



Thanks to donors like you, young Blessing received life-saving eye surgery at Watborg Eye Services, a hospital we helped establish in Ghana in 2012.

## The Gift of Sight saved a little girl's life

For six-year-old Blessing, the Gift of Sight has meant more than a critical eye surgery; it has meant life itself.

Two years ago, Blessing was playing near a pile of burning trash in her home village in Ghana when an explosion occurred. Tragically, a piece of metal became embedded in her eye.

Blessing was rushed to a nearby hospital, where her parents received news that no parent wants to hear: their daughter would lose her eye. They were overcome with grief for their daughter's loss.

"I wish this had happened to me and not my daughter," her father said.

Although her eye could not be saved, Blessing still required surgery to remove the eye and avoid a life-threatening infection. Her parents struggled

financially and knew they could not afford the treatment, but they refused to give up on their little girl.

Blessing was referred to our partner hospital, Watborg Eye Services, where most of the cost of her surgery was covered. After her wound healed, she was fitted with a prosthetic eye.

*Read more inside* →



### Looking for holiday 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. [operationeyesight.com/GiftOfSight](https://operationeyesight.com/GiftOfSight)

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When our team checked in on Blessing earlier this fall, they found a smiling and active little girl. She has adjusted well to her prosthetic eye and is in her second year of school.

"It's the expertise of the medical teams at our partner facilities and their ability to act quickly that makes the difference in the lives of patients and families," says Emmanuel Kumah, our Country Director for Ghana.

"Collaboration between our teams and our partner facilities in the local community is ensuring critical eye care services are available for patients like Blessing every day. We cannot thank Operation Eyesight donors enough for their support!"



Blessing, now six years old, with her father, Solomon.

As I reflect on 2022, I am once again filled with immense gratitude. Together we did so much more than bring life-changing eye care, surgeries and prescription eyeglasses to those who needed them. We gave children the ability to learn and thrive at school. We connected families with their local health systems. We transformed whole communities through locally-available, fresh water. We also declared entire villages free of untreated vision loss.



**None of this would be possible without the generosity of donors like you. Thank you!**

For many of us, the holiday season is a chance to connect with family and friends. It's also a great time of year to share with a loved one the impact we can have together. I invite you to give a memorable gift in their honour this holiday season: the Gift of Sight.

Thank you for your support, and best wishes to you and yours for a joyful, healthy holiday season.

With gratitude,

Kashinath Bhoosnurmath  
President & CEO



A patient at Keringet Health Centre, West Pokot County, Kenya receives a vision test during a community eye health screening on World Sight Day.

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## World Sight Day shines a light on vision loss globally

Eye health took centre stage on October 13 as we celebrated World Sight Day with public eye health screenings, community education and other awareness events worldwide.

Across Ghana, India, Kenya and Zambia, thanks to school and community eye health screening events hosted by our local teams, we screened more than 4,200 people and provided referrals or treatment for more than 1,400 people.

Zambia's Vice President attended the official opening of our partner Maamba General Hospital's new Eye Unit. In Kenya, we partnered with the county government to break ground on the new operating theatre at the Iten County Referral Hospital Eye Unit

"Decision makers are beginning to take note of the importance of eye health. Awareness

activities, such as the public events we organize on World Sight Day, are a big part of that," says Alice Mwangi, our Country Director for Kenya.

In India, we also declared nine villages avoidable blindness-free – that is free of untreated cases of avoidable blindness and vision loss.

"These celebrations were the culmination of months of work by our teams," says Dr. Troy Cunningham, our Country Director for India. "The impact we are having together transforms individual lives and entire communities."

Thank you to our global community for your continuous support on World Sight Day and every day!

Visit [operationeyesight.com/worldsightday](https://operationeyesight.com/worldsightday) to see more photos from the field.



Lana Cissell (centre) and her husband, Peter, have been giving the Gift of Sight on behalf of their sons, Justin (right) and Carter (left, next to his partner, Larissa) for much of their lives. The impact is generational.

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## Teaching children the true meaning of giving

What's the gift for someone who has everything? For Lana Cissell, the answer is simple.

"Our family gives the Gift of Sight," she explains. "Because generosity is something we have to teach our kids."

Lana's parents began donating to Operation Eyesight on behalf of their children each year.

"It impacted me a lot and was a tradition we kept up with our two sons," Lana says. "It became something my kids looked forward to. Growing up, they appreciated seeing the impact on another kid their own age."

The Gift of Sight is a way to celebrate the holidays by making a donation in the name of a friend or loved one and have a transformational impact in the life of someone who needs eye health care. When you give the Gift of Sight, you can select from a variety of greeting cards or eCards to announce your gift. Each physical greeting card comes with a gift tag.

"If you can't see, then you can't work and you can't provide for your family," reflects Lana. "Everyone who receives a Gift of Sight card or gift tag always appreciates such a unique present."

Lana says she's inspired by how the simple Gift of Sight has moved others in her community to get involved with Operation Eyesight, including her own kids.

"Both of my sons and niece were eventually inspired to volunteer with Operation Eyesight during high school," she says. "It taught them to give of themselves and do something bigger than themselves."

This holiday season, Lana says she will again be calling in another order of Gift of Sight cards.

*Thank you for your dedicated support, Lana and family!*

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Visit [operationeyesight.com/GiftOfSight](https://operationeyesight.com/GiftOfSight) to donate today and start your own family tradition!



## The gift of fresh water

When you give the Gift of Sight, not only are you helping to restore sight for individuals, but you're also helping to prevent blindness for entire communities. Communities like Chitobe in central Zambia.

The Chitobe water point is one of 20 defunct boreholes that Operation Eyesight-trained teams are rehabilitating across the district.

For the 350 households in the area, the repaired borehole means that women and girls will no longer have to draw water from shallow wells or walk long distances to rivers and streams. Local access to fresh water will also help prevent the spread of diseases, including blinding trachoma.

"Lack of fresh water in this community has in the past prevented the expansion of local health and education facilities. This means women and children have been receiving health services in a thatched hut, and many children are learning under the shade of a tree," says Chali Chisala Selisho, our Country Director for Zambia.

"This newly-fixed borehole will change all that, thanks to our donors and our community partners."

There have never been so many ways to give the transformational Gift of Sight. Along with making a one-time or monthly donation, the gift of **stocks or annuities** is a great way to make a difference while also reducing your taxes. **Designating a gift to Operation Eyesight in your will** is also a wonderful way to leave a legacy of sight and hope.

## Holiday closure

**Our Calgary office will be closed from Dec. 23, 2022 to Jan. 2, 2023.** If you'd like to make a donation that is eligible for a 2022 tax receipt, we encourage you to call us before the holiday break or visit our website to donate online before Dec. 31.

☎ 1-800-585-8265

✉ [info@operationeyesight.com](mailto:info@operationeyesight.com)

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