



This holiday season...

Give the Gift of Sight and transform lives!

This is such a wonderful time of year. As we prepare for a season filled with love and hope, it's easy to be distracted by endless errands and buying gifts. Make a meaningful gift this year by giving the Gift of Sight. In lieu of presents, consider making a donation in honour of a friend or loved one and give the Gift of Sight to someone in need – be inspired to give a gift that will give twice!

Call us at 1-800-585-8265 or visit operationeyesight.com/giftofsight to order your gifts today.

Your gift could help someone like Soyol, a seven-year-old boy from Nepal. He started to lose his vision at a very young age, but his parents didn't think anything could be done about it. They put Soyol in school, but with his vision declining, he couldn't see the blackboard or read his books.



For children like Soyol, the Gift of Sight means the gift of education. Thanks to donors like you, he received sight-restoring cataract surgery. Now he can see again and is thriving in school!

With help from Operation Eyesight-trained community health workers and health care staff from one of our partner hospitals, **Soyol had his eyes examined and was referred to the hospital for cataract surgery.**

Because of your generosity, Soyol had surgery and can see again! He can read, learn and play with other kids. "The work you're doing is amazing," says Soyol's mother. "You're bringing hope to Soyol's future."

It seemed Soyol would never get the education he needed to get ahead in life. **But thanks to someone like you, Soyol now has hope for a brighter future!**

Thank you so much for your support. From all of us at Operation Eyesight, we wish you Happy Holidays and a happy and healthy 2020!

Order your sight-saving gifts today!

The **Gift of Sight** is the perfect gift for those hard-to-buy-for people on your list, and it makes a great accompaniment to your host gift, too.

Call us at 1-800-585-8265 to order your gifts today!

With each gift, you can choose to send a physical greeting card to the recipient. Each card will come with a Gift of Sight gift tag. Please **place your order before Dec. 13** if you want your gifts to arrive by Christmas. **eCards are also available anytime online at operationeyesight.com/giftofsight.**

Order deadline
for printed
Christmas cards is
Dec. 13!



Vision First with Operation Eyesight around the globe

The theme of this year's World Sight Day (WSD) was "Vision First," and we were happy to celebrate and spread the news! The goal of WSD, the annual day of awareness held every October, is to focus global attention on blindness and visual impairment. See how we marked the day below, and remember that everything we do is **thanks to you, our amazing donors!**

Vision First for surgery patients **in Ghana**

Our partner Watborg Eye Services conducted 305 eye surgeries on WSD. As part of the celebrations, the Central Regional Health Director of Ghana, Dr. Alexis Beifubah, presented Operation Eyesight with an award for our contributions to eye health.



Three patients (right) just after surgery at Watborg Eye Services, while the others wait their turn.

Clean glasses **in Calgary**

In Calgary, we took to Stephen Avenue, joined by volunteers from Encana Corporation. Together, we handed out 1,000 eyeglass cleaning cloths and reminded everyone to book an eye exam. Canadians might not share the same eye health challenges as in other places around the world, but avoidable blindness will only be eliminated when everyone is empowered to take care of their eyes!



Just a few of the staff and volunteers on Calgary's downtown Stephen Avenue to raise awareness for WSD!

Outreach puts Vision First **in Kenya**

In Kenya, we put Vision First by conducting outreach to provide people in Kirinyaga County with surgeries and other treatment. The result was 36 cataract surgeries and 182 people receiving treatment for different eye issues. There was also education to emphasize the need to prioritize eye health, especially for women who are often too busy with farm work to seek eye health care.



A Community Health Volunteer supporting and guiding a patient on WSD.

Vision First in 22 communities **in India**

In collaboration with our partner hospitals, we celebrated WSD by declaring 22 villages free of avoidable blindness. The declaration ceremony was attended by government officials and stakeholders, and was covered by local print and digital media. Also, our Country Manager for India, Anup Zimba, participated in a walkathon organized by Vision 2020 in Jaipur, along with 700 others.

First-ever **World Report on Vision** released

There is a critical need for global action on visual impairment, according to the World Health Organization's recently released World Report on Vision. Written with the support of experts around the world, the report highlights the urgent nature of avoidable blindness. It calls for everyone, including Canadians, to address the considerable challenges that have created a world with so much preventable blindness and vision loss.

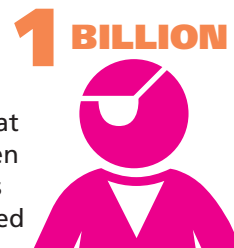
The report's goal is to shape the global agenda on vision, in part by urging ministries of health, development agencies and policy-makers to support the Sustainable Development Goals. We're proud that, **together with donors like you**, we're already supporting these goals. With your continued support, we won't stop until avoidable blindness has been eliminated!

Findings from the report:

The number of people who have a vision impairment worldwide



The number of people who have a vision impairment that could have been prevented or is yet to be treated



Eye conditions are expected to increase due to a variety of factors



Everyone, if they live long enough, will experience at least one eye condition in their lifetime

Thanks to YOU, **Diana can see again!**

Thirty-five-year-old Diana from Ghana's Cape Coast started to lose her eyesight over 20 years ago. Her vision began blurring when she was a teenager and slowly worsened. She visited several hospitals and was given eyedrops and multivitamins, neither of which helped.

Diana took up the trade of dyeing cotton fabric, but her eyesight made it difficult to work full time and she feared for her future. "I'm worried a time will come when I won't be able to go out because I'll be totally blind," she said. "I will not be able to work, and I'm not sure if I will continue to get support from my relatives."

Then Diana was referred to our partner, Saltpond Government Hospital. An Operation Eyesight-trained optometrist identified Diana's conditions as retinitis pigmentosa (a genetic disorder) and myopia (nearsightedness). Diana was able to pay the small cost for prescription eyeglasses to correct her myopia. While retinitis pigmentosa is incurable, we were able to give her a hand magnifier, free of charge!

Today, Diana is back at work full time. "Now I am more confident to go by myself to work. I am very grateful to the doctor and to Operation Eyesight for giving me the magnifier. **Thank you for your care and love!**"



"With my spectacles and magnifier," Diana says, "I can comfortably read. Before, I couldn't read my bible at church or go out to see others, but now I can!"

HOW THIS TEACHER HELPS HER STUDENTS

Thanks to your support, Ruth's students get the help they need!

Ruth, from Kenya's Trans-Nzoia County, has been a teacher for 19 years. One of her students, Hellen, was unable to read properly, had poor coordination while playing, would stumble on objects while walking, and was very quiet and shy. For a long time, there was nothing Ruth could do to help students like Hellen.



Ruth is glad that her school has access to Peek and hopes it will someday be available for all schools in Kenya.

Thanks to you, now there is! Using Peek (Portable Eye Examination Kit), a smartphone app that Operation Eyesight has helped trial for use in schools, Ruth was able to check Hellen's eyes. Peek's data goes directly to eye care experts, which means Ruth was able to refer Hellen to our partner hospital. There, she was diagnosed with bilateral cataracts and was booked for cataract surgery.

Today she can see clearly to read and write, and she's performing better in school. Her social life has improved, too. What a difference!

Since using Peek, Ruth has noticed that her students' learning capabilities have improved overall, parents have become more involved in their children's eye health care, and teachers are paying more attention to their students' eye health needs.

Ruth is happy that, instead of having to guess why students are struggling in class, she can now check their sight and make sure they receive the care they need. "I'd like to thank the donors, because this intervention has gone a long way in helping our students," she says. "I'd also request to expand this program to other schools and counties in the country." With your continued support, we hope to do just that!



Ruth is grateful that she's able to get her students the eye care they need, so they can grow up with quality education and confidence in their abilities.

SEE what your lasting gift can do

Designating a gift to Operation Eyesight in your will is an opportunity to leave a lasting legacy of hope for everyone impacted by blindness. To learn more, contact Susan at **403-670-2635** or toll-free at **1-800-585-8265**, or email her at **DeikeS@operationeyesight.com**.



Thank YOU for another great year!

At our Annual Impact Celebration in Calgary in June, we celebrated philanthropy and donors like YOU who have transformed hundreds of communities through the Gift of Sight in 2018. Because of you, we had so much to celebrate. And with your continued support, we know 2020 is going to be an even bigger, more exciting year!

A special thank you goes out to our 2019 Annual Impact Celebration sponsors:

- Active Accounting Inc.
- Cambridge FX
- CIBC
- SerVantage

From all of us at Operation Eyesight – our staff, board of directors and volunteers around the world – we would like to wish you, our incredible donors, a wonderful holiday season and all the best in 2020!

Thank you on behalf of all those you've helped!



During a visit to India's West Bengal region, our President and CEO Aly Bandali stopped to get this photo. Aly was in West Bengal's Darjeeling municipality for the declaration of 10 villages as avoidable blindness-free. These children are just a few of the many people who will never go avoidably blind, thanks to you!

Connect with us



1-800-585-8265



info@operationeyesight.com



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operationeyesight.com/newsletter

Make your gift today!



Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more unless otherwise requested.

We do not sell, trade or otherwise 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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Operation Eyesight Canada is a registered charitable organization.
#11906 8955 RR0001

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#20-2682468

Yes, I want to give the Gift of Sight!

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

Operation Eyesight USA
14900 Interurban Ave. S. Suite 271 PMB 35
Seattle, WA, United States, 98168-4654

By telephone: 1-800-585-8265 (Toll-free in Canada & the USA)

By emailing this form to: admin@operationeyesight.com

By scan or fax: 403-270-1899

Online: operationeyesight.com/donate

Yes! I will support Operation Eyesight's sight-saving projects by making a regular monthly gift of:

\$20 \$50 \$100 \$200 Other \$ _____

Please designate this gift to Operation Eyesight's Gift of Sight holiday campaign.

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: _____

2019-NL4DEC

Please send me:

Information about how to leave a gift in my will

2018 Annual Report

Tell us your story!

I support Operation Eyesight because: _____

Thank you!

