



Welcoming our new CEO, Aly Bandali...

"Thanks for your amazing support.
With your help, we're just getting started!"

We're thrilled to welcome Aly Bandali as our new President and CEO. We want you to get to know him, so we sat down to ask him what inspires him to follow in the footsteps of Art Jenkyns.

Q: Tell us how you came to Canada.

A: In 1972, my family fled Uganda after dictator Idi Amin Dada proclaimed that if all South Asians didn't leave, they'd be killed. We left our possessions and family businesses and spent a year in a refugee camp in Austria until we found out Canada would give us refuge. Through the generous actions of the Canadian government, we were able to call Canada our new home and I grew up in Edmonton.

Q: What does the issue of avoidable blindness mean to you?

A: My grandmother and her two brothers lost their vision because of retinitis pigmentosa, an avoidable blindness. I can only imagine how their lives would have been if they'd come to Canada with their vision. My grandmother raised my younger brother and I, and that makes me think about how our lives might have been different as well.

Avoidable blindness can be addressed by ALL eye health organizations coming together, and I want to lead a concerted, collaborative effort.



Aly has enjoyed a 20-year career in human resources and leadership in Calgary, in non-profit, technology, and oil and gas. He's delighted to be with us and ready to get to work!

Looking back and knowing my grandmother's blindness was avoidable burns me inside and **motivates me to help as many people as possible.**

Q: How do you see the future of Operation Eyesight?

A: The future is even brighter than yesterday. Each day we focus our work and efforts, we make a difference in lives around the world. Today, as a true development organization with a proven and sustainable model, we're making a real impact. I see us continuing to build partnerships and collaborations around the world to achieve the elimination of avoidable blindness. I see us "beating the drum" louder locally in Canada to share our successes with our fellow Canadians so they can be a part of our incredible journey. **I see an end to avoidable blindness.**

Welcome to the Operation Eyesight family, Aly!

Annual AGM & Donor Celebration



More than 150 fantastic people came out for our Annual General Meeting and Donor Celebration in June. We can't thank everyone enough for their support, but we'll sure try!

THANK YOU!

You can read all about our celebration at: operationeyesight.com/donor-celebration-2018

Thank you
for another
incredible year!

SEE the difference **you** make

Photo Credit: Peek Vision

Smartphone screening boosts children's eye health care

If you can't see clearly at school, you can't learn and thrive. That's the idea behind the Peek Acuity smartphone app. Peek aims to treat childhood visual impairment, which affects about 19 million children worldwide. The Peek project trains teachers to conduct school screenings and refer students to local eye care services. We're excited to share that recently, the first ever trial of the Peek school health screening system was published in The Lancet Global Health.

This new research shows that Peek screening **more than doubled the number of Kenyan school children attending follow-up eye health appointments.** That's a great result! Effective screening enables early diagnosis and treatment of childhood eye problems.



Peek Acuity is a smartphone-based eye test app, developed by eye experts, that allows anyone to measure visual acuity using only their smartphone. It is as accurate as a traditional letter chart eye test, but can be used by non-specialists in almost any location.

Photo Credit: Peek Vision



If eye health and vision loss can be treated starting in childhood, the social, educational and economic benefits are huge. Peek school eye health programs aim to allow teachers and public health workers to screen children at school, followed by appropriate triage and treatment. Here, a teacher screens a student in Nakuru, Kenya.

The study was carried out by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, in partnership with the Kenyan Ministry of Health, and funded in part by Operation Eyesight. You can read the study at bit.ly/peekschooltrial.

We're proud to be a supporter of Peek. **We couldn't do it without Standard Chartered Bank's Seeing is Believing program and the support of our generous donors like you!** Because of that kindness, we're also screening students in 350 schools in Trans Nzoia County in Kenya. **Thank you so much!**

Saved from a future of isolation

Elizabeth is 22 and still in her first year of high school. She lives in Kenya's Trans Nzoia County with her parents and siblings. Her visual impairment made studying impossible, and she quit school in 2011.

"It was hard staying home while my younger siblings excelled at school. I feared people were treating me differently because of my low literacy. I felt hopeless."

But Elizabeth was determined to complete her studies.

Elizabeth received a low vision device and a special desk to help her read in class. Thanks to the generosity of people like you, Elizabeth can chase her dreams.

If childhood visual impairment isn't identified at an early age, it leads to poor grades at school and even community exclusion in adulthood. This could have been Elizabeth's future, but your support has given her hope.

She went back to school thanks to Peek, a mobile app that teachers use to screen students' vision. Elizabeth was referred to one of our partner hospitals in Kenya and diagnosed with low vision. **Now, with the help of a special low-vision device, Elizabeth is back in school, and working to make her dreams a reality.**

Thanks to you, we've successfully implemented Peek in Trans Nzoia, and we can expand our work into neighbouring counties where no school screening projects exist. With support from generous people like you, we'll continue to help students like Elizabeth and ensure they receive the eye care they need...

For All The World To See!

SEE what we're achieving **together**

Seeing is believing:

A long-time donor sees the work she made possible

Trudie Carlson had the opportunity of a lifetime when she witnessed first-hand how her support is helping eliminate avoidable blindness.



This water tank provides hundreds with safe, clean water. This means the painful, blinding disease trachoma can be eliminated.

A long-time Operation Eyesight supporter from Vancouver, Trudie was on safari last November in Kenya when she spotted Operation Eyesight's logo out the window of the rickety tour bus.

"There was a big sign on a water tank marking Operation Eyesight's contribution to assist the villagers in the surrounding area. **I'm so happy that I'm able to play a part in helping these communities,**" Trudie tells us. Trudie's donations are making safe, fresh water accessible to the surrounding communities, so **villagers are able to wash their hands and faces, preventing the spread of the blinding eye disease trachoma.**

"Operation Eyesight does so much for so many with so little. I'm proud to be a small contributor to those efforts," Trudie said beaming.

Trudie first learned of Operation Eyesight from a Reader's Digest article. During her years as a real estate agent, she'd give back by donating to Operation Eyesight every time she made a sale. The support of people like Trudie means so much to us, and to the people who are being helped through her generosity.

Thank you, Trudie, for your long-time support, and for sharing your story with us!

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!

Tell us your story!



SEE the impact you're making

You can make a difference in the next 30 seconds!



Changing a life is easier than ever before with our new Text to Donate feature. By texting the word **"EYESIGHT"** to the number **45678**, you can make a \$5 donation and change someone's life with the **gift of sight!**

If you shared this with 10 people you know, and they all made a donation, that's \$50 – which can pay for someone's cataract surgery. In places like Africa and South Asia, a cataract surgery can mean the difference between a life lived in darkness and a bright future filled with dignity and hope.

Why wait? Text **EYESIGHT** now and make a difference – just like that!

SEE what your lasting gift can do



Designating a gift to Operation Eyesight in your will is your opportunity to give the *gift of sight* and leave a lasting legacy of hope. For more information, contact Susan at **403-670-2635** or toll-free at **1-800-585-8265**, or email her at **DeikeS@operationeyesight.com**.

Donor's generosity helps others

— during her lifetime and beyond



A few years ago, we were sad to say goodbye to Margaret, an incredible donor whose kindness has lasted beyond her lifetime.

Margaret started giving to Operation Eyesight back in 1964. In a letter, she told us why...

"My beloved brother went blind and died from diabetes insipidus. I saw how hard it was for an adult who goes suddenly blind to cope in a world built for the sighted. Not long after my brother's death, I heard about Operation Eyesight. I missed him so much at Christmas that I decided to give what I would have spent on a gift for him to the cause of helping people regain their sight. Ever since, I give what I can at Christmas. The work you do is remarkable."

For years, Margaret kept Operation Eyesight in her heart, giving the gift of sight to people in need. Now, Margaret's impact lives on in a gift she left Operation Eyesight in her will.

Thank you, Margaret, for making our world a better place for so many people! We're sure your brother would be proud.

Our **focus** on the world

Elagonda wants to thank you for your generous support



Elagonda claps with excitement when describing her surgery, made possible by caring people like you.

My name is Elagonda. I'm 65 years old and live in India. I'm not a wealthy person, and although I have two daughters who could help support me, they're both married and have their own lives to attend to. What my family did have in savings was used to arrange their marriages into good families.

So I live alone... I lost my husband a few years ago, and I get by on a small pension from the government. When I can, I do some farming work to make a little more money. I depend on my eyes to earn my living, and I only realized to what extent when I started to lose my vision.

One day, my world was so dark that I couldn't keep working. I had no other income, and I could barely survive on my pension.

Unexpectedly, one day a community health worker trained by Operation Eyesight was at my door. She screened my eyes and told me I had cataracts.

I was poor though. How could I afford the surgeries for my eyes? But the health worker told me that my treatment would be free of charge, thanks to Operation Eyesight's kind-hearted donors.

After my surgery, I can see again! I can work and spend time with my friends and neighbours. I have hope again.

I sincerely thank the people who give their money to help people like me, even though they don't know me. My sight has been restored – and with it, my happiness!



Congratulations Ghana!

In June, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that Ghana had successfully eliminated the blinding disease

trachoma, in partnership with a number of organizations. Although Operation Eyesight's work in Ghana is focused elsewhere, we asked our Country Manager, Emmanuel Kumah, to congratulate everyone involved in this huge success!

Dear partners, including BBC World Service Trust, CBM, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, FHI 360, the International Trachoma Initiative, New Energy, Pfizer, Pro Net, Sightsavers, Swiss Red Cross, The Carter Center, The Ghanaian Ministry of Health, UNICEF, USAID, WaterAid, WHO and World Vision...

Congratulations on the success of having eliminated trachoma as a public health problem and freeing millions of Ghanaians from avoidable blindness!

Ghana being the first country in WHO's African region to achieve this milestone is commendable. It required innovations such as the use of height-based dosing for antibiotics, systematic door-to-door and community-by-community searches, and intensive counselling of patients to encourage more eye surgeries. These are a useful guide for other trachoma-endemic countries.

We at Operation Eyesight are very proud of the hard work and commitment you demonstrated towards this end. We have no doubt that, with continued collaboration, much more can be done to achieve our dream of a Ghana in which nobody is needlessly visually impaired – where those with unavoidable vision loss can achieve their full potential, and where there is universal access to comprehensive eye care services.

Best wishes for continuous success in all eye health programme endeavours.

Emmanuel Kwasi Kumah
Ghana Country Manager

- 1 Call our friendly office staff at **1-800-585-8265**
- 2 Opt to receive *SightLines* by email instead of in the mail. You'll also help us cut down on printing costs!
- 3 Sign up for our *Glimpse* eNews at operationeyesight.com/newsletter
- 4 Read our weekly posts at operationeyesight.com/blog
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S ways you can connect with us!





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.

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

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You can help someone see a brighter tomorrow

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: 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 min

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

My details:

Title _____

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____

Province/State _____

Postal/ZIP code _____

Telephone (____) _____

Email _____

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Please send me:

Information about how to leave a gift in my will

Full 2017 Annual Report

Tell us your story!

I support Operation Eyesight because: _____

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.



thank you