





See your investments grow!

Dear Friends...

Together, we've given the *Gift of Sight* to millions of children, women and men in Africa and South Asia. Because our donors believe in Operation Eyesight's work, so many people now have hope for a bright future. **And that's priceless!**



2017 was a tremendous year in India, Nepal, Kenya, Ghana, and Zambia. Thanks to your generosity, along with funding from foundations, service clubs, corporations and governments, we achieved some great milestones:

- We were proud to be named one of the top 23 Canadian charities in the
 Financial Post's 2017 Canadian Charities of the Year report card. This
 is the second time in three years this national newspaper recognized our
 work. Operation Eyesight continues making the grade in meeting the highest
 standards of accountability, transparency, and efficiency. We commend our
 hardworking staff and donor investment for helping us achieve this honour.
- We received an SDG (sustainable development goals) award from Global Compact Network Canada. This award recognizes us for adopting seven of the 17 United Nations' SDGs. We strive to embed these seven goals into our work.

- We had some fun last year when we participated in GivingTuesday, an international day of fundraising. With incredible donor support, we raised \$56,140. This money will help purchase up to 8,000 pairs of new, custom-fitted prescription eyeglasses. We're bringing the world into focus for thousands of people suffering from low vision.
- We were also privileged to feature our work through storytelling
 in the centre spread of Together: Alberta's Notebook for the Global
 Goals. This special edition magazine was published by the Alberta
 Council for Global Cooperation. Read about young Ruth in this report's
 centre spread.

To celebrate your investment, we hosted our "Halfway to Christmas" celebration and annual general meeting last June. This event brings together so many of Operation Eyesight's friends in the Calgary area.

Overall, the year saw great progress with continued support from our trusted friends and donors. Canada experienced some tough economic times last year. **But you remained loyal to us, and we're truly grateful for that.**

We're also indebted to our talented, hardworking staff and Board of Directors. Their commitment and dedication makes our work possible.

Together, our impact is creating ripples throughout Africa and South Asia. We've done an incredible amount of good – yet we still have more work to do. With your help, we'll continue making strides in preventing blindness and restoring sight... For All The World To See!

We invite you to read along and see the impact you've made possible in each country. With great appreciation for your investment,

Ray Mowling

Chair, Board of Directors Canada

Brian Foster
Executive Director

Sustainable Programs Today -Preventing Blindness Tomorrow. Your Impact In 2017!





3,345,084 People examined for eye health problems



291,440 Mass Distribution of



6,211,159

People reached through eye health education activities

SAFE

353,153

People reached through Surgery, Antibiotics, Face washing and hygiene education, Environmental



Know you've made an impact

You're bringing dignity and freedom to millions of people. Because of you, vulnerable populations in Africa and South Asia are receiving the eye care they need.



266,429

custom-fitted prescription eyeglasses



Frontline staff and volunteers trained



218,154 Surgeries performed



New boreholes drilled in Zambia

Community Health Worker

phi·lan·thro·py (fəˈlanTHrəpē)

the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes.

Our Mission

To prevent blindness and restore sight.

OUR VISION

Eliminate avoidable blindness.

Avoidable blindness means conditions that can be treated, cured or prevented, like cataract surgery, or even the need for new prescription eyeglasses. 80 percent of blindness is preventable. Our highly-praised community eye health care model begins with partnerships. Since 2009, we've worked with hospitals, government health agencies, community organizations and other non-government organizations. We transfer our knowledge of eye health to our partner hospitals — who in turn bring eye health to communities. This ensures eye health care is included with general public health care.



36 MILLION

People are Blind

90% LIVE IN

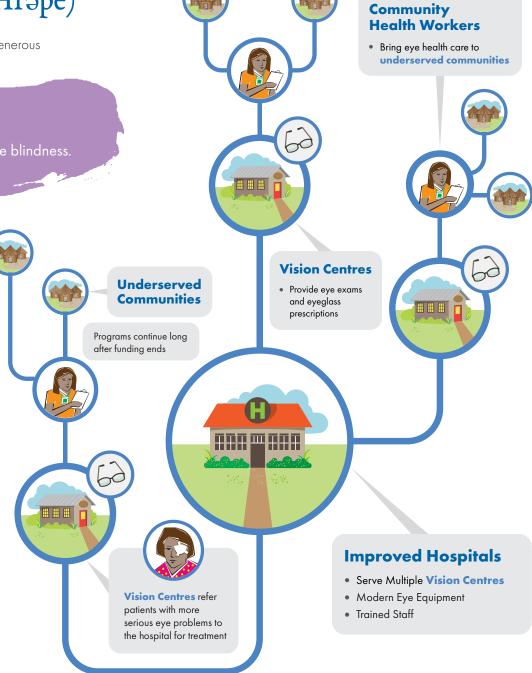
Developing Countries

253 MILLION

Visually Impaired

80% OF BLINDNESS IS

Preventable, Treatable or Curable



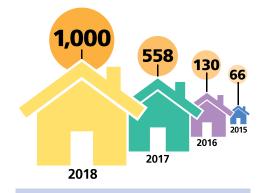
South Asia: 2017 Highlights

India had an exciting year! Thanks to our donors and partners we **screened more than two million people** who were at risk of losing their sight.

Declaring villages avoidable blindness-free is the pinnacle of our work. We're ecstatic to say that we declared our 500th village free of avoidable blindness in 2017.

With the help of our partner Gerald A. Cooper-Key Foundation we declared 11 of those villages avoidable blindness-free. In fact, the

Director General of Health Services of the Indian government recognized our work in reaching remote areas.



Our goal: 1,000 villages declared avoidable blindness-free by the end of 2018

Gerald A. Cooper-Key Foundation also supported more than 500 eye surgeries.

Successful partnerships contribute to our accomplishments. Standard Chartered Bank's Seeing is Believing supported us in establishing 12 new Vision Centres. With their help we passed another landmark when **we opened our 100th Vision Centre**. We're delighted to report that by the end of the year we'd opened 108 Vision Centres.

We're also grateful for the continued support from Bharat Financial Inclusion. Thanks to their generosity we performed more than 5,000 cataract surgeries in eight Indian states.

On the technology front, our partnership with Pellucid Inc, a Singapore based eye tech firm, is thriving. With Pellucid technology:



Young Abdul was interested in art, but he couldn't draw because he suffered from Strabismus, more commonly known as squint or cross-eyes. Thanks to incredible donor support, surgery helped correct the 11-yr-old's vision at no cost to his family. The young man is back in school and carving out his place in the art world!

- 60 Vision Centres are reporting online.
- 30 tablets are using a tracking application to cover household surveys for 750,000 people.

We continue to be recognized as eye health care experts. Last year Operation Eyesight's Dr. Santosh Moses, Regional Manager for South Asia was elected Vice President to the Executive Committee of VISION 2020 India. Also, Operation Eyesight was nominated to the Universal Eye Health Committee of the Government of Odisha.

At the Institute for Eye Cancer in 2017



26,420 patients were examined



4,219 patients were treated for various eye conditions

India	Adults		Chil	dren	Totals
India	Female	Male	Female	Male	iotais
Patients examined (self-seeking, referrals, school, outreach)	863,176	899,223	155,186	158,476	2,076,061
Surgeries (cataract, other eye problems)					192,649
New, custom-fitted prescription eyeglasses dispensed	103,477	114,974	6,898	4,599	229,948
Staff/volunteers trained in eye health care (includes primary and community health workers, and ophthalmic staff)					2,789

operationeyesight.com

And for fun, our Indian team marathoners ran in the Airtel Hyderabad Marathon. Raising an impressive \$11,000, **Operation Eyesight was recognized as an official charity for the marathon**. The fun'raising was the easy part and our team did the hard part — running distances ranging between 10 and 42.2 km. Remarkable!

In addition, we expanded our Community-Based Diabetic Retinopathy project to two new cities last year — Udgir, Maharashtra and Udaipur, Rajasthan.

Thanks to our amazing donors India had a dynamic year!



Our momentum continues in **Nepal** as we move into our second year working in the county. With great support from our donors and partners, we trained 14 new eye health care staff. Working with Nepal Eye Hospital and Fateh-Bal Eye Hospital **we established three new Vision Centres** linked to these hospitals.



Thanks to Gerald A. Cooper-Key Foundation and the Koehle Family Trust, these Vision Centres are permanent facilities. **Each Vision Centre is now financially self-sustaining** and provides eye care services in areas where none existed. Also, with Gerald A. Cooper-Key Foundation support, we're proud to announce the inauguration of the upgraded out-patient department at Fateh-Bal Eye Hospital last year.

We're just getting started in Nepal, and our future in the country promises to give new-found hope and freedom to thousands of people.

We couldn't do it without our loyal donors. Thank you!

NI I	Adults		Children		Totals
Nepal	Female	Male	Female	Male	lorais
Patients examined (self-seeking, referrals, school, outreach)	121,185	128,485	11,364	13,754	274,788
Surgeries (cataract, other eye problems)					17,499
New, custom-fitted prescription eyeglasses dispensed	15,430	17,144	1,029	686	34,289
Staff/volunteers trained in eye health care (includes primary and community health workers, and ophthalmic staff)					14

Kenya: 2017 Highlights

Our projects in **Kenya** made significant steps forward in 2017, despite being plagued by a health workers' strike. And while the strike hampered our partners' ability to deliver eye care services, it didn't stop them!

Moving full steam ahead, **The Rift Valley Prevention of Blindness Project** started its fourth and final year. Supported by our partner Standard Chartered Bank's Seeing is Believing, our impact was strong. We've treated 60,706 people for various eye conditions so far.

Our **Kenya Trachoma Elimination Project**, supported by our partner Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust was wildly successful last year. In fact, the active search for TT (trachomatous trichiasis) patients was halted mid-2017 because the number of patients with TT decreased. **We're making progress!**

This is partly due to our mass distributions of antibiotics. After another distribution, 2017 brought us within blinking distance of achieving our goal of less than one person with TT in a population of 1,000. An impact assessment will be conducted in 2018.

Eliminating trachoma through **SAFE**:

A World Health Organization strategy to educate people on improved sanitation habits that help reduce serious illness and trachoma (eye infection).



The project is based in Narok County where active trachoma is high. In 2017 we introduced face washing and hygiene education into 15 schools. Each student received a face-washing kit.

Our trained community health workers educated people in the villages where the schools are located on the importance of facial cleanliness and good hygiene. Particular focus was given to mothers of children under nine.



Joseph Kipngetich has his eyes examined here — diagnosis; cataract in both eyes. Thanks to our donors, Joseph had surgery at no cost to him. He can now see again to play with his grandchildren.

In addition to facial cleanliness, we held open forums on environmental improvement. These forums encourage villagers to take responsibility for their community sanitation. Empowered through education, we saw various communities initiate the building of 101 latrines in 2017. With each latrine, washing stations are built at various points along the structures.

Supported by Standard Chartered Bank's Seeing is Believing initiative, mid-2017 saw the start of our **Kirinyaga Community Eye Health Project**. With our partner Kerugoya County Referral Hospital we targeted 150 villages to educate community members on the importance of eye health care.

We use PEEK, a smart phone application that assists teachers in screening students' vision. This portable eye examination kit screens school children for visual impairment. With our partner, Kitale Eye Unit in Trans Nzoia County, we've targeted 350 schools.

Thanks to our donors and partners, Kenya had a tremendous year.

V	Adults		Children		T. O. I.
Kenya	Female	Male	Female	Male	Totals
Patients examined (self-seeking, referrals, school, outreach)	80,359	72,590	96,614	93,059	342,622
Surgeries (cataract, other eye problems)	1,755	1,578	332	396	4,061
New, custom-fitted prescription eyeglasses dispensed	310	341	288	285	1,224
Staff/volunteers trained in eye health care (includes primary eye care, community health workers, TT case workers, ophthalmic)					259
Individuals reached through Mass Drug Administration					291,051



Ruth: Mama, I just can't see the blackboard at school, and I already sit right in front of it. I'm 12 years old and still can't read or write.

Ruth's thoughts: Teacher Elizabeth keeps saying I must repeat my classes and that I'm a slow learner. Everyone laughs at me. They must think I'm dumb. I hate going to school.

Mother: I know it's difficult Ruth, but let's talk to your teacher and see what else we can do. I know you can't see that well, but you're not a slow learner.

Mother's thoughts: I feel helpless. I just don't know what to do for you.





At home later that evening, Ruth's parents discuss her struggles.

Mother: Teacher Elizabeth says that Ruth has fallen far behind in school. She still can't read or write.

Father: Well, maybe she should stay home and help you look after the house and little ones. It's not what we want for her, but she can't stay in school if she's not learning.

Mother: But if she can't see at school, she can't see at home.

Father: That's true, but she will be more use at home, and we can't keep our sons home from school.

Father's thoughts: This makes me sad. I know my little girl is smart. But what can we do?

Ruth's mother visits Teacher Elizabeth.

Mother: Good morning, Teacher Elizabeth. Ruth is having trouble seeing the blackboard and I'm wondering if you can move her closer to the front.

Teacher: Madam, moving Ruth to the front won't help. She needs her vision tested.



Mother: But two of my other children have problems with their eyesight. I've had eye issues as well. We've all made do. Surely Ruth can do the same.

Mother's thoughts: It's costly to have our eyes treated, and with six children to feed, clothe, and send to school, there's no money left over for treatment.

Mother: There's an eye screening camp in our village today, Ruth! I think we should all go. The lady who mentioned it to me is a community health worker, and she suggested we go and have our eyes tested. It's free for everyone.

Ruth: Really, Mama? Yes, I want to go.

Ruth and her mother visit the hospital.

Nurse: Welcome madam. Hello Ruth. I'm Ms. Carolyn, and I'm an ophthalmic nurse.

Mother: Hello nurse. How much does it cost us to have Ruth's eves tested?

Nurse: It's free for you.

Mother: Really? Free to help Ruth see again?

Nurse: Yes! Thanks to donations to Operation Eyesight from people in Canada, we help restore sight for people like Ruth every day.



Nurse: Can I shine this light in your eyes to see them more clearly, Ruth? Well, you have bi-lateral cataract, which is a clouding over of the lens of your eyes, causing your blindness. It's very straightforward to correct, and can be done today!

Ruth's thoughts: I can sit anywhere now because I can see much better. And to think I was ready to drop out of school! I'm so happy and thankful for the nurses at the hospital, and for all the people in Canada who've helped me to see again!

Mother's thoughts: Our little girl can see the world around her. It's a dream come true; our hope is renewed. The gift of sight is also the gift of a brighter future.



The events in this story are fictional, but inspired by real situations. Many people in the developing countries where we work suffer from avoidable blindness, like the blindness caused by Ruth's condition. Our goal at Operation Eyesight is to one day eliminate avoidable blindness. Thanks to many generous donors, our work to prevent blindness and restore sight is transforming lives and entire communities around the world.

Originally published in Together: Alberta's Notebook for the Global Goals

Story by Kerri Robins, Operation Eyesight Illustrations by Alex Kwizera

Ghana: 2017 Highlights

In **Ghana**, we were honoured to work with many partners in 2017. Together with Ghana Health Services, Standard Chartered Bank, Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons and Swiss Red Cross, we communicated the results of the **National Blindness and Visual Impairment study** — the first of its kind in the country. We're excited about this study because it provides concrete data that we can use to advocate for eye health care.

The survey revealed:

Of 28 million people in Ghana, the prevalence of blindness is **0.74%**

1.07% of the population suffer from visual impairment

54.8% of the population affected by blindness are females

We implemented our eye health care model for the first time in Mfantseman Municipal District in Ghana's Central Region last fall. So far, we've completed door-to-door eye health surveys in 20 communities in the Abeadze Dominase Sub-District

We also launched the Ophthalmic Nursing School Project. Working with Standard Chartered Bank, this project promises to strengthen ophthalmic nursing in Ghana. The program will launch at Ghana's only Ophthalmic Nursing School in Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra. We aim to elevate the nursing training program from diploma to degree level.

With our partners we'll develop a new nursing curriculum. The project will establish links between three ophthalmic nursing schools in Ghana and the United Kingdom. Thanks to our donor investment this project promises to increase the quality of eye care in the country.

We're also pleased to announce the successful completion of another project with partner Standard Chartered Bank. The five-year project spanned 35 districts over 10 regions in Ghana, and included 35 district hospitals.

During this project, we equipped 18 partner hospitals with eye care equipment. Our project awareness campaigns covered 75 percent of the area's population. We achieved an outstanding **300 percent increase** of patients accessing and receiving eye care.



Thank you, you've helped us make real progress in eliminating avoidable blindness.

Ghana	Adults		Children		Totals
Gnana	Female	Male	Female	Male	IOTAIS
Patients examined (self-seeking, referrals, school, outreach)	271,122	230,677	48,559	44,296	594,654
Surgeries (cataract, other eye problems)	1,516	1,890	68	46	3,520
New, custom-fitted prescription eyeglasses dispensed	331	274	194	117	916
Staff/volunteers trained in eye health care (includes primary eye care, community health workers, TT case workers, ophthalmic)					10

Zambia: 2017 Highlights



Thanks to the incredible support of our donors, we drilled 21 new water wells in **Zambia**'s Sinazongwe, Luano and Ngabwe districts last year. The new wells are serving a population of more than 7,750 people. This brings our total count to 106 wells, serving more than 26,500 people.

To maintain the new pumps at each well, we trained 33 community area pump

minders. These pump minders also helped rehabilitate three broken boreholes.



We also helped supply tool kits to facilitate the area pump minders in servicing and maintaining the community boreholes. Thanks to you, training people in the community to maintain their wells empowers them to change and improve their sanitation habits.

Along with drilling wells, we implemented the face washing phase of **SAFE**. Thanks to our donors, we held education sessions teaching improved sanitation habits to help reduce serious illness and trachoma.

Equally exciting, in partnership with the Maamba General Hospital last year, we implemented our eye health care model. Under this model and with donor support, we'll renovate some spaces to help the hospital deliver more effective eye health care.

Since our partnership began we've supported 124 eye care surgeries.

Partnerships contribute to our success. Along with our donors, our partner Standard Chartered Bank's Seeing is Believing has supported our community health workers who conduct door-to-door surveys. Working in three compounds in Lusaka, these workers will reach a total population of 622,034 by the end of the survey.

Thanks to our amazing donors we raised \$485,000 through our **Washing Away Blindness** campaign. With this money we drilled 21 water wells in Zambia last year serving more than 10,000 people.

By implementing SAFE at the same time as drilling, we've seen the prevalence of trachoma in the area reduced to 3.64 percent, from a high 14.3 percent. **Wow!**





We also established three primary eye clinics in each compound and have seen an increase in referrals. **With your investment**, we've seen an increase in surgeries performed by our partner University Teaching Hospital. The hospital holds a surgery clinic once a week. Among other eye surgeries, the clinic averages six cataract surgeries during those clinic days.

Together, we're reaching remote communities and making quality eye care accessible for everyone.

Zambia	Adults		Children		Tatala
Zambia	Female	Male	Female	Male	Totals
Patients examined (self-seeking, referrals, school, outreach)	62,805	65,048	44,478	37,582	209,913
Surgeries (cataract, trachomatous trichiasis, other eye problems)	268	218		5	491
Patients treated through methods other than surgery or eyeglasses	2,988	2,175	1,213	1,377	7,753
New, custom-fitted prescription eyeglasses dispensed	154	129			283

Donors

Operation Eyesight is grateful for the investment each of our donors has made to our blindness prevention and treatment programs. Together, we're shining a light on avoidable blindness.

Corporations \$5,000+

Annapolis Capital Limited

Heathbridge Capital Management Ltd Himalayan Cataract Project LASIK MD Meadowlark Resources Corp Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada Paul O'Connor Funeral Home Ltd. Port Royal Mills Ltd Remedy'sRx Thomas Mammen Medical Corporation

Estates \$5,000+

Estate of Elsie Rosemary Diamond Estate of Kathleen Ella Eason Estate of Kathleen Fritz Estate of Donald Sydney Harris Estate of Hilda Joan MacKinnon Estate of K. M. Macpherson Estate of Elizabeth Massen Estate of Frances Emily Stutt

We're also very grateful to those loyal and generous donors who've let us know they'll be leaving a gift to Operation Eyesight when they pass away.

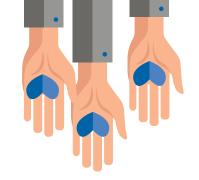
contact information. If any errors or omissions have occurred on this page, please contact us. Every effort was made to ensure this list is complete.

Foundations \$5,000+

Christine A. Sethi-Van Impe Foundation Dorothy May Kelly Trust Dr. Charles and Margaret Brown Foundation Eric Bennett Scotia Wealth Management Ethan and Joan Compton Sub Fund The Foster Family Charitable Fund Frank J Flaman Foundation Jack and Doris Brown Foundation The Lawrason Foundation Margaret Clementi Fund McKesson Foundation The P & P Murray Foundation Sook Ching Foundation Ted and Enid Jansen Fund at The Calgary Foundation The Peter Gilgan Foundation Vancouver Foundation Various Donors Flow Through Fund at The Calgary Foundation

Grants \$5,000+

International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, administrator for Standard Chartered Bank's **Seeing is Believing** program The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust



Individuals \$5,000+

Raymond Aaron Karen and Bill Barnett Marty Cutler Margaret Duncan Henning Freybe In memory of my husband Dr. Jan K. Koziol Alexander and Marlene MacKenzie John Masters and Carol Jarsen David and Audrey McIntosh Ray Mowling and Gerlinde Herrmann Robert Ohlson Khorshed S Patel Doreen Richards Florence and Ross Robertson Lenore Sheehan Henry and Elfriede Streu Katherine Wagner



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2017 Annual Report operationeyesight.com

Know that we manage your investments wisely

We had a strong year in 2017 and much of the funding accumulated in 2016 was used last year. As we continue focussing on fundraising we're moving forward with promising new programs in new countries. (Read further about our new countries). Every gift matters, small or large, and thanks to our donors we're giving so many vulnerable families the **Gift of Sight** every day.



Summarized statement of financial position

As at December 31 (in thousands of dollars)

	2017	2016	2015
Assets			
Current assets	1,986	3,720	2,497
Investments	3,811	1,760	2,048
Capital assets	31	10	6
Other assets	64	61	58
	5,892	5,551	4,609
Liabilities and net assets			
Current liabilities	249	326	251
Net assets	5,643	5,225	4,358
1 (0) 000010	5,045	5,225	4,550

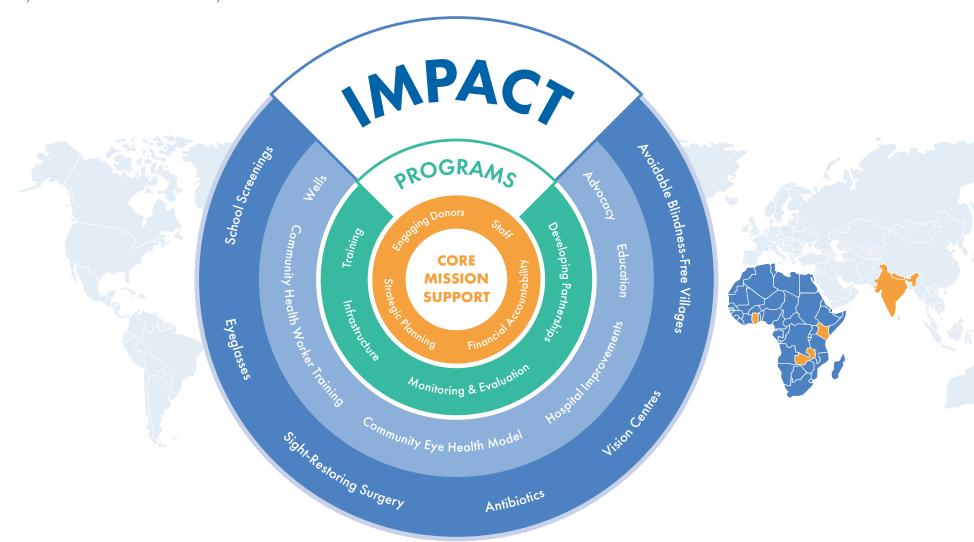
Summarized statement of operations

Year at December 31 (in thousands of dollars)

	2017	2016	2015
Revenues			
Annual gifts	1,144	1,134	1,155
Major gifts	3,764	3,311	2,184
Legacies	462	972	659
Total donations and contributions	5,370	5,417	3,998
Government contributions	0	0	55
Investment and other	42	39	32
Total Revenue	5,412	5,456	4,085
Total Revenue Expenses	5,412	5,456	4,085
	5,412 3,634	5,456 3,467	4,085 3,229
Expenses	·	·	
Expenses International programs	3,634	3,467	3,229
Expenses International programs Fundraising	3,634 1,145	3,46 <i>7</i> 91 <i>7</i>	3,229 849

Core Mission Support

We take your investment in us seriously. That's why Operation Eyesight invests in core infrastructure to grow our impact. Your gifts make a huge difference for so many in vulnerable communities. Thank you!



Together, We're Empowering Entire Communities

We're growing, and our expertise in eye health care continues to be noticed. In 2017 we began exploratory work in Ethiopia and Liberia. As well, we were invited to five new countries by various governments, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) and other non-government organizations.

Those countries included Bangledesh, Malawi, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe. In 2018, our work will begin in earnest in each of these countries. Together with you, our dedicated donors, we're bringing eye care to the communities that need it most... For All The World To See!



Meet our Canadian Board

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Mr. John Masters, Vice-Chair

Mr. Rob Ohlson, Past-Chair

Mr. Shaad Oosman, Treasurer

Directors

Dr. Mary Alton Mackey

Ms. Katherine Wagner

Ms. Doreen Richards

Mr. Floyd Bye

Mr. Marty Cutler

Ms. Lorie Gibson

Ms Jaswinder Kubes

IAPB

Operation Eyesight is a proud member of a global initiative for the elimination of avoidable blindness by 2020.

Senior Officers

Mr. Brian Foster, Executive Director

Mr. Kashinath Bhoosnurmath, Global Director, Programs

Dr. Boateng Wiafe, Director, Quality and Advocacy

Ms. Linda Dent, Financial Consultant

Mr. Jordan Lehmann, Director Donor Relations

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Operation Eyesight Universal International Office

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Donations of \$20 or more receive a tax receipt, unless requested not to. Operation Eyesight Universal is a registered charity in:

🕍 Canada: 11906 8955 RR000

United States: 20-2682468

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