



Thanks to your support, Tirtha can see her grandkids' smiles again

Eighty-five-year-old Tirtha picks through a bag of dried beans outside her home, preparing to make dinner. Just months ago, the simple task would have been nearly impossible because of her poor vision. For nearly two years, she struggled with all her daily tasks in the home she shares with her daughter-in-law and grandchildren in the village of Gagalthedi, in Nepal's Kathmandu District.

Tirtha's daughter-in-law, who works as an office assistant in the village and is the family's sole breadwinner, constantly worried about Tirtha. But with only one bus running through the village each day, she couldn't find time to take Tirtha into Kathmandu for an eye exam.

Their luck changed when a community health worker visited the house and discovered that

Tirtha had cataracts in both eyes. She encouraged them to visit an upcoming eye camp being organized by our partner, the Nepal Eye Hospital. Tirtha attended the camp where she received a referral for cataract surgery, then traveled to the hospital in Kathmandu in our "Vision on Wheels" vehicle. She got surgery on both eyes free of charge, thanks to the generosity of donors like you.

Now, with her vision restored, Tirtha is back to her daily activities and household chores. Her daughter-in-law can focus on her work, knowing that Tirtha is safe and self-sufficient at home.

"I thought I would live in darkness forever," Tirtha says with a smile. "Now I can see my grandchildren's faces clearly again."

Celebrate Easter, birthdays, graduations and other milestones this spring with our tribute cards! Make a donation in the name of a friend or loved one and pick an eCard or greeting card to inform them of your gift.

For greeting cards, call us at 1-800-585-8265 or email info@operationeyesight to place an order. For eCards, visit operationeyesight.com/ecards or scan the QR code below.



School Eye Health



Students at Kiserian Primary School in Kajiado County, Kenya show off their “new shades” – which are prescription eyeglasses with transition lenses. These photochromatic lenses darken automatically when exposed to sunlight and clear when the UV source is removed, protecting young eyes from harmful sun rays, which can

contribute to the development of cataracts and other eye problems. Each year, thousands of students receive prescription eyeglasses through our School Eye Health Programs, allowing them to learn, thrive and live up to their full potential. Go to operationeyesight.com/schooleyhealth to learn more.

Donor Spotlight



Cycling for sight

If you've ever biked up a long hill, you know it sometimes takes a little extra motivation to keep you going. For a group of Ottawa-area cyclists last summer, that inspiration came from a sense of purpose – because they were biking to raise money for eyesight.

Over three days in August, 13 cyclists from a group called “Kanada Riders” biked from Parliament Hill in Ottawa to the outskirts of Montreal and back again. Before they rode, they collected pledges from friends and family, raising more than \$6,000 for Operation Eyesight.

“That sense of riding for something bigger than ourselves kept us motivated through the toughest climbs and longest hours,” says the ride’s organizer, Lokesh Siddaramanna (at right, in red helmet).

Lokesh and several of his teammates first heard about Operation Eyesight in 2024, when our President & CEO, Kashinath Bhoosnurmath, did a presentation to their dragon boat team. When Lokesh proposed the fundraising ride to the cycling group, they were instantly on board because of the importance of eyesight in everyday life.

“We were truly blown away by the generosity and enthusiasm of our friends, families and colleagues,” says Lokesh. “People weren’t just donating – they were cheering us on every step of the way.”

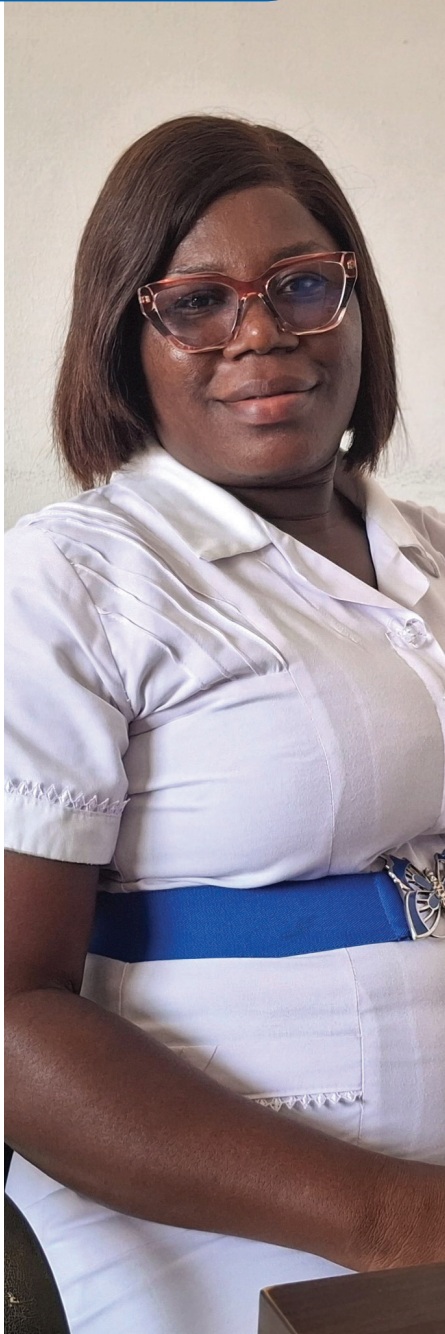
Their sense of purpose also carried them through. He adds, “During those tough uphill stretches, we often reminded ourselves why we were riding: for the people whose lives would be transformed by the gift of sight.”

Thank you Kanada Riders for your incredible support!



Ready to host your own fundraiser?

You can create your own event and rally support from friends, family and your community to help provide eye health care services around the world. Whether you want to organize a fun run, host a cookoff or simply ask for donations in lieu of birthday gifts, you can easily set up and share your fundraising page in just minutes. Go to operationeyesight.com/fundraise to learn how.



Bringing vision care back home

In 2022, we brought you the story of Joana Annobil, who was pursuing a degree in ophthalmic nursing with support from Operation Eyesight. We caught up with Joana again in recent months to find out what she's up to now.

As a general nurse working in a busy clinic in Ghana's Awutu Senya District, Joana Annobil treated a wide range of medical conditions. But there was one issue that consistently stood out to her as having the biggest impact on patients' lives: vision loss.

"Our eyes are like the light of the human body," she says. "Without your eyes, you can't do anything. You can't go anywhere. So, the eye is very important to talk about and take care of."

Joana wanted to bring better eye health care to people in her district by studying ophthalmic nursing, but pursuing further studies felt out of reach because of the costs. After discussing her aspirations with her manager at the local health directorate, a partner of ours, the manager reached out for support. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, Joana received the financial assistance she needed to advance her education.

Today, Joana is fully certified as an ophthalmic nurse, after completing a degree program at the Ophthalmic Nursing School in Korle Bu. She works at the Senya Beraku Polyclinic in her home district of Awutu Senya. She says that with her advanced training, she's better able to diagnose, refer and explain conditions and procedures to her patients. Most importantly, she is well equipped to combat eye health myths and misconceptions that prevent many patients from getting treatment.

Joana said one of the inspirations for becoming an ophthalmic nurse was her late grandmother, who went completely blind. "If it was now, I could have been able to identify whether it was cataracts, glaucoma, retinal problems or even optic nerve issues," she says. "I would have been able to help her on time."

Learn more about your support for healthcare workers:
operationeyesight.com/hospital-strengthening/

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Gwendolen and John Crowe, from Delta, BC, donated to Operation Eyesight for many years, and together they made the thoughtful decision to continue supporting our work beyond their lifetime, leaving a legacy of sight and hope for generations to come. Our vision centre in Chitipa, Malawi was made possible thanks to a generous gift left in Gwendolen's will.

Anyone can leave a legacy

You don't need a large estate to make a meaningful charitable gift in your will. In fact, most bequests in Canada come from people of average net worth. Every dollar counts, and charities appreciate final donations of any size. We recently sat down with **Nathalie Farrah** from our fundraising team, to help demystify the ins and outs of legacy giving.

Who should consider leaving a gift to charity in their will?

Anyone can leave a gift in their will to a charity that's close to their heart, and you can designate the donation as a percentage or share of the estate. Your will is your last voice; it's your opportunity to support the causes you're passionate about and continue creating an impact beyond your lifetime.

What if someone pledges a donation, but their financial situation changes?

Most people change their will four to five times in their lifetime. It's normal for things to come up that will impact your financial planning, like buying a house or having grandkids. You can change your will or adapt it whenever these events happen.

Let's talk taxes. Are there any incentives for making a charity gift in your will?

Absolutely, the Canadian government has made it very compelling to donate in your will. I'm not a financial advisor so I won't get into the formulas, but I can say that legacy giving significantly reduces the impact of taxes on the estate.

Anything else people should keep in mind?

If you plan to leave a charitable gift in your will, make sure you talk to your loved ones about it. The more informed they are about your wishes, the better everything will be executed.

Thinking about your own legacy? If you'd like to talk to someone about making a bequest, you can reach Nathalie at the contact information below, or visit operationeyesight.com/legacygiving

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