



Richmond poses with his parents and his baby sister outside their home in Ajumako Ashiem, Ghana. Your generosity transforms entire families through the Gift of Sight.

## Gift of Sight: Cataract surgery helps Richmond thrive at school and at home

Eight-year-old Richmond, who lives in Ajumako Ashiem, Ghana, enjoys playing outside, just like any other boy his age. But until recently, things were much harder for the primary school student.

Before getting cataract surgery, Richmond had a hard time seeing clearly and missed a lot of school because of fatigue caused by eye strain. His parents said he was listless and spent a lot of time inside the house.

Fortunately for young Richmond, help was on the way. His school was one of dozens in the area included in a school eye health program that we are implementing in partnership with Ghana Health Service and Ghana Education Service.

*Read more inside* →



### Looking for gift ideas?

Give the Gift of Sight in the name of a friend or loved one and send them a personalized greeting card or eCard. Order your physical cards before Dec. 15 to ensure they get delivered before Christmas.

**Toll-free: 1-800-585-8265**



*Continued from cover*

A visiting optometrist quickly diagnosed Richmond with a cataract, and he was referred for surgery at St. Barnabas Family Clinic in Greater Accra, where he was treated free of charge, thanks to the generosity of donors like you.

Dora Ruth Assan is the School Health Education Programs Coordinator for Richmond's district. She says she hears a lot of stories about children who are transformed by eye care.

"A lot of them, because they were having challenges with their sight, they were not happy to be at school. When there's outdoor games, they don't participate," she says. "But now,

because they were screened, and they realized they are having challenges, they were educated on what to do."

She adds that school enrolment has improved overall since they introduced school eye health screenings.

As for young Richmond, he is just happy to be attending school regularly and playing with his friends once again. His parents say they are grateful for the help he received.

**Visit [operationeyesight.com/GiftOfSight](http://operationeyesight.com/GiftOfSight) to help provide eye health care services for more children like Richmond. Thank you for your support!**

## Happy holidays from our global team!



**Kashinath Bhoosnurmath, our President and CEO (dark blue shirt), meets with patients in Karnataka, India**

With the holiday season just around the corner, I'd like to thank you, on behalf of our global team, for your support in making the world a brighter place. You have helped to not only prevent blindness and restore sight but also to return hope to thousands of children, women and men.

I had the opportunity to visit some of our partner hospitals, vision centres and target villages during my trip to India in September. It was truly heartening to see these facilities bustling with

activity – patients waiting patiently for their turn, many leaving after receiving diagnosis and treatment, and hospital staff, including ophthalmologists, working tirelessly.

What made the visit even more fulfilling was meeting our community health workers and interacting with patients. They are truly making the most of your support to Operation Eyesight, and I could see the gratitude in their eyes. **Thank you once again!**

This holiday season, please continue your support by giving the Gift of Sight – which is also the gift of education, employment, opportunity and more. You can even include your friends and family by donating in their name. (I do this for both of my grown sons).

From all of us at Operation Eyesight, thank you for your generosity and happy holidays!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kashinath".

**Kashinath "Kash" Bhoosnurmath, President & CEO**





Students in Weija Gbawe, Ghana show off their new prescription eyeglasses during an event held ahead of World Sight Day. In partnership with Ghana Health Service and Ghana Education Service, we worked with community health care nurses and teachers to screen 6,852 students in 16 schools.

## Focusing on child eye health for World Sight Day

On October 10, World Sight Day, hundreds of organizations around the world promoted the importance of eye health to help children learn and thrive. At Operation Eyesight, we highlighted our school eye health programs and, along with our partners, screened more than 80,592 students in 225 schools from Bangladesh to Zambia.



Children from Ramnagar, India hold up a sign that reads, "Our eyes may be small, but they hold the entire sky within." In India, Bangladesh and Nepal, 42,689 students were screened across 172 schools. An additional 30,000 students at 676 schools are scheduled for screenings by the end of November.

It was an opportunity for us to advocate for eye health care during 15 meetings with partners, policy makers and government. Staff also attended press briefings, spoke with media and amplified the message on social media.

For more photos and updates from around the world: [operationeyesight.com/blog/2024/11/wsd2024/](https://operationeyesight.com/blog/2024/11/wsd2024/)



A young student in Kajiado, Kenya has her vision tested during a school eye health screening. Our Kenya team screened 8,324 children across 23 schools for World Sight Day. Similar events were organized in Malawi and Zambia.



## Fundraising for School Eye Health in Ghana

In collaboration with local partners, we are expanding our School Eye Health Program in Ghana. We hope to screen an additional 23,000 students for eye conditions in 2025. Our fundraising goal is \$110,000 and your support can help us make a lasting impact. ***Donate today to protect the vision and future of Ghana's children!***

[operationeyesight.com/ghanaschools](https://operationeyesight.com/ghanaschools)

## Childhood friendship fuels hope for 23,000 kids in Ghana

Long-term donor Sharon Margison in Ontario is helping us launch our Ghana School Eye Health campaign with a generous donation

While most Canadian schoolkids would have a hard time finding Ghana on a map, the country truly came to life for donor Sharon Margison when she was 10 years old. That year, her mother, then president of the Toronto YWCA, developed a close friendship with a young Ghanaian woman named Barbara who had come to Canada to study. Sharon's mother encouraged her to think of Barbara as a big sister, and that relationship continues today, more than 60 years later.

In 1982, Sharon and her mother travelled to Ghana to meet up with their old friend. During that visit, they were made family members.

"I really enjoyed talking with people and learning about their experiences," she says.

When Sharon heard that we were raising money to screen more schoolkids in Ghana for eye conditions, her interest was piqued. After all, she too has struggled with refractive error since she was in grade school.



"I've been wearing eyeglasses since I was nine years old," she says, "and I studied visual arts during my undergraduate degree. So, vision is a huge thing for me."

Sharon has generously decided to make a \$10,000 contribution towards our Ghana School Eye Health project. She says that as a longtime donor, she has confidence in Operation Eyesight's approach to community eye health.

***We are so grateful to Sharon for kicking off our Ghana School Eye Health campaign with her donation. We invite you to join her in transforming young lives!***



Venkatamma got cataract surgery on both of her eyes at our partner, the Globe Eye Foundation Eye Hospital, in Karnataka, India. She's grateful for the generous support of our donors, who made her surgery possible.

## Restored sight gives grandmother in India a new lease on life

For Venkatamma in Karnataka, India, seeing clearly was something she'd been missing for many years. Her vision took a turn for the worse when she was in her fifties. By the time she was diagnosed with cataracts, she could barely make out shapes or colours.

When she met a community health volunteer who urged her to get cataract surgery, Venkatamma was initially resistant because she worried about the financial burden on her family. After she found out it would be performed free of charge, she decided to go ahead with the surgery.

Venkatamma was thrilled with the transformation. "It was like being reborn," she says. She adds that she's happy that she can spend quality time with her grandchildren once again.

***Please donate today so that more grandmothers like Venkatamma can regain their sight!***

### Holiday closure

Our Calgary office will be closed from Dec. 24, 2024 to Jan. 1, 2025. If you'd like to make a donation that is eligible for a 2024 tax receipt, we encourage you to call us before the holiday break or visit our website to donate online before Dec. 31.



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***Reminder: We relocated our Canada office in March 2023. Please see our new mailing address on the back page.***