

Thanks to you...

A blurry world is now in focus for Caleb!

Tilt your head. Then close one eye, squint out of the corner of the other eye, and try to read this story.

Don't you find it awkward, uncomfortable and hard to see?

That's how Caleb, an 8-year-old boy from Kenya, grew up looking at the world!

Caleb's grandfather first noticed his grandson's mannerism about three years ago. That's when he started raising the little boy after his parents abandoned him. To see ahead, Caleb had to tip his head to the side and then squint out of the corner of one eye. Even then, his world was very blurry!

Unable to read and write because of his poor vision, Caleb was left behind in kindergarten while other children his age were in second grade. He was so self-conscious about not being able to see!

His grandfather watched Caleb's struggles with great sadness. But what could he do? All he owned in the world was a



Caleb (in green) can look straight ahead to see today... because of your kind support!

half-acre farm and two cows. He couldn't afford to take his grandson to a doctor. All he could do was hope and pray that the little boy's eyesight improved.

Caleb and his grandfather shared a deep, unspoken fear – that he would lose his sight completely, never gain an education, and be sentenced to a bleak life.

Fortunately, a teacher noticed Caleb's poor vision and notified an Operation Eyesight partner eye clinic. There, he was diagnosed with cataracts! He was referred to a pediatric ophthalmologist at Sabatia Eye Hospital. Caleb underwent separate surgeries for his eyes – at no cost to his grandfather, thanks to generous donors like you.

A day after Caleb's first cataract surgery was performed, great improvement was already noticeable. He could look directly at someone without having to turn his head!

His second surgery improved his vision even more, and today Caleb can see the world more clearly. Now he's confident he'll be able to keep up with his classmates, both in school and out. His grandfather looks forward to a brighter future for his grandson.

Both Caleb and his grandfather are grateful to kind donors like you for your generous support. His grandfather says, "God bless you! Thank you and please keep up the good work!"



We did it together – thank you!

Wow! Thanks to your support, we were honoured to be recognized by the *Financial Post* as one of the top 23 Canadian charities in 2017!

Winning this award shows we work hard to measure up to the highest standards of accountability, transparency and efficiency. We take your donations seriously, striving to put your money where it's needed most. Whether we're restoring a child's sight so she or he can go to school or giving grandparents the joy of seeing their grandchildren, we spend your investment wisely. So thank you for sharing this honour with us... **For All The World To See!**

SEE your faithful support at work

Another incredible GivingTuesday, thanks to you!

We can't thank our donors enough for all you did on GivingTuesday 2017. Not only did we reach our \$50,000 goal, we beat it – by over \$6,000!

That means over 8,000 children, women and men will receive new prescription eyeglasses. Their lives will be brought into focus, thanks to your generosity.

It was wonderful to see our supporters come together to help thousands of people. Those of us who attended our Strikes for Sight bowling tournament in Calgary had a great time, too. Thanks to Lucas Taylor Photography, we have some great photos of the event. Be sure to check them out on our Facebook page.

Mark your calendar for this year's GivingTuesday on November 27, 2018!



Lucas Taylor

(L to R): Executive director Brian Foster and our super-donor Rob Ohlson congratulate Cathy, winner of the best bowler prize.

Guess what time it is? Time for an eye exam!



Peter Carrette

When was the last time you had your eyes checked? **March 12 – 16 is World Glaucoma Week** and a good reminder to make an appointment with your eye doctor.

As you may know, glaucoma is an eye disease that damages the optic nerve and can lead to vision loss. If you're over 60, diabetic and/or near-sighted, you may be at risk. There's no cure for glaucoma, but it can be treated when diagnosed early.

Here's how you can help protect yourself:

- Have your eyes examined every six to 12 months;
- Exercise regularly; and
- Wear protective eyewear when playing sports or doing home improvement projects.

Vision is precious; please look after yours!



Celebrating our wonderful donors

Warmest thanks to the following donors for their many years of support! Just think of how many children, women and men can see the world because of your kind hearts. We couldn't do it without you!

20 years: Bernie Lefebvre, Susanne Niedballa

10 years: Mike Cook, Lesley Thomson, Anju Vyas

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**. We'd love to hear from you!

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** and sign up for our *Glimpse* eNews bulletin for quick email updates.
4. Read our weekly posts at **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

It's never too late for clear vision!

Laxmi is a 75-year-old woman who lives in a poor neighbourhood in Nepal. After her husband passed away, she moved into a cottage with her extended family. Together, they own a small tea shop. The family struggles to make a living.

Laxmi helped by taking care of her grandchildren, cooking and cleaning. But over the years, her vision began to fade. Finally, she lost her eyesight completely!



Laxmi is so grateful for your support! Thank you!

With so many mouths to feed, Laxmi's blindness became a burden on her family. However, they never sought medical help for her. They thought that blindness was part of aging, and nothing could help!

Time passed. Laxmi lost the ability to recognize people she knew. She grew terribly lonely, and resigned herself to a life of darkness and dependence.

Two years later, there came a knock on the cottage door. A community health worker trained by Operation Eyesight had come to screen the family for eye health. Diagnosed with cataract in both eyes, Laxmi was referred to our partner, the Nepal Eye Hospital.

After her surgeries, Laxmi was overjoyed to find she could see again! "I have my life back, thanks to the hospital and the kind people who supported me!" she says. "Thank you!"

We're making a huge impact in south Asia, with your help!

Dr. Santosh Moses joined Operation Eyesight as our programme manager for India in 2005. Today, he's our regional manager for south Asia. We admire Santosh's knowledge, energy and expertise, and wanted to share with you what he does.

Q How do you see your role in contributing to the elimination of avoidable blindness?

A As the leader of an incredible team, we're making a significant impact on avoidable blindness in the regions where we work. I'm looking forward to taking our model to more regions where eye care services are limited and the suffering is immense.

Q What do you enjoy most about working for Operation Eyesight?

A Every day brings new challenges and opportunities. It's exciting to partner with more than 100 eye hospitals in south Asia. I'm thankful that

we've been able to make a difference in the lives of over three million people each year!

Q What are some challenges India faces for eye health care?

A The geography is vast, and there's a lack of accessibility to quality eye care. There's also a shortage of trained eye care professionals to cater to a billion people. We have over 300 projects running in India alone!

Q Can you share a favourite memory of your time with us?

A In 2005, I visited the barren land where a partner hospital we helped build now stands. Since then, this hospital has screened over a million people. Over 100,000 people have received eye surgeries there. I visited the hospital recently, and it was beautiful to be reminded how far we've come. Millions of lives are being changed through the kindness of our donors!



Dr. Santosh Moses, our regional manager for south Asia.

Our **focus** on the world

Celebrating community health workers on International Women's Day

March 8th is International Women's Day. Let's take a moment to recognize the thousands of women who make our community health worker program great! They're proud to be caregivers for their entire communities.

Take Harriet, for instance. Harriet lives in the village of Dominase in Ghana.



Harriet conducts eye screenings for families in the communities where she works.

Harriet is an Operation Eyesight-trained community health worker, and she loves her job. She visits every household in the area she works, conducting surveys and eye screening for entire families. She refers patients who need further treatment, teaches general health workshops, and arranges transportation for those who need to travel to access eye care.

"I was surprised at how many people in the community have eye problems. I especially enjoy helping mothers and their children. I know I'm a lifeline for them," she says. "It's a delight bringing eye care to my area." We agree, Harriet!

In fact, our entire community health worker program exists because our donors understand the need to help bring eye care to those who need it most. **Thank you!**

A 40-year donor plans to leave a legacy of hope

Do you recall what you were doing around 40 years ago? Merle Southam of Kingston, ON sure does!

"My husband and I moved to Kingston in 1977, and that's when I heard about Operation Eyesight," she says. "I was

amazed to learn that for \$20, we could help save someone's eyesight. When my husband came home from work, I told him about it. We both thought it was great value to be able to save someone's eyesight for so little money."



Generous donors like Merle are helping ensure these children will SEE a brighter future!

And they've been proud to give the Gift of Sight ever since! "We always enjoyed reading the newsletter. We knew people were being helped because of our donations," says Merle. The couple also made the important decision to leave a gift to Operation Eyesight in their wills.

Her husband died a few years ago, and Merle has faithfully continued to support us. She tells everyone, "It's amazing what Operation Eyesight can do! Eyesight is so important."

Thank you for over four decades of wonderful support, Merle. You're an inspiration to us all!

SEE what your lasting gift can do

Leave a lasting legacy of hope by leaving a gift to Operation Eyesight in your will. For more information, contact Susan at **403-670-2635** or toll-free at **1-800-585-8265**, or email her at

DeikeS@operationeyesight.com.



Leave ^A
Legacy
For All The
World ^{to} See

For all the world to SEE

55 years of saving sight... and we're not done yet!

Thanks to you, millions of people have had their sight restored or saved over the past 55 years. We can't thank you enough! And to think it all started with a gathering of the "Gullison Club" in Calgary's First Baptist Church one night in 1963. Some of you have been supporting us since that night in 1963! Wow!

Although there's no way our founder Art Jenkyns could have known we'd still be going strong after 55 years, we don't think he'd be surprised. That's because Art always understood the generosity of people like you. You (and other kind-hearted people like you) believe in and support our mission to help give the Gift of Sight to children, women and men.



We aren't surprised by that generosity either; but we're always amazed by it! Without our incredible donors, our work to end avoidable blindness wouldn't be possible.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank each and every supporter of Operation Eyesight. Because of you, children have brand-new prescription eyeglasses. Men and women can take care of their families and work to build better lives for themselves. Grandparents can live lives of dignity that are brightened by seeing the smiles of their grandchildren. **Because of you, everything that we do is possible.**

We hope that before the next 55 years are over, no one in the world suffers from blindness for too long when they don't have to. We're so grateful to count on your support. **Thank you!**

What can YOU do to help Operation Eyesight?

Your generous donations allow Operation Eyesight to continue our critical work. But there's something more every single person can do to help us. **Please tell two others about Operation Eyesight and why you support us.**

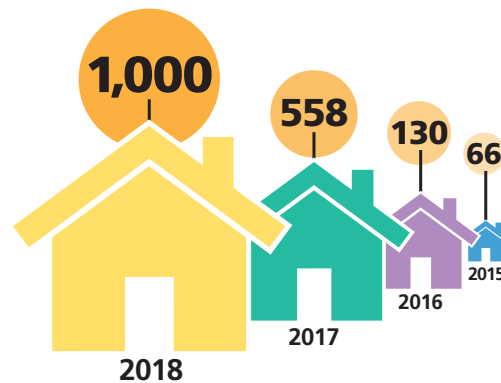
Help spread the word about Operation Eyesight, and help raise awareness about our work. You can even pick up the phone and tell us about it when you're done! Just call us at **1-800-585-8265**. By sharing your story, you can inspire others to act and together, we can end avoidable blindness. That's really powerful, and **we're counting on you!**

Here's a puzzle for you: What's 2020 by 2020?

We have an inspiring goal: **we want to declare 2,020 villages avoidable blindness-free by the year 2020.** What does that mean? Every child, woman and man living in these communities, regardless of age, gender or ability to pay, will be screened for avoidable blindness. They'll be treated and have their sight restored if possible. Wonderful!

And we're on the path to achieve our goal! By the end of 2017, **we had declared 558 villages in India avoidable blindness-free, thanks to your support!** But there's still a long way to go. There are still so many people living with avoidable blindness who need us!

So how can you help? Every donation, no matter how small, can help prevent blindness and change lives! Your ongoing gifts ensure our work continues until we've eliminated avoidable blindness once and for all.



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

Have you ever thought about becoming a monthly donor? Imagine how many lives your monthly giving could touch!

You can support our mission to reach the people of 2,020 villages – and change thousands of lives – by signing up for monthly donations today! It's fast and easy, and you can change your donation at any time. Check out the form on the back of this newsletter, or call our friendly staff toll-free at **1-800-585-8265**. We're looking forward to hearing from you... **For All The World To See!**

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, phone us at 1-800-585-8265 or email 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.

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.

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#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

Online: Go to 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

Full 2016 Report to Donors

2018-n11MAR

Tell us your story!

I support Operation Eyesight because: _____

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



Thank you!