

# THE CHAMPALIMAUD VISION AWARD!

On September 7<sup>th</sup> Seva Canada, along with the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO) and Seva Foundation, received the 2015 Champalimaud Vision Award.

Few awards mean more than those given by one's peers and almost no professional awards reward accomplishments to date, instead of work to be done. The Champalimaud Award is both of these, the Nobel Prize of eye care, and a celebration of contributions to the worldwide effort to eliminate preventable and treatable blindness.

This award recognizes Seva and KCCO for their work in Africa, a continent with some of the least developed eye care services in the world. It recognizes the trust and vision of Seva donors, large and small, who have created some of the world's most innovative programs.

Seva's greatest strength is to recognize potential in individuals and organizations and to nurture that potential. In 2001, two colleagues from Vancouver provided that opportunity when they moved to Moshi Tanzania with their young family to establish KCCO.

KCCO became a reality through initial and ongoing support from Seva Canada donors. Many eye care program innovations and KCCO strengths have come as a result of collaboration with Seva on a series of highly regarded studies.



PAULINA TIPAR, PARTNER OF SEVA & KCCO, AND HEAD OF ALL MAASAI MICROFINANCE GROUPS IN LOLIONDO, TANZANIA

KCCO has, to date, assisted 16 countries in Africa to implement comprehensive eye care programs including clinical services, outreach and specialty care – most of which include very challenging pediatric programs. The Seva community has supported their work every step of the way.

Seva collaborated with KCCO on research that identified the gender inequity in the treatment of blindness. We funded the publication of that research which resulted in a worldwide shift in the way organizations and institutions both gather and use their data. Today, as a direct result,





women and girls have better access to eye care.

With Seva Canada expertise and funding, KCCO is expanding the network of Community Eye Centres (Vision Centres) in Africa bringing permanent, sustainable eye care to the village level in Burundi, Malawi, and Congo-Brazzaville with plans to expand throughout Francophone West Africa.

Together, we can rid the world of preventable blindness. We can rid the world of a debilitating, poverty-inducing condition. Increasing the pace of change

in the delivery of accessible eye care worldwide is the only criteria for success.

We are honoured to receive the Champalimaud Award with KCCO and alongside Seva Foundation. We thank our dedicated and committed donors for supporting our vision.

The Champalimaud Vision Award includes a cash prize of 1 million Euros which will be shared by the three organizations. Seva Canada intends to use the funds to strengthen our investment in eye care development worldwide.

## NEPAL 5 MONTHS LATER

It has been 5 months since the first of two devastating earthquakes struck Nepal, followed by hundreds of aftershocks.

The United Nations estimates that more than 8,000 people were killed, over 870,000 homes destroyed or

badly damaged, and 2.8 million people remain in need of humanitarian assistance. Thirty out of 75 districts in the country were affected in the Western and Central Regions, including the Kathmandu Valley districts. This included mountainous and hilly regions, areas where rural populations are dispersed, as well as some very densely populated districts and Nepal's two largest cities – Kathmandu and Pokhara.

The worst affected districts include Sindulpalchowk, Kavre, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, and Dolakha in the Central Region and Kaski, Gorkha, and Lamjung in the western region.

We are grateful to report that our Seva Nepal staff and their families were not injured during either of the earthquakes. The Seva Nepal office did sustain some damage but not significant enough to make the building unsafe.

While some Primary Eye Care Centres (Community Eye Care Centres) were damaged or destroyed they are functioning in alternate locations. Our partner eye hospitals sustained little damage and are all still operational.

While Nepal rebuilds, our Seva Nepal office and our local partners will continue to provide eye care throughout the country.

Thank you to everyone for your concern and generous donations to the various relief organizations that are working on the ground to help the Nepalese recover and rebuild.



NEPALI BOY

# MOTOWN MELTDOWN

## AN EVENING OF MUSIC & DANCING IN SUPPORT OF SIGHT



THE TALENTED JANE MORTIFEE, KENDRA SPRINKLING AND LINDA KIDDER

As you may have heard 'though the grapevine' Seva Canada was chosen as the beneficiary of Motown Meltdown 2015, an evening of rhythm and blues held at the Commodore Ballroom on March 28, 2015. This annual evening of song and dance was presented by Nicola Wealth Management and showcased a range of Motown classics from Memphis, New York and beyond from Stevie Wonder's 'Uptight' to the Supremes' 'You Keep Me Hangin' On'. These classic hits were brought to life by an unforgettable line-up of 28 Canadian vocalists and a 12-piece band. The energy and enthusiasm of the talented performers was infectious and guests were quick to take to the dance floor and sing along to their Motown favorites.

As a first time beneficiary of the event, Seva decided that a little flash and dazzle was in order. Guests who made a donation of \$50 or more were bestowed with the great honor of receiving a pair of red glasses that lit up at the touch of

a button! By the end of the night the pops of red light emanating from the crowd were many and impossible to miss.

In addition to the title sponsor Nicola Wealth Management and all of the amazing and talented performers, we would also like to express a huge thanks to the brains behind the event: Musical Directors David Sinclair & Steve Hilliam, Host David Wills and Producer Kendra Sprinkling.

Motown Meltdown was also generously sponsored by CTV, the Vancouver Courier, the Westender, East Van Graphics and Peacock & Martin.

Last, but certainly never least, we would like to thank our wonderful crew of volunteers, for helping to make the night such a success!

**We hope to see everyone on the dance floor next year on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Commodore Ballroom!!**



JOHN NICOLA IN HIS FLASHING RED GLASSES WITH HIS GUESTS



## UPCOMING EVENTS

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) & DONOR RECEPTION, NOVEMBER 27, 2015 VISIONARY WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Join us in celebrating all that we have accomplished together over the past year and meet three incredible women and learn how they have taken a leadership role in giving the power of sight to those in need in their home countries of Nepal, Tanzania and India.



PARAMI DHAKHWA, SEVA NEPAL

Parami is the Administrative Assistant at Seva Nepal. For over a decade, she has implemented eye care programs throughout Nepal. She liaises with all of our local partners including eye hospitals, District Eye Care Centres, Primary Eye Care Centres as well as the Seva Canada and Seva Foundation offices. Parami is also responsible for the administration of Seva Nepal's finances and grant management.



FORTUNATE SHIJA, KCCO, TANZANIA

Fortunate is the Microfinance and Eye Care Coordinator at the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO). She identifies potential microfinance groups in areas where there are outreach programs supported by KCCO and creates relationships between the women and the eye care programs. She designs proposals, initiates new microfinance and eye care programs, collects data from the work and publishes the findings.



SASIPRIYA KARUMANCHI, LAICO, INDIA

Sasipriya (Sashi) is currently Senior Faculty at the Lions Aravind Institute of Community Ophthalmology (LAICO), a unit of Aravind Eye Care System in Madurai, India. She heads consulting services for developing sustainable eye hospitals in the not-for-profit sector. Over the past 15 years at Aravind, she has worked on projects including teleophthalmology, pediatric eye care, human resource development and primary eye care services.

Following the AGM, Seva is hosting a reception to recognize and bid farewell to three wonderful board members who, combined, have given over 45 years of service.

They have held leadership positions including Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer. Their compassion, generosity and dedication to restoring sight have been instrumental to Seva's success.

Please join us in raising a glass in appreciation of Michel Maurer, Ian McLennan and Dr. Peter Nash.

### DATE:

Friday, November 27, 2015

### TIME:

7pm (special reception to follow at approximately 9pm)

### LOCATION:

BMO Great Hall,  
VanDusen Botanical Garden,  
5251 Oak St., Vancouver, BC

Space is limited.

Please RSVP at 604-713-6622 or <http://bit.ly/sevaagm2015>

**Please note:** Everyone is welcome to attend the AGM, however, to be considered a member of Seva Canada

Society and eligible to vote at our Annual General Meeting a person must have donated \$20 between November 1, 2014 and October 31, 2015. Any member may be nominated to the Board of Directors by submitting a letter signed by a nominator and a seconder, both of whom must be members in good standing of the Seva Canada Society. Letters can be sent to the Seva Canada office to the attention of the Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee.

The Governance and Nominating Committee's mandate is to review all nominations and recommend the membership candidates for election who meet the Board's criteria.

All nominations must be received by October 27, 2015, a minimum of 30 days prior to the date of the AGM.

## WORLD SIGHT DAY OCTOBER 8, 2015



World Sight Day, the annual day of awareness focusing global attention on blindness and visual impairment, is on October 8th.

So why not start your own fundraising campaign and spread the word!

Raising awareness and funds to help the 285 million people worldwide that live with low vision and blindness is as simple as 1, 2, 3:

**STEP 1:** Decide what you'd like to do – run, bike, grow a beard, dye your hair, bake cookies, whatever inspires you!

**STEP 2:** Create your giving page at <http://bit.ly/eyecampaign>

**STEP 3:** Spread the word and start raising awareness and funds to give the power of sight to those in need





# A BETTER FUTURE IN SIGHT

Written by Mark Sissons  
for MONTECRISTO Magazine,  
Summer 2015 edition

His ragged sweatshirt has “Life is Wonderful” in bold letters across the chest. Yet life is anything but for nine-year-old Jean-Claude Tafitaheriniaina. Corneal scarring he contracted from a fungal infection left untreated has rendered this boy, from a poor family in the central highlands of Madagascar, virtually blind – only able to decipher shadows and light. Clutching his grandmother’s wizened hand, Jean-Claude winces as the ophthalmologist examines his milky, sightless eyes. She has brought him to this outreach “eye camp” in the Malagasy village of Mandrosohasina hoping for a miracle.



JEAN-CLAUDE AND HIS GRANDMOTHER

Melline Razafiatarisoa, a nearly destitute middle-aged woman blinded as a child by congenital bilateral cataracts, also has hope. Abandoned by her husband when she gave birth to two children with the same affliction, she hopes that the eye doctors can save her two-year-old son Rodia from repeating her fate.

Every year, half a million of the world’s children go blind, according to the World Health Organization; 75 per cent

of them live in developing countries such as Madagascar, an island nation off the coast of eastern Africa best known as the setting of a popular animated film. Yet almost half of all blindness in children – particularly those in the poorest communities – is avoidable if they have access to care.



RODIA AND HIS MOTHER MELLINE

On this day over a hundred poor rural folk – from the elderly to infants – arrive at Mandrosohasina’s community centre on a hill overlooking shimmering emerald fields of rice. They’ve come like Melline and Jean-Claude, seeking a way out of the darkness that plagues them and their loved ones. Many have walked or ridden ox carts for days through mountainous terrain lashed by torrential rainy season downpours. Awaiting them is a medical team led by one of Madagascar’s top ophthalmologists, Dr. Richard Andriamampihantona, along with members of Vancouver-based charity Seva Canada. Seva works to prevent blindness, restore sight, and transform lives in developing countries. Seva is funding this outreach eye camp along with other programs in Madagascar designed to overcome barriers that women, children, the very poor, and those living in rural areas face

trying to access care. “Seva Canada works the same way everywhere, helping people to solve their own problems,” explains Seva’s program director Dr. Ken Bassett, a professor of medicine at UBC and director of a research program in international and epidemiologic ophthalmology. Watching the hopeful line up to be examined, Bassett explains that Seva doesn’t just come in and tell them what to do. “It’s about providing assistance, training, equipment and lessons from other places,” he says.

Over many hours, Dr. Richard (as his staff affectionately calls him) prescribes corrective eyeglasses, eye drops, and other remedial solutions, distributed on the spot. Those who can pay a little subsidize those who cannot. It’s a sustainable model Seva has employed effectively in many countries where it operates, including Tibet, Nepal, and Cambodia. More serious cases that Dr. Richard marks for sight-restoring surgery often take convincing. “Half of the people I screen are still afraid of the operation,” he explains, while examining a teary-eyed girl of seven named Lalaina for signs of glaucoma. “They are afraid that they will become blind if you touch their eyes.” So sometimes he has to tell older people who have never benefited from hospitals or doctors that it is just like washing out their eyes. Extreme poverty is also a major obstacle to obtaining eye care in developing countries where the harsh realities of rural life often render a helpless blind person little more than “a mouth with no hands.” “Even if the operation is offered for free, the transportation costs can be too much for these people,” says Dr. Richard. “Even five dollars can be too much.”

With Seva’s help, Dr. Richard arranges to transport Lalaina, Jean-Claude,



MANDROSOHASINA SCREENING CAMP

and Rodia, along with their families, to his hospital in Antsirabe, where he will operate on them early the next morning. It’s a journey into the unknown for these children, who’ve never been to the city, let alone in a hospital.

First up is Lalaina, the girl he diagnosed with glaucoma, who waves bravely



LALAINA ENTERING THE OPERATING ROOM

as she enters the operating room, trembling to hold back her tears. After examining her, Dr. Richard elects to postpone the delicate procedure needed to relieve pressure destroying her optic nerve. He won’t risk surgery unless her condition deteriorates, because going under general anesthesia is much more traumatic for children. “Now this girl has to accept that she has a chronic vision-threatening condition that will demand a lifetime of special care,” explains Ken Bassett as Lalaina

is carried out of the operating room. “It will take a lot of time and ongoing education to help her and her family understand that and agree to the follow-up treatments.” Bassett adds that preventing avoidable childhood blindness also involves identifying and managing congenital or developmental cataracts – along with vision – or life-threatening problems such as ophthalmia neonatorum, congenital glaucoma, and retinoblastoma – as early as possible. For Jean-Claude, the boy with severe corneal scarring, life will not turn out wonderfully, despite what his sweatshirt declares. After putting him under and probing his eyes, Dr. Richard halts the surgery. “Unfortunately I can do nothing for him,” the ophthalmologist says, his voice nearly drowned out by the wails of children emerging from anesthetic in the recovery room down the hall. “His only chance now is a corneal transplant, which isn’t yet possible in Madagascar.” Bassett explains that had this boy been examined only a few months earlier, and simple antibiotic and anti-fungal drops given to him before the infection spread, he almost certainly would not have developed the blinding scars on his corneas, and his sight likely would have been preserved. It’s a tragedy repeated all too often in countries where the poor have little access to care, or won’t seek proper medical help due to superstitions and reliance on traditional healers.

Told that he will likely face a lifetime of blindness, Jean-Claude reacts not with more tears, as one might expect. Instead, this boy who has already had so much taken from him – including his mother, struck and killed by lightening while toiling in the fields – silently absorbs the bad news, then begins to serenely recite the Lord’s Prayer in Malagasy, his soft voice rising, drawing courage from some power beyond rational understanding. It may be too late for Jean-Claude, but somewhere in Madagascar the prayers of other children afflicted with preventable blindness will be answered because of the efforts of dedicated ophthalmologists like Dr. Richard, supported by Seva.

Thankfully, Rodia’s cataract operation is a success. His vision will continue to improve as his eyes and brain start to communicate together better. The next morning, after his bandages are removed, he is able to see his mother and sister for the first time. Learning of this medical miracle, Melline rejoices and bursts into song – a Malagasy hymn of praise that Rodia also starts to hum. There’s not a dry eye in the room. Now Melline’s only son, and her family’s hope, will have a chance to avoid her fate. It’s said that the eyes not only allow you to function in the world, they also show you the light of the world. Nowhere is that light shining more brightly than in the restored eyes of this Malagasy child who once was blind, and now can see.



RODIA AND HIS MOTHER, MELLINE, AFTER HIS BILATERAL CATARACT SURGERY.



# THE GENDER AHA MOMENT IN EYE CARE

In 2001, Seva Canada and the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO) published a ground-breaking study showing that 2/3 of the world's blind are women, primarily because they are less likely to receive services compared to men. In many places, the disparity is even worse between girls and boys, and the inequity holds true for all treatable eye conditions, worldwide.

Since this publication, Seva Canada and KCCO have rigorously researched this topic and advocated among the international eye health community to reduce the burden of blindness on women.

We involved the World Health Organization and the International Association for the Prevention of Blindness. We produced papers, held international meetings, collected documentation from around the world and created special reports for academic journals. Our research pointed to the need for one challenging but simple change that would be the first step to getting women and girls the access to eye care they need and deserve:

**Seva and all other eye NGOs had to stop counting just eyes, and start counting women and men.**

Once we knew how many women we were really helping we were able to develop strategies to break the barriers that women face, specific to the cultural context of each country where we work.

Seva Canada and KCCO have stressed to all our program partners the need to count women separately from men, and continue to advocate to other organizations to do the same. We've shared our knowledge of specific barriers women face in accessing services and studied strategies to overcome these obstacles to get the care they need.

Seva Nepal is an excellent example of this work in action, as Nepali women are going blind more often than men, but



NEPALI MOTHER AND DAUGHTER

not for lack of eye hospitals. Here, it is an issue of access, and so our Nepali team has developed a growing number of programs that specifically target gender inequity, linking into existing networks of women to find those at risk of going blind. Female Community Health Volunteers in small villages are now given eye health education, which has proven extremely effective in connecting vulnerable women to available eye care services.

The result is that more women are getting eye care, earlier. They are being seen before they go blind. It is a tremendous victory for Nepali women.

Unfortunately our gender work is far from done. We know that even within our own programs, some gender inequity persists. So, we plan to link our gender and eye care activities into broader health, education, equity, and poverty-reduction initiatives, to scale up this greatly-needed work.

Together with our partners we are committed to bridging barriers, sharing research, creating programs, connecting communities, and ultimately ensuring that no one, regardless of gender, needlessly loses their vision.

# THE HEART OF SEVA

**Written by Fran Garner**

When an invitation to join a 3-week camping trip in SW Africa popped up last November, I was tempted. But when the chance to add two weeks of travelling with a Seva Canada group in Tanzania was suggested, I leapt!

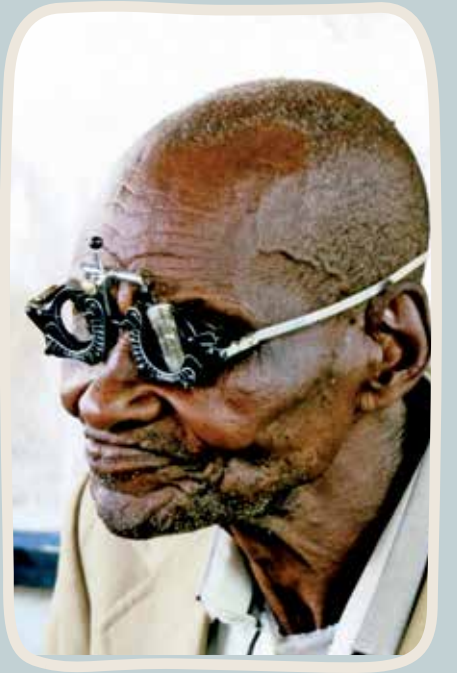
To study a flat map or twirling globe, we are made to see our home as a minuscule, isolated dot on an enormous planet. Many map watchers and globe spinners share an itch to leave that speck, to see what global neighbours are really up to, anyway... So, we go and marvel that there can be such parallel universes at work.

Included in the parallel universes of our global family is the one where those who are born, or become blind, stay blind, thus burdening both family and community for a lifetime. This universe was our Seva destination...

After flying to Moshi, and visiting the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology and its marvelous team, we headed off by plane and Land Cruiser (my personal favourite, the bumpier the better!) into "the field" in the Mara region.

With the help of Seva Canada and KCCO, eye screening programs have been established which can provide treatment, including surgery. We visited a group of Maasai women, leaders in their communities, who play a role in Seva's outreach by identifying and helping women who need help to find eye care. One laughing woman was proud to have "brought 20 women" to screening appointments.

But my most memorable experience was our visit to the eye clinic in Musoma. The local eye team spent a whole day processing and screening patients. Some could be treated with eye drops; some were given one of the hundreds of pairs of reading glasses which had been donated by a Vancouver company, and which we were able to carry over on the plane. Those requiring surgery were given appointments, and two days later we were able to attend the OR to watch the dedicated, charming, and seemingly indefatigable Dr. Gendo in action doing cataract surgeries. In a matter of minutes, lives were being changed. I was completely awed to witness the quintessential heart of Seva at work,



realized once again what practical magic can be brewed when caring and sharing people put ideas and money into action, and truly wondered at the vision of Seva's founders.

To witness eyesight literally given back, and thus whole remaining lifetimes reimagined is a gift not many of us have the opportunity to receive - it rocked my world. If you ever have the chance to join Seva in the field, go - let your world be rocked. You will truly know that by giving you will always be made richer.



# SEE YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION IN MADAGASCAR

In fall 2016, you are invited to visit the remote island nation of Madagascar and experience Seva's programs first hand. See lemurs, magnificent forests and picturesque beaches. Witness the medical miracle of sight restoration.

For a full itinerary and pricing information, email [fundraising@seva.ca](mailto:fundraising@seva.ca)





# A SOLUTION IN SIGHT

Aravind Eye Care System, Seva's partner in India, is the largest and most productive blindness prevention organization in the world. The success of its high-volume, high-quality and affordable approach is a story often told in developing and developed nations alike. The lesser known story behind Aravind's success, however, was the bold decision to set up its own internationally certified manufacturing facility, Aurolab.

In the late 1980s, Aravind was struggling to deliver on its mission of providing equitable eye care to the rich and poor. The affluent were able to afford the then-modern cataract surgical technique with an intraocular lens (IOL) implant which resulted in a far superior visual outcome. However, the



AN INTRAOCULAR LENS IMPLANT (IOL)

less wealthy and the poor had to settle for the traditional method of having their cloudy lens (cataract) removed and thereafter relying on high-powered thick glasses just to be able to see and perform routine work. These eyeglasses would eventually break or be lost leaving the person unable to see. The crux of the issue lay in the intraocular lens for which manufacturers were charging approximately \$300 each. Confronted with this expensive reality, Aravind asked themselves: why not manufacture the lenses ourselves?

Seva stepped in to support the creation of Aurolab, a non-profit charitable trust for manufacturing ophthalmic consumables, with funds from the Canadian International Development



WOMAN IN INDIA AFTER A SUCCESSFUL CATARACT SURGERY

Agency, CIDA (now DFATD), and helped coordinate the research and technology transfer that ultimately created Aurolab. With the support of Seva, and other funders, Aurolab brought the cost of IOLs down from almost \$300 each to under \$10, making the lenses affordable not only for Aravind patients but for

patients across the developing world.

Aurolab is now a leading manufacturer of intraocular lenses, sutures and other vital supplies for eye care; their products are exported to 120 countries around the world and account for a total of 7.8% of the global share of intraocular lenses.



AUROLAB'S IOLS IN ACTION

# HOW YOU HAVE HELPED

This past holiday season we held a special matching campaign to help 1000 Tibetans see again. Seva Canada donors gave generously, each of their gifts matched dollar-for-dollar by an anonymous donor, surpassing our fundraising goal of \$100,000.

## THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS CAMPAIGN:

**473** people received cataract surgery in Menzhikang Hospital in Lhasa, Tibet Autonomous Region

**304** people received cataract surgery in Kham Eye Centre in Kangding (Dartsedo), Sichuan region

**14** people received cataract surgery in Chabcha Prefecture Hospital in Amdo Region



In addition to these hospital surgeries, **400** patients were screened, nearly **300** patients were treated with different eye conditions and **283** cataract surgeries were performed through eye camps in Nakchu and Ngaba, Tibet Autonomous Region.

### Your support has also:

- upgraded equipment for our programs in Chamdo, Ngari, Chabcha and Rebkong
- equipped a mobile van with refractive equipment to test eyesight in remote locations
- provided doctors with training in small incision cataract surgery and other continuing medical education
- supported nurse training to provide primary eye care in remote locations

Thanks to you,  
a total of  
**1074 people had  
their sight restored,**  
surpassing our goal of curing the  
blindness of 1000 people!



HAPPY SISTERS AFTER SIGHT-RESTORING CATARACT SURGERY

The doctors who have been trained will help more patients, and the equipment purchased will help hospitals give better care to the people they serve.

Thanks to you, countless lives have been changed. These Tibetans can now see the beauty of their land, and live fuller, more productive lives. Thank you again for your support!



# 15 MINUTES FOR A LIFETIME OF GOOD VISION: A TIBETAN GRANDMOTHER'S SIGHT STORY

When Zomme was 55 years old she had been blind for 5 years due to bilateral cataracts, trapped in her small, isolated village in rural Tibet.

With 13 family members, including 4 grandchildren, she had become a burden to her family, needing constant help with life's most basic tasks.

For 5 years, without knowing that there was treatment, she could not travel, nor could she contribute to her household.

Worse still, she had missed seeing the precious early years of her grandchildren growing up.

One day her daughter heard about a Seva eye camp from a friend. She decided to take her mother on horseback, hoping for the chance to restore her mother's sight.

Zomme was examined on her arrival day and was quickly diagnosed with cataracts in both eyes. Thankfully,

she was a good candidate for surgical treatment. Zomme and her daughter were ecstatic.

Over the course of four days, she received surgery on her right eye, and then the left. Each surgery took just 15 minutes but promised a lifetime of good vision.

On the fifth day, Zomme and her daughter were cheerfully reading the "E" chart. The visual acuity of her right eye was 6/6 and left one was 6/18. This was a very good result.

Zomme said that she was having a hard time adjusting because she never expected that she would see the world again. "What happened in these few days was miracle! I can't wait to help take care of my four grandchildren!"

Thank you to all of Seva Canada's donors who gave Zomme back her sight by participating in Seva Canada's

holiday matching campaign to support eye care in Tibet. She and her family will always be grateful for the difference you have made in their lives.



ZOMME HAVING HER VISION TESTED

## YOUR GIFT... THEIR VISION

Hundreds of thousands of cataract operations are impressive, but to change one person's life with sight-restoring surgery is magnificent. That is the reason we do it." - Dr. Peter Nash, Ophthalmologist and legacy donor

After you've remembered your loved ones, include a gift to Seva Canada in your Will. Call **604-713-6622** or email [fundraising@seva.ca](mailto:fundraising@seva.ca) for more information.



"My name is Ama. I will never forget your kindness. Thank you for restoring my sight."  
- Seva patient, cured of blindness through cataract surgery.

# UNIFOR INVESTS IN MADAGASCAR



MALAGASY PARTNERS AT A TRAINING MEETING WITH KCCO AND SEVA CANADA

## Seva Canada selects its program partners based on their vision, dynamism and potential for growth.

Several years ago our program team recognized that we have several outstanding partners in Madagascar who were ready to make drastic changes to improve their programs. They were eager to learn. They wanted to help more people. They just needed support to get there.

Luckily Canada's largest union heeded the call, recognizing the potential to create lasting change and transform lives for years to come.

With UNIFOR's investment, the SALFA Eye Hospitals in Madagascar are now undergoing a variety of capacity-building activities to achieve a 100% increase in productivity. They are receiving training in program management, data collection, outreach,

financial sustainability and surgical subspecialties. They are able to update equipment that will transform their surgical capabilities. They will be able to help more people than ever before.

Our goal is an increase in program productivity from 2500 to 5000 cataract operations per year, within three years. The ripple effect of this will be profound, ensuring lives of productivity in this remote island nation where the majority of people live on less than \$1 per day.



DR. PHILIPPE RAKOTONIRAJOA SHARING HIS HOSPITAL'S KNOWLEDGE WITH THE REST OF THE MALAGASY PARTNERS

## About Unifor:

Unifor is Canada's largest private sector union, with more than 305,000 members across the country, working in every major sector of the Canadian economy.

Unifor brings a modern approach to unionism: adopting new tools, involving and engaging their members, and always looking for new ways to meet the demands of the 21st century. They are committed to social justice in Canada, and around the world. Their work with Seva Canada emphasizes their commitment to equitable development and poverty reduction through eye care.

**From all of us at Seva Canada, KCCO and SALFA Eye Units in Madagascar, thank you to Unifor for making this important work possible!**



# YOU ARE A VISIONARY

When you invest in Seva, you are supporting forward-thinking programs that work on the cutting edge of international development.

These programs defy convention and constantly seek to improve themselves, embracing new strategies that ultimately provide better eye care, to more people, where it is most needed.

It is only because of the vision of our donors that our programs thrive as they do. Please renew your support today to join us as we strive for our ultimate goal: a world free of avoidable blindness.



☐ **YES! I want to give the power of sight.**

Please accept my gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**I prefer to give by:**

☐ Visa    ☐ MasterCard

☐ My cheque to Seva Canada is enclosed

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

A tax-deductible receipt will be issued to the name on the cheque or credit card.

Please send your donation to Seva Canada using the enclosed envelope.

**Seva Canada Society**  
**Suite 100 – 2000 West 12 Avenue**  
**Vancouver, BC V6J 2G2**

# INSPIRING SEVA DONORS



## Natalie Edward

Natalie Edward, Ottawa-based yoga instructor, wanted to use her yoga as a way to drive change on a global scale. She decided to work with Seva Canada because she wanted to support a small Canadian organization that was doing big things out in the world.

"Blindfold yoga and preventing/treating blindness feels like the perfect union to me, and Seva Canada felt like the perfect fit! I guess I am offering my students the opportunity to go deeper within themselves, and they are offering me the opportunity to expand farther into the world... One of my favourite parts of the blindfold yoga practice is the very

end, when my students take off their blindfold. It's like they see the world slightly different, whether they realize it or not. It's really magical to witness."

Since Natalie began holding blindfold yoga sessions in support of Seva, she has raised enough to provide eye exams to 8 adults!

## Anmara Events

Anmara Events is a Brampton, Ontario-based team of creative and motivated individuals who provide affordable planning services for all types of events. This year, they decided that they wanted to make a significant contribution to an organization while having some fun, and were introduced to Seva Canada at a networking event.

"We thought Seva was a great organization as eye care is an essential, yet often overlooked component of overseas aid. After doing some research into Seva, we found that Seva's goals and missions were relevant and wanted to make a contribution."

This past May, these three motivated ladies held a bottle drive to raise funds for sight, and together collected enough to provide prescription eyeglasses to 70 adults!



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MANNAT, ANJALI AND RAINA FROM ANMARA EVENTS



## Jacob Charendoff

Vision has a special significance for Jacob Charendoff: "I have a rare form of macular degeneration known as retinal pigmentosis or, more specifically, Stargardt's disease. I am effectively blind with no central vision and rely on my peripheral sight to get through my day-to-day life. Regardless of this challenging set back I consider myself very lucky. Twenty-four years ago, I was born in Bucharest, Romania. Because of financial and political instability, my birth-parents put me up for adoption when I was four months old. Unlike most Romanian orphans at the time, I was fortunate to have been adopted by a family residing in Toronto who was able to provide me with every opportunity I would otherwise have missed out on as an orphan in Eastern Europe. I am fortunate to be in a position in my life where I do not consider my loss of sight a disability. In fact, it has pushed me to think outside the box when striving to achieve my goals. I am proud to say that as someone who is legally blind, I am capable of living a happy and fulfilled life with virtually no limitations."

For Jacob's 24th birthday, he threw a huge party with the goal of raising \$2400 to support blind children in Madagascar. He far-exceeded his goal, raising a total of \$3,067, enough to restore the sight of 20 children. Now these kids have a much brighter future, with a lifetime of independence ahead of them, thanks to Jacob!



# BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

You can help blind people see again every day of the year. Join our Circle of Sharing family of monthly donors by visiting **seva.ca** or by calling **1-877-460-6622** toll-free.

"It makes me feel so good to know that my monthly donation is in the hands of people who care with such devotion, compassion and competence! As well, to know that people who I will never know can see the faces of their loved ones and the world around them because Seva does such a good job in bringing together the teams who can restore sight to those so in need."

– **Arlene McGibbon**  
Monthly donor



# ABOUT SEVA CANADA

## SEVA'S VISION

Seva Canada's vision is a world in which no one is needlessly blind or visually impaired.

## SEVA'S MISSION

Seva Canada's mission is to restore sight and prevent blindness in developing countries.

## SEVA'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We are guided by:

- Our belief in equal access to eye care for all
- Our belief that with adequate resources, all people can meet their own needs
- Our commitment to working with international partners to build local, sustainable eye care programs
- Our respect for cultural, ethnic, spiritual and other forms of diversity
- Our commitment to inform and inspire Canadians to join us in achieving our mission

## HONOURABLE PATRONS

The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy  
Patrick Reid, O.C.

The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC  
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia  
Leonard Cohen

## CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Nancy Mortifee

## BOARD MEMBERS

Ben Capps  
Paul Courtright  
Chuck Diamond  
Susan Erdmann  
Ian McLennan  
Michel Maurer  
Sheila Moynihan  
Peter Nash, M.D.  
John Pratt-Johnson, M.D.  
Laura Spencer  
Martin Spencer, M.D.  
Keith Thomson  
Jeannie Wexler  
Vivian Yin

## OFFICE STAFF

Penny Lyons, Executive Director  
Dr. Ken Bassett, Program Director  
Deanne Berman, Marketing & Communications Director  
Liz Brant, Development Director  
Lisa Demers, Operations & Program Manager  
Rebecca Foley, Communications & Development Coordinator

## CONTACT

Seva Canada Society  
#100 – 2000 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V6J 2G2

Tel: 604-713-6622  
Fax: 604-733-4292  
Toll-free: 1-877-460-6622

Email: [admin@seva.ca](mailto:admin@seva.ca)  
Website: [seva.ca](http://seva.ca)

Registered Charity:  
#13072 4941 RR0001

**PHOTO CREDITS:** These photographers have generously donated their photographs:  
©Deanne Berman, ©Ellen Crystal photography,  
©Fran Garner, ©Jeff Grayston, ©Matt Marek,  
©Julie Nestingen, ©Mark Sissons.