl in her village!**

She attends school regularly and is able to help out at home. Her mother says, "Thank you for bringing my child's life back through your support!"



*With your help, we can prevent trachoma from robbing people of their sight!*

## Help celebrate World Water Day!

March 22 is World Water Day, and we have a great reason to celebrate! Together, we're saving sight and lives by providing clean water and eye health education in Zambia and Kenya. We're helping stop the spread of trachoma, a bacterial eye infection that leads to irreversible blindness.

While we're working to prevent the spread of trachoma, we're also providing surgeries for those who are already infected.

With your help, we can save them from a lifetime of blindness and pain. In honour of World Water Day, please consider donating to our trachoma surgery program at [operationeyesight.com/trachoma](http://operationeyesight.com/trachoma) or by calling us toll-free at **1-800-585-8265**. We appreciate your support!

*See inside to learn more about "Washing Away Blindness," our special campaign to fight trachoma in Zambia.*

**SEE** your  
loyal support  
at work

## Quick. Easy. Meaningful. Give a tribute gift today!

If you're celebrating a special occasion (or know someone who is), we can help take the guesswork out of gift shopping. Have you ever heard of a **tribute gift**? It's when you make a charitable donation in the name of a friend or family member. **It's a unique way to celebrate a birthday (or other occasion) and at the same time, help someone in need.**

When you give a tribute gift to Operation Eyesight, you can request to have a greeting card or eCard sent directly to the recipient. You can also ask your family and friends to make a tribute gift in your honour. And best of all, you'll be giving others an incredible gift: the gift of sight! *Learn more by calling us toll-free at 1-800-585-8265 or visiting [operationeyesight.com/tribute](http://operationeyesight.com/tribute).*



## Shining a spotlight on an incredible volunteer

Operation Eyesight is so lucky to have devoted and hardworking volunteers. Whether it's making thank you calls, working at events or helping around the office, we're very grateful for their generous donations of time and heart.

Laurie Manion has been one of our essential volunteers since November 2014. A civil engineer who worked in water resources for municipalities near Calgary, AB, Laurie's career left her little time to think about the bigger picture. After she retired, she sought out volunteering to provide an anchor for her week, and also a way to give back to the community. Indulging an interest in global health, she found Operation Eyesight, as well as the University of Calgary's Laos Community Development Initiative.

"I've always been interested in trying to smooth out the imbalances," she says. "I can't imagine what people in developing nations go through."

Laurie brings us her enthusiasm, knowledge and creativity, and is always willing to lend a helping hand. She does so much that we nominated her for the Stars of Alberta Volunteer Award! "There are so many volunteers who do good work," she says. "The nomination made me feel like I was making a difference. I want to be helping others."



*"Volunteering makes me kinder!" says Laurie (in our Calgary office).*

**Thinking about volunteering? "You get back tenfold what you give," Laurie says. "We have so much that if we can share the time, I think we have an obligation to help those less fortunate."**

We certainly agree, and we know our founder Art Jenkyns would have as well! Thank you, Laurie – and thanks to all our volunteers!

## 7 ways you can connect with us!

1. Call our friendly office administrator, Ashten, 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](http://operationeyesight.com/newsletter) and sign up for our *Glimpse* eNews bulletin for quick email updates.
4. Read our weekly posts at: [operationeyesight.com/blog](http://operationeyesight.com/blog)
5. Visit us on Facebook: **OperationEyesightUniversal**
6. Watch us on YouTube: **OpEyesightUniversal**
7. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram: **@OpEyesight**

# Sharing stories from the heart

## Donors create a ripple effect

Evelyn and Jack Smit from Elliot Lake, ON have been donating to Operation Eyesight for nearly three decades. Evelyn is blind herself and says she considers herself lucky to live in Canada where she can still lead a normal life despite her disability. She knows that it wouldn't be the same in a developing country where being blind is a tragedy.

The Smits choose to invest in Operation Eyesight because they know that by



*The Smits have helped many cataract patients like Atul, who is now furthering his education so he can one day help provide for his family!*

giving a little, they can save the life of someone else. They also know that by helping restore sight to one person, they're helping an entire family. A parent can work and provide for their family, a grandparent can help take care of their

grandchildren, and a child – who might otherwise have to stay home to help their blind parent – can go to school. It's a "positive domino effect," as Evelyn refers to it.

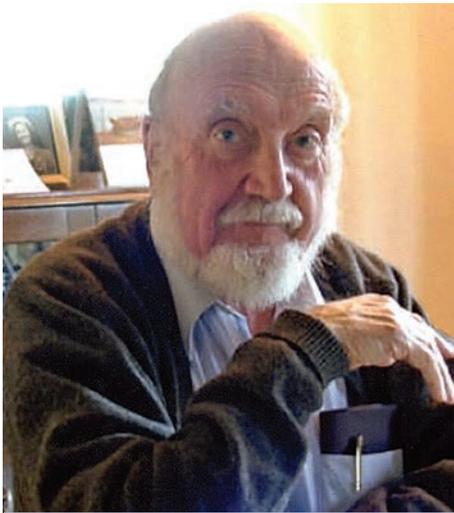
Recognizing the incredible impact they're able to create through a small gift has encouraged the Smits to give generously over the years – and we appreciate their dedicated support!

"We're happy to support Operation Eyesight," says Evelyn. "Keep up the good work!"

With donors like Jack and Evelyn by our side, we definitely will!

*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](mailto:info@operationeyesight.com). We'd love to hear from you!*

## Making the world a better place – with a final gift from the heart



*Michael Hall-Patch, 1922 - 2016.*

Michael Hall-Patch, a long-time donor, left a generous legacy to Operation Eyesight when he passed away in Victoria, BC last year at the age of 94. Michael's eldest son Nick says he and his four siblings grew up learning that "sharing what you had with others was just the way things were." He says his parents raised their kids to care about those with less and to give back. "It was the normal way of looking at life."

Life in the Hall-Patch household, Nick laughs, was "never what you'd call ordinary." His father was "always interesting, rarely predictable and bubbling up with creativity." Family breakfasts of "Green Eggs and Ham" were a regular occurrence, something

that Nick continues today with his own family. Michael was also a talented writer who regularly shared his strong opinions with the local media over everything from tobacco use to urban wildlife.

While laughing about his father's "incredible sense of humour," Nick says his dad had a serious side, teaching his children that it was important to always keep your promises.

"There was a wonderful dichotomy of doing what was expected, mixed with the totally unexpected," Nick adds.

Nick says the family is proud of Michael's final gift to Operation Eyesight. They know their father did what *they* expected – he left the world a better place. We're very grateful to Michael for his generosity. *Special thanks to Nick for sharing his memories with us!*

## 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 lasting legacy of hope.

For more information, contact Susan at **403-670-2635** or toll-free at **1-800-585-8265**, or email her at [DeikeS@operationeyesight.com](mailto:DeikeS@operationeyesight.com).



Leave <sup>A</sup>  
Legacy  
For All The  
World to See

# Our focus on the world

## A mom's quick response prevents her son's blindness

It was a parent's worst nightmare! Lilian, a young mother in Kitale, Kenya, was inside her home when she heard wails of pain from her three-year-old. Little Samuel was playing outside with friends – and his left eye had been pierced with a nail!

Terrified, Lilian scooped up her son and rushed him to nearby Kitale District Hospital. A nurse examined him, and provided painkillers and medication for

his eye. The nurse told Lilian to bring Samuel back in three days if his eye didn't improve.

It was a long wait for the anxious parents! Poor Samuel's eye looked worse than ever when Lilian and her husband Fredrick brought their son back to the hospital three days later. This time, the little boy was referred to the Operation Eyesight-funded Kitale Eye Unit, where he was diagnosed with a corneal perforation.

There was no time to waste! Corneal perforation leads to infection and eventual blindness if not repaired quickly. Samuel was booked for surgery the next day – and you can imagine his parents' relief when they found out his operation was a success. Today, their son is still able to see!

**"We'll always be grateful to the doctor and to Operation Eyesight's**



*Lilian holds her son Samuel after his successful recovery from eye surgery.*

**donors, who have enabled us to get eye services near us through their sacrifice and service to mankind!" says Fredrick. "Thank you!"**

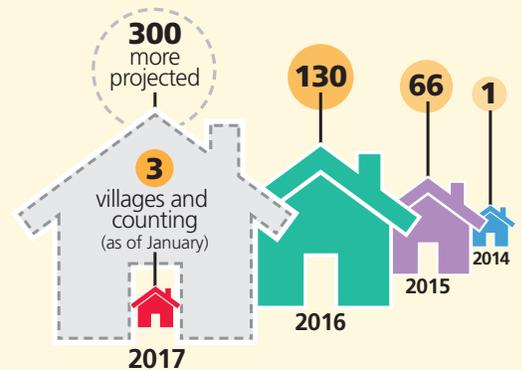
## Wow! Let's celebrate more than 200 villages free of avoidable blindness

On January 19, 2017, eye care patients and their families, village representatives, local politicians and villagers from Bisahat Jaitpura attended a public meeting. The goal: to declare the village in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh free of avoidable blindness!

It's true: everyone in the village who suffered from unnecessary blindness or was at risk of going blind due to preventable causes has been treated.

There's another reason to celebrate Bisahat Jaitpura: **it was the 200th village we've declared avoidable blindness-free, thanks to the generosity of donors like you!**

Since 2014, when we declared the first avoidable blindness-free village in India's Telangana state, our hospital partners have been working with communities to develop plans to tackle issues as wide-ranging as gender discrimination, vitamin A deficiency, poor sanitation and malnutrition, all of which can compound lack of eye health care.



**200 villages** declared avoidable-blindness free!

Together, the communities, hospital staff and local health workers develop plans to deal with cataracts and other eye problems. The villages take ownership of their eye health and agree that people who develop eye problems will be treated promptly. Thanks to this behaviour, and the sustainable vision centres that we've established, these villages will stay free of avoidable blindness. We couldn't do it without you, our amazing donors! Thank you!

**Share our excitement with every new avoidable blindness-free village! Watch for more updates in the coming months.**

*Patients and their families, villagers and local officials gathered to declare Bisahat Jaitpura free of avoidable blindness. They celebrated the donors who made this possible, the hard work of the hospital teams and community health workers, and their ownership of their eye health!*



# Saving sight and **lives**

## Washing away blindness in Zambia!



*Together, we're saving sight and lives by providing clean water and eye health education to communities in Zambia!*

Last year, a valued donor and friend to Operation Eyesight initiated a "Washing Away Blindness" campaign to bring fresh, clean water to

communities in Zambia. Our Board Chair, Rob Ohlson, generously offered to match all donations made to the campaign in 2016.

Realizing the remarkable opportunity to double their donation and be part of a long-term solution to prevent blindness, those who were contacted tried to make the most generous gift they could. The result? An incredible \$485,000 was raised to develop 24 well programs and protect thousands of people from going blind from sight-stealing trachoma!

Each borehole will serve approximately 400 people, which means 9,600 people will receive access to safe, clean water.

### **And each well will create a ripple effect for generations to come!**

Communities will be educated on eye health, sanitation and environmental management – all vital to preventing the spread of diseases like trachoma, a bacterial eye infection which eventually leads to complete, incurable – yet preventable! – blindness. **Thanks to your support, we're one step closer to washing away blindness in Zambia!**



*Our "Washing Away Blindness" campaign was inspired by our generous matching donor, Rob Ohlson. Thank you, Rob, for your incredible gift – and for your contagious enthusiasm. You make the world a better place!*

*While the campaign may be over, our work to fight blinding trachoma is ongoing. Please consider donating to our trachoma surgery program at **1-800-585-8265** or **[operationeyesight.com/trachoma](http://operationeyesight.com/trachoma)**.*



## You're helping eye cancer patients from India and around the world

In September 2015, we opened the Operation Eyesight Universal Institute for Eye Cancer in India in response to the shocking fact that **every day, four children in India are born with eye cancer**. Thanks to donors like you, we're saving lives!

The Institute, which is housed at the L V Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad,

India deals exclusively with tumours within and around the eye, providing comprehensive treatment for the entire range of ophthalmic tumours in both adults and children. Since its opening, we've screened nearly **40,000 people**, diagnosed more than **1,700 patients** with eye tumours and performed **6,445 procedures** including surgeries and chemotherapy. The Institute has also

trained several ophthalmologists and optometrists as part of its fellowship program, and has published several research papers in peer-reviewed journals.

The Institute was established thanks to a generous gift from a Canadian family, and with your continued support, it will save thousands more lives! **Thank you!**

Four-year-old Sauloohleng from Kenya was diagnosed with retinoblastoma in both eyes when he was a baby. He received treatment at a local hospital, where he underwent chemotherapy and had his right eye removed. The tumour in his left eye, however, grew relentlessly. He was referred to the Operation Eyesight Universal Institute for Eye Cancer for further treatment, but sadly, the tumour was so advanced that his left eye also had to be removed. Although her son will never see again, Sauloohleng's mother says she's happy her little boy is alive and doing well. She knows he received his final surgery at the best place possible!



# Make your gift **today!**



## 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.cdnpay.ca).

Operation Eyesight, Suite 200, 4 Parkdale Crescent NW, Calgary, AB Canada T2N 3T8  
Tel: 403-283-6323 Fax: 403-270-1899 Toll-free: 1-800-585-8265  
[admin@operationeyesight.com](mailto:admin@operationeyesight.com)

Operation Eyesight Canada is a registered charitable organization.  
#11906 8955 RR001  
Operation Eyesight USA is a registered charitable organization.  
#20-2682468

## You can help someone see a brighter tomorrow.

**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](mailto:admin@operationeyesight.com)

**Online:** Go to [operationeyesight.com](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

**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

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

2017-nl2

### Tell us your story!

I support Operation Eyesight because: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Thank you!