



EYE CONTACT

SEVA CANADA NEWSLETTER

FALL 2017

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LOOK HOW FAR WE'VE COME

ALL THANKS TO YOU

Dear Seva Supporters,

Thirty-five years ago, Seva's founders had a vision – a world in which no one is needlessly blind or visually impaired. They partnered with a man from India, Dr. Venkataswamy (Dr. V), who also had a vision - an alternative healthcare model providing low-cost, high-quality, self-sustaining eye care accessible by everyone regardless of income. Those who could pay subsidized those who could not. Dr. V founded Aravind Eye Hospital by turning his former home in Madurai into an 11-bed hospital.

Since then, with the support of our donors, Seva Canada has revolutionized eye care worldwide. Thanks to you, we have:

- determined that cataracts are the leading cause of blindness
- discovered that 2 out of 3 of the world's blind were women and girls
- introduced innovative surgical techniques for use in remote areas

- evolved Dr. V's model of eye care in over 15 countries with local partners
- opened offices in Nepal, Cambodia and the Tibetan Areas of China
- lowered the cost of surgery so most people can afford to pay
- trained countless eye care professionals and advocates

Continued



THEN



NOW



ORIGINAL ARAVIND EYE HOSPITAL

With your generosity and belief that everyone deserves the right to sight, 4 million of the world's most vulnerable people – women, children, and people living in extreme poverty and isolation – have received life-changing cataract surgery and millions more have received eye care services including glasses and medicine.

35 years since our inception, Seva's international staff and partners' sophistication and influence has grown and global eye care has improved.



SURGERY THEN

Here's a glimpse of what two days of restoring sight and preventing blindness looks like today.

- Hari Thapa, an optometrist and pediatric refraction expert from Lumbini Eye Institute in Nepal, took his research findings to a conference in the Netherlands to argue for more support for people in his country marginalized and undertreated for ocular albinism.
- Priya Adhisheshan, a young, female, pediatric program director and Fulbright Scholar returned home to India to start the pilot phase of a study testing the value of presbyopic (reading) glasses on the productivity of field workers picking tea in Assam.



ONE OF THE 6 BUILDINGS THAT COMPRISE ARAVIND IN MADURAI TODAY

- Dr. Vivian Yin, a Seva Canada Board Member and University of British Columbia, Department of Ophthalmology faculty member, attended the national meeting of the Canadian Ophthalmology Society and used the findings from her population-based survey of eye conditions in a central zone of Nepal to advocate passionately for improved access to eye care for women and girls worldwide.

program's new pediatric outreach strategy, where close to 2,000 children were referred by local community members to an eye care professional for the first time.

This is just two days of the 35 years we have restored sight and prevented blindness together. Two days of work from the thousands of work days you have supported through your donations, your volunteer hours and your belief



SURGERY TODAY

- Roshan Bista, a Seva Cambodia staff member, documented and reported on how many patients accessed community-based eye care – put in place to service over 80% of the rural population's ongoing needs - for the first time.
- Richard Rasoloniaina, a Community Outreach Coordinator in Madagascar, reported on a full year of his

in our shared vision – a world in which no one is needlessly blind or visually impaired.

We aren't done yet. There is still lots of work to be done to realize our vision. We know that with your support, it will become a reality.

Our thanks to you,

Seva Canada's Board and Staff

A NIGHT OF MUSIC & DANCING IN SUPPORT OF SIGHT

For the third year in a row, Motown Meltdown was an unforgettable evening of soul, rhythm and blues in support of Seva Canada.

Presented by Nicola Wealth Management, Motown Meltdown took place on April 8th at the legendary Commodore Ballroom in Vancouver. This annual evening of song and dance was brought to life by hot-shot Canadian vocalists and backed by a scorching 12-piece band.

With a program of 27 favourites from Motown to Memphis, New York and beyond, the energy was infectious and guests were quick to take to the dance floor and sing along. In the most poignant moment of the night, veteran BC singer Roy Forbes, blinded in an accident in 2016, brought the house down with his rendition of 'Chain of Fools' to finish off the first set.

Also spotted on the dance floor was a sea of red flashing glasses, handed out to Seva supporters who made a donation of \$50 or more. Their generosity added to the more than \$40,000 raised to help restore sight and prevent blindness in developing countries... enough to give the power of sight to more than 800 people!



THE TALENTED ROY FORBES BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE.



SEVA CANADA BOARD CHAIR, LAURA SPENCER, AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PENNY LYONS.

We would like to thank our amazing sponsors for making the evening possible. Our sincerest gratitude to presenting sponsor Nicola Wealth Management, Somerset Foundation, CISL 650AM, Westender, Vancouver Courier, East Van Graphics, Eyeland Framemakers, Peacock & Martin and Amy Diehl Personal Training & Rehab.

In addition to our sponsors, we would also like to express huge thanks to the incredible performers who donated their time, including hosts David Wills and Angela Kelman, musical directors David Sinclair and Steve Hilliam, MC Tom Lucas and event producer Kendra Sprinkling.

And last, but certainly not least, we would like to thank our wonderful crew of volunteers for helping to make the night a resounding success.

We hope to see you next year as Motown Meltdown marks its 15th anniversary on April 21st, 2018 at the Commodore Ballroom.

≡ UPCOMING EVENTS ≡

SWEAT FOR SIGHT ON WORLD SIGHT DAY OCTOBER 12, 2017

Seva Canada's 2nd annual Sweat for Sight fundraising event in celebration of World Sight Day is happening again this October!

World Sight Day is the annual day of awareness focusing global attention on blindness and visual impairment. Sweat for Sight is a multi-faceted event in support of Seva Canada, held on and around **October 12, 2017**.

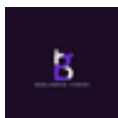
Gyms, studios, clubs, teams, businesses and individuals across Canada can show their support and creativity by holding a fundraiser, creating their own fundraising page and fitness challenge, dedicating a special fitness class, or doing anything to get sweaty and restore sight.



To raise awareness **post a sweaty selfie** on social media tagging @SevaCanada and #sweatforsight and you will be entered to win some cool prizes from personal training classes to Seva swag.

Visit seva.ca/sweatforsight to see what gyms and studios are holding classes in your area or to learn more.

So let's get sweaty, raise awareness, give the power of sight, and change lives!



JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CELEBRATE 35 YEARS OF INNOVATION & EVOLUTION IN EYE CARE

Join us on December 1st at Creekside Community Recreation Centre in the Olympic Village in Vancouver for Seva's 35th Anniversary Annual General Meeting (AGM).

We will be celebrating all that we have accomplished together over the last 35 years from determining that the leading cause of blindness is cataracts, to the first surgical eye camp to our research that discovered the gender inequity in the treatment of blindness. And most importantly, to the 4 million people who

have had their sight restored through surgery and the millions more who have received eye care services.

Helping us commemorate the occasion will be some inspiring people from Seva's partner programs:

Dr. Asim Kumar Sil

Dr. Asim Sil, who began his career studying under Dr. Venkataswamy (Dr. V), founder of Aravind Eye Care System in India and founding member of Seva, has served for over 22 years as the medical director of Vivekananda Mission Asram Netra Niramay Niketan (VMANN), a hospital system operating in rural West Bengal. He's been the Chief Investigator of 8 population-based surveys on adult and childhood blindness conducted by the National Programme for Control of Blindness.

Under his stewardship, VMANN now serves as a mentor institution working to build the capacity of six mentee hospitals throughout India and Bangladesh.

Watch a moving video by National Geographic on Dr. Asim's work "Helping the Blind to See in India's Hard-to-Reach Villages" <http://bit.ly/AsimSil> and read more about him on **page 9**.



Dr. Namrata Adulkar, Aravind Eye Care System, India

Dr. Namrata Adulkar is an Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive surgeon from India working at Aravind Eye Hospital in Coimbatore for the past 2 years. Dr. Adulkar is currently pursuing a fellowship in Oculoplastics and Orbital Surgery at Vancouver General Hospital, University of British Columbia. By acquiring, taking back and implementing global practice patterns, newer surgical techniques and recent advances in her specialty from this fellowship, she hopes to improve the quality of eye care, disease management and the patient experience in India.



DATE: December 1, 2017

TIME: 7pm

LOCATION: *New Venue* Creekside Community Recreation Centre in Olympic Village, 1 Athletes Way, Vancouver.

Space is limited. Please RSVP at 604-713-6622 or <http://bit.ly/RSVP2017AGM>

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, 2016 and October 31, 2017.

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 November 1, 2017, a minimum of 30 days prior to the date of the AGM.

35 YEAR TIMELINE

In 1980, the World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed the global eradication of smallpox, a disease that caused blindness and death to millions. The end of smallpox marked Seva's beginning.

Founded by some of the people who worked on the eradication of smallpox, Seva was established to empower the spirit of service and alleviate human suffering. Read Seva Canada's story:

1976

Aravind Eye Hospital Opened

Dr. Venkataswamy (known as "Dr. V") establishes an alternate health care model to provide low-cost, high-quality, self-sustaining eye care in India. He opens Aravind Eye Hospital by turning his former home in Madurai into an 11-bed hospital.

1978

Seva Foundation is Formed 1st Grateful Dead Concert for Seva

After working with the WHO to end smallpox in India, Dr. Larry Brilliant and his wife Girija Brilliant, a public health specialist, publish *Death of a Killer Disease*. Their article urges readers to support international health programs for people living in poverty.

People are inspired and soon \$20,000 in donations arrive - the first \$5,000 coming from not-yet-famous computer inventor, Steve Jobs. With this, Seva Foundation is born and Dr. V participates in the first board meeting as a founding member.

Seva's work begins in India with Dr. V and the Aravind Eye Hospital.

1981

1st Nationwide Blindness Study in Nepal

Seva conducts the world's first nationwide, population-based study of the causes and distribution of blindness in Nepal. The study shows that two-thirds of blindness is due to cataract, not trachoma, contrary to contemporary belief.

Leo Boon "Cycles for Sight" from Vancouver to San Francisco to Miami (4500 miles) and asks people along the way to donate a penny a mile to Seva.

1982

Seva Canada Established

Alan Morinis and Bev Spring establish Seva Canada and secure funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (now Global Affairs Canada).

1993

Lumbini Eye Hospital Established

Seva establishes a 76-bed eye hospital in Lumbini, Nepal.

1994

Manual Sutureless Cataract Surgery Taught

Dr. Marty Spencer teaches manual sutureless cataract surgery at Aravind Eye Care System in India. This surgical technique soon becomes taught around the world.

1995

Seva Begins Working in Tibetan Areas of China

Seva also initiates the Ophthalmic Assistant training program as part of the Lumbini Eye Care Program in Nepal.

1996

A Plan to Expand is Endorsed

Seva endorses a plan to take their high-volume, high-quality, sustainable eye care approach into new regions of the world.

Meanwhile, Aravind in India inaugurates the Lions Aravind Institute of Community Ophthalmology (LAICO), Asia's first international training facility for blindness prevention workers from India and around the globe.

2002

Seva Sponsors 1st Eye Care Planning Workshop in Lhasa, Tibet resulting in a 10-year cataract prevention plan

2009

Seva Begins Working in Egypt, Guatemala, Malawi & Madagascar

Seva begins working in Egypt with the Al Noor Magrabi Foundation, Guatemala with Visualiza Eye Care System, Malawi with the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, and Madagascar with the Ministry of Health.

2011

Seva Conducts RAAB in Madagascar

Seva co-funds Madagascar's first National Pediatric Eye Care Planning Meeting resulting in a series of outreach programs and training initiatives. It also funds a Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) survey in Atsinanana to estimate the prevalence of blindness in people over 50 years of age.

Meanwhile, Seva begins working with established microfinance groups in Tanzania to increase the utilization of eye care services by women and children.

Seva also begins a community outreach program in the San Marcos region in Guatemala.

2012

Seva Canada turns 30!

Seva Canada turns 30 on April 6, 2012 and begins funding Burundi, Zambia and Rwanda.

MLA Eric Foster introduces Seva Canada into the British Columbia Legislature.

Seva also begins working with established microfinance groups in Nepal and Zambia to increase the utilization of eye care services by women and children.

1987

1st Intraocular Lens Surgical Eye Camp in Nepal

Dr. Marty Spencer, Seva board member and ophthalmologist, conducts the first intraocular lens surgical eye camp in Nepal. He helps to revolutionize eye care in the developing world by using these modern surgical techniques.

1992

Aurolab formed in India

Seva and the Canadian International Development Agency help Aravind Eye Hospital in India form Aurolab, a non-profit trust providing modern eye care technology at affordable costs.

Aurolab revolutionizes eye care in the developing world by bringing the cost of intraocular lenses down from \$300 per lens to under \$10.

2000

Seva's Research Discovers 2/3 of the World's Blind are Women & Girls

Seva conducts research in Africa with the founders of KCCO that identifies the gender inequity in the treatment of blindness. Seva funds the publication of that research which results in a worldwide shift in the way organizations and institutions both gather and use their data.

Seva develops a Gender and Eye Care working group with its partners to increase service uptake for women.

2001

Seva Helps Establish KCCO, Tanzania

Seva helps establish the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO) and begins work in Tanzania.

1985

Seva Recognized in Nepal

The Nepal government officially recognizes Seva and the Seva Nepal office opens in Kathmandu. The National Eye Health Education program is initiated.

1999

Seva Joins VISION 2020

Seva joins VISION 2020, a global initiative for the elimination of avoidable blindness with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB).

Seva begins working in Cambodia with the Battambang Ophthalmic Care Centre (Seva Canada begins funding in 2009).

Meanwhile in Nepal, Seva and the Lumbini Eye Care Program develop Community Eye Centres (CECs) in isolated areas outside of the Lumbini Zone, Nepal.

2015

Seva Canada Receives the Champalimaud Vision Award

Seva Canada alongside Seva Foundation and the KCCO are awarded the prestigious Champalimaud Vision Award recognizing the groups' innovative approach to programs in Africa. The award came with a 1 million Euro prize.

Leonard Cohen, award-winning Canadian entertainer and the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, former Governor General of Canada, become honorary patrons of Seva Canada.

The first Motown Meltdown concert benefiting Seva Canada takes place at the Commodore Ballroom in Vancouver.

Seva Canada's reach continues to grow as it trains overseas partners in fundraising and marketing for the first time.

2017

Seva Turns 35!

Seva Canada turns 35 on April 6, 2017.

To date Seva's donors have given the power of sight to **over 4 million** people through life-changing cataract surgeries and provided millions more with eye care services.

2014

Seva Cambodia Expands into Pursat and Kampot

Seva also establishes a new secondary eye hospital in the Dhankuta District, Nepal.

Seva and the Bharatpur Eye Hospital create a three-year Ophthalmic Assistant program that trains 40 students/year.

1984

Seva Begins Working in Lumbini Zone, Nepal

1998

Seva Leads Tibetan Eye Care Survey

Seva leads the Tibet eye care survey with the Tibet Health Bureau.

Seva's local trainees conduct half of all eye surgeries in the Tibetan Areas of China.

2013

All Districts in Nepal Have Primary Eye Care

Seva Canada inaugurates a Community Eye Centre (CEC) in Bajura, the last district in all of Nepal without access to primary eye care. This is a major milestone in Seva Canada's objective of providing primary eye care to all regions of the country.

Seva Cambodia sees a dramatic increase in the utilization of eye care, especially cataract surgeries, in all of its districts following the hiring and training of four field workers.

Seva supports Burundi's first two pediatric surgical treatment activities, providing hundreds of children with essential eye care.

Seva Canada also builds its first CEC in Burundi.

THROUGH THE EYES OF A DONOR



GLORIA AND HUGH VISITING A PATIENT'S HOME AFTER CATARACT SURGERY

Gloria Sutcliffe and her husband, Hugh, are longtime Seva Canada donors. Along with their daughter Nicola, they joined us on a trip to Cambodia in June. Here's Gloria's firsthand account of their experience.

It is a pleasure to share the story of my recent visit to Cambodia where I witnessed one of Seva Canada's eye camps and to see firsthand how Seva staff work hand in hand with the local Seva Cambodia team. The highlight of this trip was participating in interviews with patients and contributing to Seva's story collecting.

On the first day, we met some patients in their local villages where a field worker screened them for vision impairment. We collected little fragments of their stories of day-to-day living with blindness. Many were elderly men and women with advanced cataracts and pterygium.

We met these same patients again early the next morning when they were bussed to the eye camp from a small radius of the surrounding area. I realized this group was just the tip of the iceberg of so many Cambodians with cataracts and other vision problems. With the

help of our translators, we resumed our interviews. The translators were two Cambodian women who gently and compassionately asked our questions and brought each person's unique story to light.

Some mornings we would arrive by 7am and the eye team would already be processing new patients and removing bandages from patients who had received surgery the previous day.



TRANSLATORS SOVAN AND LIONG WITH NICOLA AND GLORIA

There was no time to spare. Everyone who needed care was treated. By the end of the week, 336 surgeries were completed. The steadfast, exemplary work of the field workers, nurses and the doctors was very inspiring and uplifting. Everything was so understated yet extraordinary and profound.



CATARACT PATIENTS BACK HOME AFTER SURGERY

After the doctors checked each patient's vision and the success of their surgery, they were taken back to their villages. We accompanied some of them to their homes where we were eagerly invited in to meet their families.

Now, as I remember this experience of walking home with several patients, I realize how walking down the dirt road together in silence captured the sacredness and newness of restored vision for them and for me. Helping others has a profound effect on the giver and the receiver that words cannot really express no matter how I might try. I was privileged to share in this experience that so many of your donations made possible and I am grateful to be able to share a snippet of my experience with you.

- Gloria Sutcliffe



HEROES IN THE FIELD:

DR. ASIM KUMAR SIL

AN OPHTHALMOLOGIST, A LEADER AND A MENTOR

Dr. Asim Kumar Sil has served for over 22 years as the medical director of Vivekananda Mission Asram Netra Niramay Niketan (VMANNN), a hospital system operating in rural West Bengal.

He is a modest man whose devotion to preventing blindness and restoring sight has been instrumental in creating a state-of-the-art eye hospital in an isolated, rural area that provides care to a region of over 10 million people. The hospital, which features the only pediatric ophthalmology unit in the region, is working with the Indian government to provide eye care to 15,000 children.

Dr. Asim began his career studying under Dr. Venkataswamy (Dr. V), founder of Aravind Eye Care System in India and founding member of Seva. "I was very fortunate to have had Dr. V as my teacher. It was while working at Aravind that I came to learn about Seva," shares Dr. Asim.

Under his stewardship, VMANNN now serves as a mentor to eye hospitals in India and Bangladesh. Asim's team's work has increased the number of cataract surgeries performed by mentee hospitals in his area by 25%.

With strong local expertise, Dr. Asim understands the challenges hospitals face. "You must learn not only the skills, but also the culture," Dr. Asim explains. "The topmost priority in the selection of successful mentees is the attitude of the decision makers – are

"The world is invisible to the blind people, but at the same time the blind people withdraw themselves from their surroundings and make themselves invisible. Unless the people who are sighted actively try to find them, they will remain in the dark."

– Dr. Asim Kumar Sil

they willing to change? If they are willing to change, it is possible." Seva then serves as a catalyst providing targeted support and funding that the mentors need to be effective.

Perhaps the most valued role that Dr. Asim plays is as an advisor and mentor. In this capacity, he provides individual counselling to mentee hospitals, focusing on their most critical areas for improvement. He draws on insights and experience from his own hospital.

Dr. Asim shares, "The more we interact the more we benefit, even here at our own hospital."

Under his leadership, VMANNN has developed a robust ophthalmic training facility, running dozens of clinical programs throughout the year. Mentees attend courses with the financial support from Seva. "Training is the most important part of the mentorship," said Dr. Asim.

Dr. Asim explains that his goal is to increase the efficiency and sustainability of mentee institutions through training so that they can provide vital eye care to even more people in need throughout India and Bangladesh. Dr. Asim regularly invites mentees to visit his hospital and observe how things operate, enabling them to adopt key practices in their own hospitals.

Dr. Asim, with the support of Seva donors, is helping to create a network of high-quality, sustainable eye care providers serving entire communities now and into the future.

Come meet Dr. Asim Kumar Sil in person at our Annual General Meeting on Dec. 1st. Details on page 5.

Watch a moving video by National Geographic on Dr. Asim's work "Helping the Blind to See in India's Hard-to-Reach Villages"
<http://bit.ly/AsimSil>

BRINGING COLOUR INTO HER LIFE



LO ER HAVING HER EYES EXAMINED



LO ER AFTER SURGERY

81-year-old Lo Er Zhen lives alone in Weitar, a small, rural village in the Sichuan province in China. Orphaned at a young age, Lo Er took care of her younger brother, Dengdan, and they relied heavily on each other. Lo Er never married, but she had always managed well on her own.

That was until 3 years ago when Lo Er, who already had difficulty walking, started to go blind, making simple tasks and daily chores nearly impossible.

Dengdan visited his sister once a week but worried about her safety and wellbeing. "These last two months she was really unhappy and every day she

just sits in the garden and stares at the wall. One night I heard her crying which made me really sad. I told myself that I will do my best to cure her eyes as I cannot bear to see her like this anymore," recalled Dengdan. He went to a local clinic to buy her some eye drops and noticed a sign advertising an upcoming eye screening funded by Seva.

Dengdan was determined to find a way to transport his sister to the screening. He asked around at the clinic for a bicycle and when the ophthalmologist heard this, she offered to visit Lo Er's home to screen her eyes.

Lo Er was diagnosed with cataract in both eyes and transported to a nearby hospital for sight-restoring surgery.

When her bandages were removed, Lo Er smiled, "now I can see the beautiful colours and people's faces. It feels so good!" Dengdan, overcome with relief, started to cry. It had been a long time since he had seen his sister so happy.

"Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, to everyone who has helped me get out from darkness," said Lo Er.



BREAKING THROUGH

THE DOUBLE LAYER OF GENDER INEQUALITY FOR GIRLS



In 2001, the road to eliminating avoidable blindness was dramatically altered by the Seva Canada-sponsored study which found that 2/3 of the world's blind were women. While women are not more likely to become blind than men, they are far less likely to access the care they need due to the social, cultural and economic barriers they face. Seva's leadership in the global initiative that followed made the eye care community aware that by addressing the specific barriers faced by women, avoidable blindness could be dramatically reduced.

Today, almost all Seva-supported programs serve an equal or greater number of women than men. This is because we began disaggregating their data by sex, to see and monitor where inequities exist, and began implementing gender-specific strategies; namely moving services closer to home, providing gender sensitivity training and education to staff at all levels, engaging with female community leaders and engaging with financial decision makers in households.

While gender equity has improved for adults, girls remain 2 to 3 times less likely to access and receive care than boys. Therefore, the strategies that worked for women have proven inadequate for girls, who face a double layer of inequality – the same inequities as their mothers and the added barrier of being a child, unable to advocate for themselves.



A 2015 Seva-sponsored study of 5 major child eye care facilities in Asia and Africa concluded that most of the gender inequity for children occurs at the community level where extraordinary efforts are needed to convince families to bring their girls in for treatment. Oftentimes, persistent effort by a single eye care program person – like an ophthalmologist travelling a full day to convince a family in person – is necessary in order for girls to get the care they need.



Most eye care programs do not have sufficient community-based strategies or ophthalmic personnel to make these extraordinary efforts for girls. Improvement will likely be slow as programs learn from their success stories and invest in new gender equity programs and personnel. Our role in the years to come is to learn about and disseminate knowledge of the successful strategies starting with individual case study reports. We will advocate for girls just as we did for women – raising awareness in the global eye care community and helping eye hospitals and clinics understand the need, importance and enduring value of giving girls the power of sight and an enriched future.

YOUR GIFT... THEIR VISION



"Thank you for giving me back my independence. I can live my life again."

– Chong, a Seva patient in Cambodia, cured of blindness through cataract surgery.

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

INSPIRING SEVA DONORS



BALWANT AND GOGI BHANDAL CELEBRATING 40 YEARS TOGETHER!

The Bhandal Family

The Bhandal family from Brampton, Ontario held a celebration to commemorate their parents' 40th wedding anniversary and decided to donate to Seva as party favours for their guests.

"Growing up, our parents have always instilled the importance of seva, gratitude and giving back to those who are less fortunate. We felt favours in the form of Seva cards and gifts of eyesight would be the perfect representation of these attributes."

– Navneet Bhandal, daughter

The family's generosity restored the sight of 6 adults and provided glasses for 50 people in India.



ZACHARY AND HIS SISTER ROSALIE

Zachary Gardiner

5-year-old Zachary is on a mission to pay it forward after being diagnosed and treated for cataracts last year. Grateful for his newly restored sight, Zachary set aside some of his chore money in a jar for "the kids that can't get cataract surgery" and raised \$150 to restore the sight of a child in a developing country. But Zachary didn't stop there; he set his sights on a bigger goal – to help 100 children see!

Zachary and his family have since ramped up their fundraising efforts, hosting by-donation adult and children's yoga classes, donating proceeds from their Arbonne children's sunscreen sales, and held a BBQ and car wash. His efforts caught the attention of CTV Atlantic News, who featured Zachary's story on-air in July (<http://bit.ly/ZacharyStory>). So far, Zachary has raised enough to restore the sight of 15 kids and doesn't show signs of slowing down anytime soon!

MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

DREW'S ALL GROWN UP!



DREW TODAY (18 YEARS OLD)

Drew has been an avid Seva Canada supporter since he was just 7 years old. Over the years, Drew has found many creative ways to raise funds for Seva by collecting bottles, presentations at his school, selling calendars and encouraging friends and family in his hometown of Kimberly, BC to support Seva. Having recently graduated from high school, Drew once again saw an opportunity to give back and selflessly asked his family and friends to donate to Seva in lieu of graduation gifts.

We talked with Drew and asked him about his passion and dedication to fundraising to give the power of sight to those in need.

Q: What motivated you to fundraise for Seva Canada for your graduation?

Drew: I know how hard it can be to decide what to get for someone for this kind of occasion and I also know how good it feels to help others, so it made perfect sense to use this opportunity to generate some funds for Seva. By doing this, I was able to help many people help Seva, which for me, is much more fulfilling than a bunch of gifts that I probably didn't really need!

Q: Why do you support Seva?

Drew: Contributing to an organization like Seva gives me such a positive feeling because I know that in a really straight-forward, tangible way, I am making the world a better place. I believe that it is important for those who are more fortunate to share with those who are less so, and I think everyone can find a way to do that.

Q: What is your favourite memory from supporting Seva over the years?

Drew: One memory that is very special is when my childhood best friend, after learning about the fundraising that I was doing, decided to ask everyone to forego gifts for his birthday and instead make donations to Seva. I am especially inspired by the generosity that young children show when they are given the opportunity to give.



8-YEAR-OLD DREW WITH BOTTLES HE COLLECTED IN 2007

Q: What advice do you have for other young people who want to make a difference in the world?

Drew: If you are thinking about getting involved, just do it. The hardest part is getting started, but it is so worth it. If you can't afford to donate, you can reach out to the organization and ask about opportunities for volunteering. Another option is to use your time to raise funds for the organization. Bake sales, garage sales, or my personal favourite, bottle drives, are a great way to turn your time into money.

Drew's fundraising has trained a surgeon in the Tibetan Areas of China and restored the eyesight of 5 children and over 60 adults. Thank you Drew for your many years of generous support and congratulations on your graduation! We know you are going to do amazing things!



THE LETTER DREW SENT TO SEVA WITH HIS FIRST DONATION IN APRIL 2006

SOT NIKUM EYE CAMP

This summer, a group of Seva staff and donors travelled to Cambodia to observe your donations at work at an eye camp in Sot Nikum, Siem Reap province. We captured stories from some of the 336 patients who received life-changing eye surgery over 6 days thanks to your generous support.

One recipient of your support was Khon. Here is her story.

Khon arrived at the screening site on the back of a motorbike driven by her neighbour. Despite the loss of independence she'd experienced as her vision faded, she had a smile on her face as she told us her story. She'd recently moved in with her daughter because she could no longer live alone safely with such poor vision. Khon hoped that with her vision restored she could bake and sell Khmer cakes to help with the household income.



AFTER SURGERY

Diagnosed with bilateral cataracts, Khon had surgery in both eyes over two days. When her bandages were removed, her eyes widened in surprise as she realized she could read the hospital sign. She was amazed at how clearly she could see and was excited about everything she'd be able to do on her own again – go to the bathroom, walk down the street, cook dinner for her grandchildren and bake cakes!

When Khon returned home, her daughter was waiting. Both women had tears in their eyes when they greeted one another, knowing the difference Khon's restored vision would have on both of their lives.

Khon's story wouldn't be possible without your generosity. On behalf of the 336 patients whose sight was restored at the Sot Nikum eye camp, thank you!



HAPPY HOMECOMING

HOW YOU HAVE HELPED

This past spring, the Seva community gave generously to provide high-quality eye care to kids around the world.



Over a million children worldwide suffer from blindness simply due to a lack of local resources. **As a Seva supporter, you are changing this reality.**

Your support means that Seva-sponsored outreach teams can continue to visit rural, hard-to-reach communities to identify younger children and to provide school screenings for older children. Catching eye problems early gives children the best possible chance at healthy vision for life. You have provided glasses and treatments so that kids can fulfill their potential and help free their families from poverty. Thank you!

Because of you:

- **25** school screenings took place in remote and rural communities
- **50** children received life-changing cataract surgery
- **970** kids got prescription glasses, bringing their world into focus

Thank you once again for your support of Seva! We appreciate your commitment to our shared vision – a world in which no one is needlessly blind.

URGENT NEED GLASSES FOR KIDS

Seva's programs have an urgent need for pediatric eyeglass frames, which are expensive and increasingly difficult to source in-country.



Every year, Seva's programs provide thousands of children with prescription glasses so they can succeed in school, play with friends and grow up to lead healthy and productive lives.

Right now, Seva's inventory is low, and with more children being identified, the need is greater than ever. **A \$25 donation provides 5 pairs of glasses, giving the power of sight to 5 kids in developing countries.**

Your gift today will help bring their world into focus. Visit seva.ca/glasses or mail in the form below.

☐ **YES! I want to give the power of sight by providing glasses for kids.**

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 donation will be issued to the name on the cheque or credit card.

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

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

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

RESTORE SIGHT AND PREVENT BLINDNESS. EVERY MONTH.

We are happy to announce our newly rebranded monthly giving program – ForSight. The name recognizes our donors' commitment to restoring sight and preventing blindness, now and in the future. You can join ForSight by visiting our website at seva.ca/donate or calling 1-877-460-6622.

FOR SIGHT

"It hits my heart because sight is the most important thing in the whole world. By giving sight to people in remote areas – young and old – you're giving them a job and freeing them to live independent lives."

– Current 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

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The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson

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