



Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, Florence received cataract surgery and is smiling once again. By giving the Gift of Sight this holiday season, you can help open new doors in the life of someone living with vision loss.

Gift of Sight – the gift that keeps on giving

When Florence began losing her sight to cataracts, her daughter, Rose, watched helplessly as her mother lost not only her independence but also her joy.

“She was complaining that she could see smoke,” says Rose, who lives with her mother in Kakamega, located in western Kenya. “She would always say that she could see people far away but could not see people who were near.”

Rose brought Florence to Saboti Sub-County Hospital in Kitale, where she saw a surgical team from our partner, Kitale County Referral Hospital. Florence received sight-restoring cataract surgery, at no cost. Reflecting on the difference the surgery made in her mother’s life, Rose sums up her gratitude with four simple words: “Thank you so much.”

Read more inside →



Looking for 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. 14 to ensure they get delivered before Christmas.

Toll-free: 1-800-585-8265

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When Rose brought her mother back to the hospital for her checkup, the doctors said she was doing well. Florence's smile tells a story that words can't express.

"Even I can see that she is smiling," Rose says. "I thank God the operation was successful. I would like to thank the people of Operation Eyesight Universal for bringing free treatment that has helped me and my mother." Rose says she hopes we can continue to help others in her mom's situation.

"When someone experiences vision loss, they often become closed off from the world. This is particularly true for seniors," says Alice Mwangi, our Country Director for Kenya. "Through the Gift of Sight, individuals are able to start new, happy chapters in their lives."

Visit operationeyesight.com/GiftOfSight to help provide critical eye care services for more people like Florence. Thank you for your support!



Florence (left) and her daughter, Rose, leave our partner facility, Saboti Sub-County Hospital, after a check-up appointment with physicians, following Florence's cataract surgery.

2023: a year to remember

2023 was a wonderful year for Operation Eyesight, as we celebrated 60 years of preventing blindness and restoring sight.

We have grown from our humble beginnings as a group of donors supporting a single hospital in Sompeta, India, to having comprehensive programs across 10 countries. Together, we have brought the Gift of Sight to millions of people, and our growth continues as we expand our programs to new countries and communities.

It is the generosity of donors like you that has made all of this possible. Whether you recently joined our global community or have been supporting our work since 1963, we hope you know how much we appreciate your support. **Thank you!**

In many ways, our work is just beginning; however, with your continued support, we can make avoidable blindness a thing of the past.



From our global family to yours, we wish you and yours a joyful, healthy holiday season!

With gratitude,

The Operation Eyesight Canada team
(pictured here at our 60th anniversary celebration event in Calgary)



Isaac Baffoe, our Programme Coordinator in Ghana (left), and a team of screeners including nursing staff from Saltpond Hospital held a free eye health screening for drivers and traders in Mfantseman Municipality.

World Sight Day brings the Gift of Sight to the globe

Each year on World Sight Day, the global eye health community joins hands to encourage people to love their eyes and make eye health a priority. This year, on Oct. 12, our global team brought eye screening, treatment and education to more than 108,000 people across South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Canada.

“There is no better way to celebrate World Sight Day than by bringing eye health care and education to those who need it most, especially women and girls,” says Dr. Ritu Ghosh, our Global Director, International Programmes.

“The collaboration of our staff and volunteers, donors, partners and communities has helped make this one of our most impactful World Sight Day celebrations to date.”

Across India, Nepal and Bangladesh, with the help of our partners we reached more than 5,600 people with eye health screening and education,

prescription eyeglasses and cataract surgeries. We also declared 39 villages in India as Avoidable Blindness-Free.

In Ghana, Kenya and Zambia, our staff, volunteers and partners hosted eye health screenings, distributed prescription and reading glasses, and delivered health education aimed at reaching people at work, including drivers, traders, factory workers and students.

In Canada, in collaboration with EvolutionEyes, we provided comprehensive eye exams to eight mothers and four children. The screening event was hosted in Calgary at Highbanks Society, which empowers young women to attend school and engage in personal planning and goal setting.

Globally, we shared eye health tips to help everyone, everywhere love their eyes.

Visit operationeyesight.com/WorldSightDay to learn more.



For teens like Mahek, the Gift of Sight is also the gift of acceptance and self-confidence.

Surgery boosts a teen's vision and confidence

Every child deserves to be healthy, loved and accepted.

After Mahek was born with strabismus – commonly known as a squint – she faced not only the prospect of worsening eyesight throughout her life, but also stigma from others in her community.

“I felt different from other kids my age and wished I had normal eyes,” says the 15-year-old teen and eldest of five sisters.

Strabismus causes the eyes to point in different directions, often causing blurred or double vision. Mahek and her family, who live in the Raisen District of Madhya Pradesh, India, often felt rejected by their community. Their relatives and neighbours said Mahek would not have a bright future and that nobody would marry her.

Mahek's parents took her to see an ophthalmologist but lost hope when they were told her eyes could not be treated and that she would have to live with the condition for the rest of her life. Heartbroken, Mahek's parents stopped exploring further treatment options.

The family's hope was restored when Raisen Vision Centre held an eye health screening camp at Mahek's school. Staff told Mahek's father that his daughter's condition was treatable, but that she should receive treatment without further delay. She was referred to our partner, Sewa Sedan Eye Hospital, where she received surgery.

“I was a bit worried, thinking if the surgery didn't go as planned it would worsen my eyes. But the surgeons there were very caring and made me feel at ease,” Mahek recalls.

Following the surgery, Mahek returned to school, where her friends joyfully welcomed her.

“My squint is gone, and now I look like other children with good eyes,” she says. “This treatment has boosted my confidence, and I would like to join the defense services when I grow up.”

Visit operationeyesight.com/GiftOfSight to donate today and help give more children like Mahek a brighter future!



Just look at that smile! Khodeja is grateful for her cataract surgery. Now she can see her grandchildren and watch them grow.

The gift of a second chance

Facing a future filled with darkness due to cataracts, there was one thing Khodeja, from Jamalpur, Bangladesh, had feared most.

“I [was] just worried of losing my sight and being unable to see my grandchildren again,” she said. “It would be a devastating state for me if I lose my sight. I don’t want to be a burden to my family.”

After one of our community health workers knocked on her door, Khodeja received a second chance at sight, and a second chance at life. She was referred to our partner, BNSB Eye Hospital, in Mymensingh, where she received cataract surgery through the generosity of our donors. Today, Khodeja’s eyes sparkle with joy.

The Gift of Sight is an incredible gift. Thank you for your support!

Holiday closure

Our Calgary office will be closed from Dec. 23, 2023 to Jan. 1, 2024. If you’d like to make a donation that is eligible for a 2023 tax receipt, we encourage you to call us before the holiday break or visit our website to donate online before Dec. 31.



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