



## Thomas can see today because of your generosity He once was blind, but now he **sews!**

When you've been a tailor your whole adult life, you appreciate the value of good eyesight. How else can you follow a pattern, thread a needle or stitch a straight seam?

### But what if that good eyesight failed you?

That's what happened to a tailor named Thomas, who lives in Kapsumai village in Kenya. Thomas is married and has nine children. He's proud of his successful tailoring business, which enabled him to educate all his kids.

However, one day he noticed the vision in his left eye seemed blurry. "At first, I could no longer thread the eye of a needle. I needed to ask other people to help me. But then I'd end up sewing completely off the mark!"

A year later, the vision in his right eye also failed. His business deteriorated and finally closed. Within two years, Thomas was totally blind. He went from being the breadwinner of his family to a dependent,



*Thomas is happy to be working at his tailor shop again – thanks to you!*

unable to even walk around on his own. His wife and children needed to help him with everything.

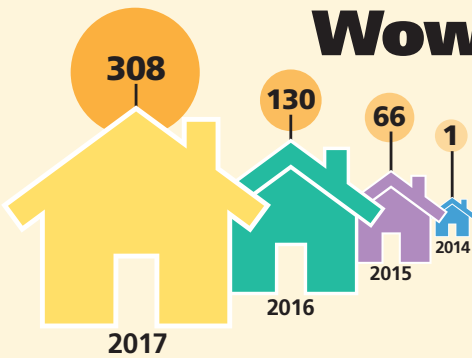
One day, when his wife was outside working on their small farm, Thomas badly injured both his legs as he fell. He was forced to stay inside to nurse his wounds, and he worried himself sick, but there was little he could do.

**"My future seemed full of darkness and suffering," he told our staff. "I felt useless."**

Family members encouraged Thomas to try traditional medicine, but it didn't help. Others told him to bear it, as blindness was an inevitable consequence of aging.

And then – HOPE! Thomas heard about an Operation Eyesight-supported eye unit at the nearby town of Iten. His son took him there, and he underwent cataract surgery on both eyes. His operations were successful; and today, Thomas can see – and sew – again!

"My family and I are extremely happy! Now I can thread a needle's eye just like before, and I've gone back to my tailoring business. My customers are coming back and life has become sweet again," he told us. He added with a smile, **"To the people in Canada, you made my future bright. I was hopeless, but now I'm a man full of hope. Thank you!"**



**Our goal:  500 villages declared avoidable-blindness free!**

## Wow! Milestones, thanks to your support!

In Spring *SightLines*, we mentioned that we've declared 200 Indian villages free of avoidable blindness. We're excited to say that we've added another 108 villages now, bringing the total so far to 308 – all because of donors like you! When we declare a village avoidable-blindness free, it means that anyone in the village who was suffering from unnecessary blindness, or was at risk of going blind due to preventable causes, has been treated. **Isn't it exciting to know that you've been a big part of that?**

Also, thanks to your support, we've reached a landmark 100 vision centres established in India. Because of donors like you, we've accomplished this in only three short years, and 95 percent of the vision centres are now fully self-supporting. **We couldn't have achieved these milestones without you – thank you!**

# SEE your faithful support at work

## Seeing really is believing in Zambia

In May 2016, we started a new eye health program in the shanty towns of Bauleni, Chawama and Mandevu, just outside Zambia's capital city, Lusaka. People in these shanty towns are extremely poor, and they know little about eye health. There are few eye care services available in the towns, so we stepped in to help change all that!

Thanks to support from Standard Chartered Bank's Seeing is Believing program, we launched our **Hospital-Based Community Eye Health Program** in Zambia as a

collaboration with our partner University Teaching Hospital, the Zambian Ministry of Health and community leaders.

Together, we've helped ensure that primary eye care is integrated with existing primary health care in the target area. To achieve this, we've renovated the existing eye clinics, purchased modern eye care equipment, and trained three ophthalmic personnel employed by the Ministry of Health. We've also trained 32 community health workers to conduct door-to-door surveys to identify those with eye health problems.

Wonderful news: as of this writing, we've screened 54,000 people and performed 53 cataract surgeries and eight other minor surgeries. **Thanks to our partners and generous donors like you, we're helping make quality eye care in each community a reality!**



Patson Tembo

*This Zambian boy is having his eyes tested for a new, custom-fitted pair of eyeglasses. Donors like you help provide low-cost eye care services in each community where we work. Together, we're helping eliminate barriers to eye care – like lack of awareness and education, lack of access, cost, harmful traditional eye care practices and cultural barriers.*

## Spreading Christmas joy... in July!

Our third "Halfway to Christmas Party" and Annual General Meeting was a great success! On June 19, more than 90 donors, board members, volunteers, staff and friends of Operation Eyesight gathered at the Delta Calgary South Hotel. It was a fun-filled evening

complete with a sponsored turkey dinner, holiday music, inspiring updates and best of all, great company!

We were fortunate to have three international staff members join us all the way from India and Ghana.

Our Global Director of Programmes Kashinath Bhoosnurmath, who's based in India, delivered a presentation on our **Hospital-Based Community Eye Health Program** – a program model that is sustainably eliminating avoidable blindness.

Warmest thanks to our sponsors who made it possible to host this wonderful party and AGM!

- Sure Systems
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- Active Accounting
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- ICICI Bank of India
- And three anonymous Santa Clauses!



*Some of our fabulous Calgary volunteers were honoured at our 2017 AGM. L-R: Jaci, Seun, Laurie, Anne, Candice, Anne, Linda (daughter of our founder Art Jenkyns), Mona and Nora.*

# Sharing stories from the heart

## How to make your charitable gifts last a lifetime!

### What if you could support Operation Eyesight – and still guarantee yourself and your spouse an income for life?

Our longtime donor Gwen Crowe is proud to tell you she did just that!

After Gwen and her husband John sold their condo in 2009, she contacted Operation Eyesight to set up an annuity gift. The Crowes transferred a lump sum to Operation Eyesight in exchange for fixed, guaranteed payments for the rest of their lives.



Gwen and John Crowe

**“Many people don’t know about annuities, but these regular monthly payments really help us,” Gwen says. “At the end of our lives, if there’s any money left, it returns to Operation Eyesight.”**

That’s just one of the ways Gwen has been supporting us for over 50 years! She remembers meeting our founder, Art Jenkyns, and the doctor who inspired him, Dr. Ben Gullison, many years ago. She also went to India on a group tour in 2000, when she saw some of our work – and actually witnessed the miracle of the gift of sight!

“We went to rural areas, where people walked for miles and miles to get to an eye camp. I remember watching the cataract surgeries, and then going back the next day and helping remove the bandages so patients could see again,” she says. “I always say, ‘Thank you Lord, for the beauty my eyes behold.’”

Gwen is a longtime volunteer in her community of Delta, BC, where she’s worked at the children’s hospital, a hospice and at a crisis intervention centre, among other places. “I feel a special affinity to help children and the aged,” she says. “I just want to bring a little bit of joy to their lives.”

***Gwen, you and John have brought a LOT of joy to many, many lives over the years! Warmest thanks to both of you for your decades of loyal support. We are much stronger because of generous friends like you!***

## Rich memories of our founder from a longtime friend



*The power of a smile: our founder Art Jenkyns with a young patient in India.*

We’re so grateful to our donors who make it possible to give the gift of sight to those in need. One such supporter is John Hanlin from Saskatoon, SK.

As one of our longest-standing donors, John knew our founder Art Jenkyns growing up, and was in Scouts with him in 1952. A year later, John and Art were both at the First Baptist Church in Calgary, where they heard Dr. Ben Gullison speak about providing “the best for the poorest” and the need to raise money to restore sight to blind people in India. John, Art and others were inspired to put \$10 each on the table, effectively kick-starting Operation Eyesight’s journey back in 1963!

John stayed in touch with Art and his wife Una over the years, and says they were a lovely couple. He was inspired by Art, and said that Art’s friendly manner naturally drew people to him.

We were thrilled to hear from John about his long friendship with Art and his continued journey with Operation Eyesight as a monthly donor for many years. As our Executive Director Brian Foster says, “John, we’re so grateful to you and your wife Alice for giving the gift of sight to hundreds of people over the years. We couldn’t do our work without amazing supporters like you!”

*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!*

## SEE what your lasting gift can do

**If you’re age 65 or older, did you know that you can make a sizable gift to Operation Eyesight – while guaranteeing yourself and your loved ones a fixed income for life?** Ask your financial planner about setting up a **charitable gift annuity**. It can increase the money you have to live on, while enabling you to make a significant gift to charity.



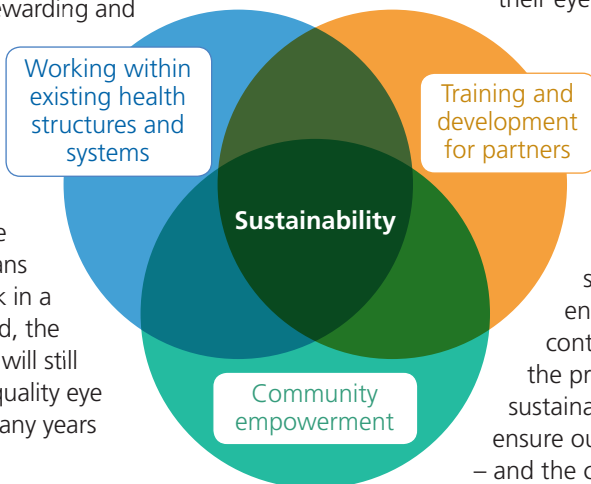
Leave <sup>A</sup>  
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For All The  
World to See

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)**.

# Our focus on the world

## Your generosity goes on – long after our work is done!

We've been fighting avoidable blindness and restoring sight for 54 years now, with the help of donors like you – and one of our most rewarding and important goals is helping our partner hospitals, government departments and communities achieve sustainable practices. This means that after our work in a region is completed, the people in the area will still be able to access quality eye care services for many years to come!



Great examples of this occur in our Seeing is Believing programs in Ghana and Kenya, where we continue to eliminate avoidable blindness by integrating primary eye care into the primary health care system. Thanks to support from donors like you, our eye care programs are hard at work within the countries' existing health structures and systems. We help hospitals help themselves by identifying gaps in human resources and improving facilities; and we work with communities to target their specific eye care needs and empower them to take ownership of their eye health.

This approach has served us well in reducing costs and improving patient services, while ensuring the continuity of the project. Our sustainable practices ensure our programs – and the community



*An ophthalmic nurse examines a patient's eyes at Tarkwa Municipal Hospital in Ghana. By educating staff members at partner hospitals on all aspects of eye health care, we help instill appreciation of the importance of the eye care programs they're helping to implement. This builds the staff's pride and ownership in their work!*

benefits they provide – last well after funding has ended.

***Because of donors like you, we're able to implement cost-effective programs that eliminate avoidable blindness on a sustainable basis. Thanks to you, we're one step closer to realizing our vision – For All The World To See!***

## A young mom sees a brighter future because of you!



*Bimala is grateful that she's regained her vision, with your help!*

Bimala, a young mother from Nepal, had been experiencing gradual vision loss for nearly 10 years. "At first, I felt like a cloud in my eyes was gradually covering my vision," she explains. "And it was growing darker every day."

Sadly, Bimala suffered in silence for many years. Her family is very poor and they're struggling to make ends meet. She didn't want to worry them further, and she knew they couldn't afford eye care services.

Soon, even the smallest daily activities became extremely difficult. Bimala worried that she would go completely blind and would no longer be able to care for her 18-month-old daughter.

Her fears grew stronger until, one day, a community health worker from our partner Nepal Eye Hospital knocked on

her door. It proved to be one of the best days of Bimala's life! She was diagnosed with bilateral cataract and referred to the hospital for treatment.

***She received cataract surgeries on both eyes – all at no cost to her or her family. Today, she can see clearly again!***

Bimala says she was overjoyed at how easy it was to look after her child and her family after her surgery. She's now a proud ambassador for Nepal Eye Hospital, encouraging people to get regular eye check-ups and treatment when necessary.

***And she's incredibly thankful for Operation Eyesight's wonderful donors – like you! – who helped restore her sight and her young family's future!***

## National blindness study supports Ghana's government plan for eye care needs

As you know, avoidable blindness remains a major health issue in developing countries, despite progress made in the last few decades in combatting blindness and visual impairment, particularly from infectious diseases.

Though visual impairment is a serious condition, few developing countries have country-specific estimates of how many of their people are affected. National blindness and low vision surveys are very expensive and time-consuming to conduct, which probably explains why they are rare, especially in African countries.

Now, Ghana has its own national study, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Boateng Wiafe, who is both our Director of



Dr. Bo Wiafe after performing eye surgery in Tarkwa, Ghana

Quality and Advocacy and a renowned ophthalmologist. Dr. Bo was the principal investigator on the 2015 study, which was released recently by the Ghanaian government. Some of the findings:

- Cataract is responsible for more than half (55 percent) of the cases of blindness in Ghana. The backlog of cataract cases is estimated to be 100,000 people.
- Glaucoma was found to be the second major cause, accounting for over 19 percent of blindness in Ghana. This means almost one out of every five blind people in Ghana is blind from this disease. This high rate is particularly concerning for the health care system, as glaucoma is not curable and resulting vision loss is irreversible.
- A large proportion of cases of low vision (89 percent) and blindness (74 percent) are due to avoidable causes.
- Females have a higher risk of blindness (55 percent) than their male counterparts.
- Rural residents have a greater risk of blindness due to lack of health care facilities and information about eye care.
- Ninety-five percent of Ghanaians who have refractive errors and need to use eyeglasses do not have them.

Thanks to Dr. Bo and his team of investigators, we now have a clearer picture of the work needed in Ghana. Along with expert partners like Operation Eyesight, the government is now studying ways to make quality eye care accessible and affordable to all, no matter where they live.

**And having the study completed is good news – because now there's hope! With your support, we can help many of these children, women and men see again.** We know that with loyal friends like you at our side, we'll be able to restore sight and prevent blindness for many!

### **Glaucoma:** a concern for us all!

Ghana isn't the only country concerned about glaucoma – it's the second most common cause of vision loss among Canadian seniors! Glaucoma doesn't have visible symptoms, so many people don't know they have it until they've lost some of their eyesight.

*We all know how important vision is, so see your eye doctor regularly and protect your precious sight!*

## 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](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**

# 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 any of these contacts, please 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.

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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.  
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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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information about how to leave a gift in my will

Full 2016 Report to Donors

2017-nl4

### Tell us your story!

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

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



# Thank you!