



This special issue of *SightLines* is dedicated to amazing people like you

## You're making magic happen with the gift of sight!

*YOU make our work possible! That's why we're dedicating this special issue of SightLines to our amazing supporters and the people they've helped. Read on to see their stories, and let us know what you think.*

Stenwell lives in a small village in India. He loves nothing more than spending time with his grandchild. His family means the world to him, and he does his best to take care of them. He worked on his farm and also took odd labour jobs in his village.

Then Stenwell's vision started to blur. At first, he figured it was a symptom of his age, but his vision continued to deteriorate. He realized something was wrong, but his family couldn't afford to seek treatment. Without options, he feared his blindness was a divine punishment.



*Stenwell with his grandchild. Stenwell's eyesight deteriorated for more than three years, but he couldn't afford to seek treatment.*



*Now Stenwell is back helping his family on the farm, thanks to you!*

That's where someone like YOU stepped in. Because of your support, community health workers from our partner Bansara Eye Care found Stenwell. "When the health worker explained that I could get help for my condition, I was filled with new hope," says Stenwell.

He was diagnosed with cataracts in both eyes and received surgery to restore his sight, free of charge. For Stenwell, it was like magic to see again! "I am extremely thankful to the people who helped me," he says. He's now back to playing with his grandchild and helping his family with the farming.

Thanks to donors like you, millions of people like Stenwell have had their vision restored or preserved since our work first began in 1963. **Thank you so much! Your dedicated support means everything to us!**

## Digging for donations

Many donors have creative ways to raise money, but Roland Kuerzdoerfer's was unique! Roland, who passed away in 2017, was a loyal supporter who never missed a chance to help. His wife Marja says he used to watch out the window when it snowed.

Their "crooked little house" is in Ontario's ski country, which sees a lot of snow and slippery roads. Roland knew that with snow, came opportunity.

Roland would watch a car slide into a snow bank and go to rescue the passengers, but first, he'd ask them to donate to Operation Eyesight. Everyone paid up.

"Operation Eyesight was his favourite charity, and pulling cars out was his favourite activity," Marja says. "He was a Rotarian and supported international causes."

The road is now paved, and few get stuck. We're very grateful for Roland's creativity and for Marja's long-time support!

**Thank you!**



*Roland with his tractor. He used it to rescue stuck cars during snowstorms, in exchange for donations to Operation Eyesight.*

## Saying goodbye to two special donors

Two of our beloved donors recently passed away. Clara Lahmer passed away in October 2018, at age 105. Clara lived in Ontario and remembered our very early days. She cared deeply about those who were blind and did all she could to help.

Effie Gladys Higgins of British Columbia was another long-time supporter. She passed away at age 100 in February 2019. Effie had a great

memory, incredible enthusiasm and a love of life. When she turned 100, she got a walker, using it to move tea from the kitchen to the dining room.

Both women made the world a better place and planned to leave gifts in their wills to Operation Eyesight. Their passion will live on and their gifts will help future generations. **Thank you, Clara and Effie!**

**Want to learn more about leaving a gift in your will to Operation Eyesight? Contact Susan Deike at 403-670-2635 or [DeikeS@operationeyesight.com](mailto:DeikeS@operationeyesight.com).**



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

## Meet Aly Bandali

Aly never met Operation Eyesight founder Art Jenkyns, but they have much in common. Like Art, Aly believes that family shapes your life. Married to Farah for 25 years, his son Zaman is 21 and daughter Ayesha is 18.

"Family represents all the critical parts of meaningful life. They love you without conditions, build you up and keep you afloat," Aly says.

"Those you work with are also family. They help you to practice courage, loyalty and trust.

"Finally, family includes those you serve. They need you to be your best. And that's where you've been prepared to meet challenges. It's here that gratitude, humility and reverence live. Family is everything."



*56 years later, Operation Eyesight is still carrying on founder Art Jenkyns' vision of a world without avoidable blindness.*



*Aly with students at St. Gregorios Balagram in Bangalore, India. Funding from the eye hospital there goes to support the associated school and orphanage.*

Aly's family fled Uganda in 1972, leaving everything, when Idi Amin vowed to kill any South Asians who didn't leave. "We abandoned all our possessions... even baby pictures!" remembers Aly. They found a new home in Canada, for which he's eternally grateful.

Growing up in Edmonton, Aly and his brother were raised by his blind grandmother. "I often wonder how her life – and ours – would have been if her condition had been discovered earlier."

Aly recently visited Kenya, India and Nepal and talked to people whose lives have been transformed through the gift of sight. "The feeling of pride in our work, and seeing the difference we're making, was incredible," he says.

**"Thank you** for being part of the Operation Eyesight family," Aly says. "Together we can eliminate avoidable blindness!"

TRUE BELIEF IN OUR CAUSE. THANK YOU!

## Three generations of support

Operation Eyesight has become tradition for the Hatfield family.

Sylvia Hatfield and her husband, Reverend Donald, first heard about Operation Eyesight from Donald's mother, Mabel. "Mabel heard Art Jenkyns (founder of Operation Eyesight) speak just as he was getting started," says Sylvia. "She told us she was supporting Art's work to bring sight to the poor in India. We thought it was a fantastic idea."

Don convinced the Canadian Forces Protestant Chapels to support what was then "Art Jenkyns' little charity." Sylvia told everyone in her Sunday School classes about Operation Eyesight.



*We're so lucky to have third-generation supporters like Sara!*

"We love that Operation Eyesight is Canadian," Sylvia says. "We truly believe in the cause. Giving someone back their sight may seem like such a small thing at first, but it's far-reaching. Being able to see again not only helps the individual and their family, but the entire community."

Sylvia's daughter Sara has been a donor for 30 years. Her passion for the charity grew "through osmosis." Her first cataract surgery was at age 39. "If I'd been born in another country, I could very well be blind right now," Sara says. She enjoys following in her grandmother's footsteps and is happy we work sustainably, helping people to help themselves.

Thank you Mabel, Don, Sylvia and Sara.  
**Your support means everything to us!**



65-year-old Nkandela from Zambia can see again! After four years of worsening vision, her sight was restored through cataract surgery. "I am living again!" she says. Without your support, stories like this wouldn't be possible. **Thank you for all that you do!**

## Hearing from our donors

We recently talked with some of our long-time donors, asking where they first heard about our work and why it appealed to them. **We're so grateful for these donors – and for you, too!**

Jean Marsh, from Nova Scotia, was hooked from the start. "I was at Acadia University in 1963 when Dr. Ben Gullison (the physician who inspired Operation Eyesight's work) received an honorary degree," she says. "I'd heard about his work in India."

Jean is glad she'll still be making a difference many years from now, through a gift in her will. "I'm happy that Operation Eyesight is careful with money from donors."



82-year-old Standsingh from India can go back to working on his farm after receiving cataract surgery, free of charge. **Because of you, he has his independence back!** "I am so thankful to the generous donors who helped me to restore my sight," he says.



**With your dedicated support, we've prevented blindness for millions of people.** This child from Kenya's Narok District received antibiotics to help stop the spread of trachoma, a blinding eye infection.

Vera Apletree, from Alberta, was succinct. "This is the best gift you can give, to help someone see."

Vera's eye surgeon first told her about our work. She was thrilled that we were performing the same surgery that had helped her – in countries where medical care wasn't as available as it is in Canada. "I've continued to donate because your work is so important."

Mary Jones, also from Alberta, heard about us from a friend. "I'd feel amazing if I could help to give someone sight," she thought. And so she gave her first gift. Operation Eyesight is Mary's favourite charity, and she gives many gifts in honour of her friends and family, preferring to give something that helps others.

When asked about Operation Eyesight's future, Mary laughed. "I hope you'll be around for another 56 years...."

# TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

*We're so happy to have you as our supporter. We want to hear what you think!*

Send us your completed form...

**By mail, using the enclosed envelope:**

Operation Eyesight Canada  
Suite 200, 4 Parkdale Crescent NW  
Calgary, AB T2N 3T8

**By email:** info@operationeyesight.com

**By fax:** 403-270-1899

## My opinion:

How did you first hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why do you continue to give? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you thought about leaving a gift to Operation Eyesight in your will? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Have you shared your passion for Operation Eyesight with your friends and family? \_\_\_\_\_

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Is there anything else you'd like to tell us? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*If you want to share more memories or stories about Operation Eyesight, please call Susan at **403-670-2635** or toll-free at **1-800-585-8265**. We look forward to hearing from you!*

## My details:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

2019-May-NL-LG

## Please send me:

- Information about how to leave a gift in my will
- The latest Annual Report

Operation Eyesight Canada is a registered charitable organization.  
# 11906 8955 RR0001

# Thank you!

