

IT'S ALL DONE WITH PEOPLE

Dear Seva Canada Supporters,

At Seva Canada we often say, "It's all done with people." This phrase, while simple, is far from simplistic.

A young father named Sameer, blind from cataract in both eyes, receives sight-restoring surgery.

Who helped him along the way?

Certainly the ophthalmologist, nursing staff, and other medical personnel who were responsible for his surgery, recovery and all of the details associated with high-quality care.

Supporting the surgical staff in the hospital are orderlies, maintenance workers, food services, technicians, and pharmacists.

Primary healthcare workers travel to remote and rural regions, like Sameer's village, to screen, diagnose, and treat patients. And, because we know that one of the biggest challenges is getting people to go to a facility for treatment, they also counsel patients to accept Seva's help in accessing eye care. Without counselling, it is likely Sameer would have stayed in his village, unable to help support his family or contribute to his community.

Seva Canada's dedicated local staff and partners identify and train qualified personnel at all levels of eye care. They also create effective community-based ophthalmology programs to ensure access to high-quality care for all patients, no matter how poor.

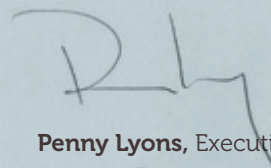


Volunteers with experience and expertise from every sector and from every corner of the globe give their time in Seva's office and in the field.

Researchers, who study everything from eye care needs in populations to the most effective strategies to deliver the care, provide the evidence to assess what is needed and what works.

Donors, of all ages and ethnicities, from Port Alberni, BC to St. John's, NFLD and beyond, fund Seva Canada's sight-restoring work with enthusiasm and compassion.

To all of Seva's people, and on behalf of the people we serve, thank you!



Penny Lyons, Executive Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Join us on November 16th at VanDusen Botanical Garden in Vancouver for Seva Canada's Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Come hear how the Seva Canada community has been transforming the lives of people in need with the power of sight, supporting eye care professionals through training and research, and empowering entire communities with equal access to eye care for all.

Date: November 16, 2018 | **Time:** 7pm | **Location:** VanDusen Botanical Garden, 5251 Oak St., Vancouver, BC V6M 4H1
Space is limited. Please RSVP at 604-713-6622 or <http://bit.ly/RSVP2018AGM>

Joining us will be some inspiring people from Seva's office in Cambodia and our partner program in the Tibetan Areas of China:



Ratana Vann

Seva Cambodia,
Battambang, Cambodia

"When I see a patient have their eye patch removed after surgery and they can see again, the patient is very happy...and I am also very happy." – Ratana

Over the past 15 years, Ratana Vann, Seva Cambodia's Program Director, has provided strong leadership establishing and steadily expanding eye care services in 5 provinces. He oversees all aspects of the eye care program including finances, outreach coordination, eye care personnel training, and monitoring and evaluation.



Dr. Barang Touk

Banteay Meanchey
Eye Unit, Mongkol Borei,
Cambodia

Dr. Barang Touk has devoted the past 20 years to providing ophthalmologic care to Cambodians in need. As the Deputy Director of the Mongkol Borei Provincial Hospital in Banteay Meanchey Province, and Head of the Seva Canada-supported Banteay Meanchey Eye Unit, Dr. Barang manages all the Eye Unit activities on top of his busy clinical and surgical practice.

Read more about Dr. Barang Touk on page 9.



Nyima Yongsam

Kham Eye Centre,
Dartsedo, Sichuan, China

Nyima Yongsam is the Outreach Coordinator for the Kham Eye Centre. She spends most of her time between March and October travelling hundreds of kilometres on poorly developed and maintained roads with the Kham Eye Care team to provide medical treatment and surgery to those living on 'the roof of the world.'

Nyima provides the passion and energy needed to bring eye care to those who need it most.



Dr. Zhenghong

Kham Eye Centre,
Dartsedo, Sichuan, China

Dr. Zhenghong, an ophthalmologist and Director of the Kham Eye Centre, provides high-quality eye care throughout the Ganzi Prefecture and surrounding areas. She has led the Kham Eye Centre in becoming a clinical and surgical training centre for ophthalmologists, mid-level ophthalmic personnel and outreach programs. Thanks to her work, several sustainable eye care programs that will serve communities now and into the future, have been established..

GET SWEATY TO RESTORE SIGHT THIS OCTOBER

3RD ANNUAL SWEAT FOR SIGHT

This October, Seva Canada is throwing the third annual Canada-wide Sweat for Sight charity fitness event.

Sweat for Sight is a multi-faceted event in support of Seva Canada, held on and around **October 11, 2018**, in celebration of World Sight Day. World Sight Day is an annual day of awareness focusing on blindness and visual impairment.

Studios, gyms, individuals, and teams across Canada can show their support by holding a fitness-inspired fundraiser or dedicating a fitness class to getting sweaty and restoring sight. Last year we had 25 studios participate across Canada and raised enough to restore the sight of 237 people!

Visit seva.ca/sweatforsight2018 to learn more and see what gyms and studios are holding classes in your area. Let's get sweaty, raise awareness, give the power of sight and change lives!



LAST YEAR BEFIT PARTICIPATED BY ACCEPTING DONATIONS FROM MEMBERS. CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MATCHED BY OPHTHALMOLOGIST AND GYM MEMBER KAREN M.



LAST YEAR, KITSILANO FIT BODY BOOTCAMP DONATED PROCEEDS FROM ALL CLASSES ON WORLD SIGHT DAY AND GAVE AWAY THREE ONE-MONTH PASSES.

2018 PARTICIPATING STUDIOS AND GYMS

**FIT BODY
BOOTCAMP**

Harbour
DANCE
Centre

BEFIT
LIFESTYLE • STRENGTH • PERFORMANCE

GROUNDWORK
ATHLETICS INC.

Curves

**AMY
DIEHL**
personal training • active lifestyle

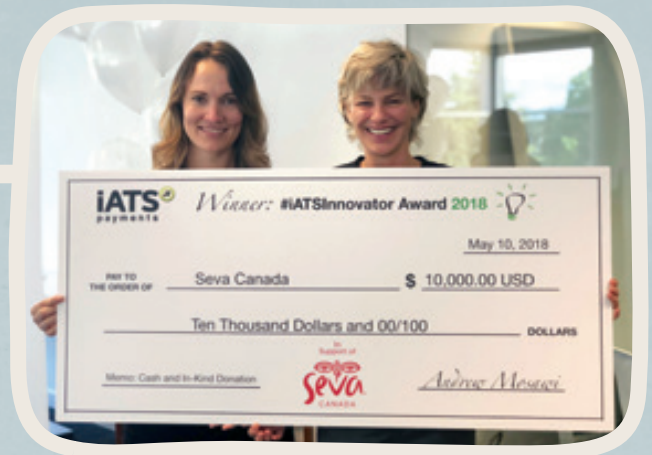
URBAN FITNESS

B
BAZA DANCE STUDIOS

SEVA'S GOOD NEWS AND CELEBRATIONS

Seva Canada has been recognized by both *Imagine Canada Standards Program* and *Charity Intelligence* as an organization that demonstrates excellence and leadership in the charitable sector. Accreditation by both of these organizations is a rigorous process and includes reviews of Seva Canada's board governance, financial accountability and transparency, program impact, fundraising, staff management and volunteer involvement.

We are also thrilled to receive the inaugural *iATS Innovator Award* in recognition of Seva Canada's excellence in fundraising innovation. iATS is the leading provider of payment solutions for non-profit organizations around the world. This prize will be used to further Seva Canada's gender equity efforts to ensure women and girls have an equal right to sight, allowing them to live healthy and productive lives.



DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, CHRISTINE SMITH AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PENNY LYONS



YOUR LEGACY IS THEIR VISION



YOU CAN CREATE A FUTURE WHERE NO ONE IS NEEDLESSLY BLIND.

After you've remembered your loved ones, include a gift in your Will to Seva Canada Society and give the power of sight for generations to come.

For more information, contact Christine at **1-877-460-6622** or **fundraising@seva.ca**

15TH ANNUAL MOTOWN MELTDOWN

A TRIBUTE TO CLASSIC SOUL MUSIC IN SUPPORT OF SIGHT

On April 21st, Nicola Wealth Management presented the 15th annual Motown Meltdown at the iconic Commodore Ballroom in downtown Vancouver. The nostalgic night, produced by Kendra Sprinkling and hosted by David Wills and Angela Kelman, was a tribute to classic soul music from Motown to Memphis, New York and beyond.

The evening included 25 vibrant and talented performers backed by The Scorchers, an unbelievable 12-piece band. One of the many highlights of the night was Garfield Wilson's rendition of Uptown Funk that had the entire venue moving and grooving to the music.

The event was a huge success which was reflected by the blue sea of flashing glasses in the crowd, each pair indicating a generous donation in support of sight made to Seva. Over \$22,476 was raised, enough to provide 450 life-changing cataract surgeries for those most in need.

A big thank you to musical directors David Sinclair and Steve Hilliam, all the outstanding performers, the band, and of course, the wonderful crew of volunteers. A special thanks to our presenting sponsor Nicola Wealth Management as well as The Somerset Foundation, Roundhouse Radio, Vancouver Courier, East Van Graphics, the Commodore Ballroom, Peacock & Martin, MOSH Framemakers and Amy Diehl Personal Training & Rehab. This night would not have been possible without all of the amazing support.

See you next year at Motown Meltdown on April 27, 2019!



CANDUS CHURCHILL SINGING CHAIN OF FOOLS



TIM FULLER PERFORMING MY GIRL



ROY FORBES AND HIS WIFE, LYDIA



GARFIELD WILSON PERFORMING UPTOWN FUNK



VOLUNTEER DOUG SPRENGER

A DYNAMIC EYE CARE DUO

Dr. Paul Courtright and his wife, Dr. Susan Lewallen, established Seva's partner in Africa, the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology in Moshi, Tanzania. Together, they are responsible for an enormous body of research and training material pertaining to gender equity, childhood blindness and trachoma that has shaped eye care delivery in low-income countries. Paul is a Seva Canada Board member and we had the opportunity to talk to him about his and Susan's work in international eye care.



PAUL AND SUSAN WITH THEIR TWO SONS, JIM AND TOM

Q. Why/How did you get interested in eye care?

Paul: I was a US Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) doing leprosy work in a small leprosy resettlement village in South Korea in 1979 when I realized that quite a few of the 300+ people in my village had eye problems. Although I had some training in eye care, it was certainly not enough to do anything meaningful. The only ophthalmologist routinely providing care for leprosy patients in the country worked at a hospital about 3 hours from my village. Over the next 6 months I would spend every Monday at her clinic. She gave me some basic ophthalmology texts and every week I had to use the slit lamp to examine every patient before she did and write down my findings. A great learning experience. During my second year as a PCV, I wrote a grant (yep, my first grant) to travel to all of the leprosy resettlement villages in the country (just under 100 of them), examine patients, and create a plan for their management. In order to do the work, I had to agree to spend 2 weeks at the hospital being the translator (none of the Korean surgical nurses spoke English) for a British ophthalmologist who came to do the more complicated cases. He happened to be the Queen's

ophthalmologist and convinced me to take the findings from the work (yep, I had created a standard form and recorded all of the eye findings) and get it published—my first foray into epidemiology. This experience led me to do a Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University—I got lucky, learning within the first week that there was a Fellowship in Preventive Ophthalmology that was just starting. I hopped across the street and was admitted into that program too.

Q. What was your role at The BC Centre for Epidemiologic and International Ophthalmology (BCEIO)?

Paul: In 1994, Susan and I were working in Malawi. Susan was the only ophthalmologist for the Southern Region (about 5 million people) and I was the Malawi Country Director for the International Eye Foundation. We had been working there for 4 years, during the particularly difficult time when HIV/AIDS was ravaging the country. We decided that it was time to return to North America and contacted our friend, Dr. Simon Holland, at UBC. That led to a conversation with the chairman of the Dept. of Ophthalmology about setting up a centre at UBC dedicated to

international ophthalmology and the epidemiology of eye diseases. The department organized funds for my salary for two years and I started at UBC in late 1994. Although it was a mouthful, we decided to call the centre, which at the time was just me, the BC Centre for Epidemiologic & International Ophthalmology. Over the next 7 years, the BCEIO undertook a wide range of activities, including, but certainly not limited to, research on traditional eye medicines in Malawi, on eye care for leprosy patients in Myanmar and on use of the corneal eye banking service in BC. BCEIO also took the lead in organizing and running, in partnership with Seva Canada and Seva Foundation, the Tibet Eye Care Assessment (TECA). TECA was the foundation for much of the work that Seva has undertaken in the Tibetan Areas of China.

Q. What inspired you to begin questioning gender equity in eye care?

Paul: The first time I started to ask the question of gender and blindness was when Susan and I were living and working in Ethiopia in 1989-90. This was during the Marxist regime of Mengistu, a very difficult time in the country. I was

asked by Redd Barna (the Norwegian Save the Children) to assist them on a study of hydatid disease among the Hamar tribe in the extreme southwest corner of the country. I agreed but also suggested that we include a study of vision loss and blindness. The Hamar tribe are herders, more specifically, they are cattle rustlers. Men carried World War I vintage Lee-Enfield rifles and bullets were the main currency. The Hamar, a tough and resilient group, were nomadic and most of the people we met had never seen a westerner before. There was zero eye care available to them. During the study, I started to notice that while we found women who were blind (mostly due to cataract), we found only one old, blind man. When, through an interpreter, I started asking adults about blindness in men, they all just laughed. It was simple: if a man could not see, he could not shoot. If he could not shoot, he could not see others shooting back at him; he had a short life expectancy. That led to the first paper on gender and blindness and was followed by work in Malawi on trachiasis and women. While at UBC I met Dr. Ken Bassett, Seva Canada's Program Director, and we became both colleagues and friends. We discussed my observations and decided to undertake a meta-analysis of population-based surveys to see if, globally, there was excess blindness in women compared to men. That paper, published about 17 years ago, has been the foundation of all work on the topic and has been cited by over 200 other publications.

Q. Can you tell us briefly about your original gender equity research?

Paul: After that initial publication, which only stated that we had a problem, not what was causing the problem, we decided to expand the research to understand the underlying reasons for the differences. As blindness can be due to many factors, we started with the main causes of blindness at the time: cataract, glaucoma, and trachoma. After using global data to demonstrate that women were less likely to receive cataract surgery compared to men, we now had the ammunition to say that the primary reasons for the gender

inequity were due to factors amenable to change. With that understanding, the World Health Organization Department of Gender, Women and Health became very interested in the work. They supported us, as we were establishing the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology in Moshi, on a piece of research to see if we could increase utilization of cataract surgical services among women. The Canadian government was a big supporter as well and in 2002, along with Seva Canada, we held the first global gender and blindness symposium in Moshi. With support from Seva Canada and others—other groups in places like Nepal, Egypt, India, and Cambodia have explored other aspects of this question—it has become global. We were particularly pleased when, in 2009, the IAPB designated the theme of World Sight Day to be “gender and eye health” and we were tasked with the role of compiling a wonderful overview of global efforts on the topic.

Q. What did you find most surprising about your gender equity research?

Paul: Two things surprised me. First, I was surprised at the pushback on the topic of gender and eye health. Some people felt that bringing attention to women would annoy men. Some felt that it was inappropriate for us to recommend that women have more decision-making authority (financial) in families. And, of course, there were people who only looked at figures that fit their worldview and failed to dig deeper to see the underlying issues. Second, I was surprised to learn from our medical anthropologist colleagues that many women did not seek eye care, even when they needed it, because that would use the limited “social capital” they had within the family. I was surprised to hear some family members, mostly sons, state “my mother is fine, she is too old for surgery”. The level of family support was much less than I expected. Expectations of the elderly are few and expectations of the younger generation regarding their older relatives also seem out of place given the systems we have put in place to assist people to get cataract surgery.

Q. What strategies have your studies shown to work best in providing equal access to eye care for women and girls in low-income countries?

Paul: There is no “one size fits all” approach to providing equal access to eye care for women and girls. Understanding the local context is critical to figuring out the main barriers females face, and then the approaches to address each of these barriers. It is always important to recognize that, once one barrier has been addressed, others become apparent. Thus, addressing equal access to eye care for women and girls is an ongoing and evolving process. In Tanzania, where we lived and worked for over a decade, transportation was a major problem for women. Transport is a multi-faceted issue: there is the actual distance one must travel, there is the lack of transport systems, there is the inexperience by women of being outside the village, there is the need for someone to accompany a woman on a trip, there is the cost of transport—the list goes on and on. People often think that the price of surgery is a major barrier but we always worked with eye units to establish prices that were within the capacity of the population to pay. Even then, women often did not have the decision-making authority in the household to seek care. Counselling of family members, in particular the men, was critical.



Learn more about Seva's gender equity work at equalrighttosight.com

HEROES IN THE FIELD:

INDIA'S PRIYA ADHISESHA REDDY LEADING THE WAY FOR WOMEN IN EYE CARE



PRIYA SHARING RESEARCH RESULTS WITH OUR MALAGASY PARTNERS

Priya Adhishesha Reddy has worked for Aravind Eye Hospital, Seva's partner in India, for 13 years. In addition to her roles as a patient care manager, project manager, and management consultant, she has led countless research projects designed to improve the lives of women and girls, and has received prestigious accolades for her work. Before embarking on her next challenge, to complete her PhD in Medicine at Queen's University Belfast, we asked her to take a look back on her journey.

Q: How did you first get involved in eye care?

Priya: In the late 1990's, my father, a farmer, started organizing regular eye screening and general health camps under the tree in front of our house in Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu. At the age of 10, I began to volunteer at these camps, helping to build awareness and ensure the elderly received their checkups and follow-up care. My family and I continue this work today and it is what inspired me to embark on a career in eye care.

Q: How did you first become involved with Seva?

Priya: I have always seen Seva and Aravind as one and the same. Since day one of joining Aravind, I began working with Seva either directly or indirectly, from attending workshops to collaborating on projects and research studies. Seva, and particularly Seva's Program Director, Dr. Ken Bassett, has played an important role in my professional development from learning research to gaining a Fulbright fellowship and now a PhD.

Q: What projects are you most proud of?

Priya: I have been involved in a number of different projects, from implementing a diabetic retinopathy project where 30,500 patients benefitted from treatment to leading a school screening project which screened a half million children for vision problems. After seeing firsthand how research improved my team's impact and efficiency, I'm also proud of my contributions to the wider eye care community. From finding faster, more effective ways to screen schoolchildren for vision problems to showing how a simple pair of spectacles increases the productivity of female rural, agricultural workers, I'm contributing to the economic and social empowerment of women and girls worldwide.

Q: What has been your biggest challenge as a woman working in eye care?

Priya: As a woman, your voice is not always heard. After trying to convey my opinions several times, I decided instead to focus on deliverables. Once I started to deliver, my work spoke for itself and people started to appreciate and listen to me. My biggest piece of advice is to be genuinely interested in whatever you are doing. If you are interested in your work, you can achieve anything.

Q: What is your hope for the future of eye care in low-income countries?

Priya: My hope for the future is simple: eye care for all.

DR. BARANG TOUK

TWO DECADES OF RESTORING SIGHT IN CAMBODIA



DR. KEN BASSETT, SEVA CANADA PROGRAM DIRECTOR, WITH DR. BARANG TOUK IN CAMBODIA

Dr. Barang Touk has devoted the past 20 years to bringing eye care to Cambodians in need. As the Deputy Director of the Mongkol Borei Provincial Hospital in Banteay Meanchey Province and Head of the Seva Canada-supported Banteay Meanchey Eye Unit, Dr. Barang manages all the Eye Unit activities on top of his busy clinical and surgical practice.

Dr. Barang first became aware of eye care watching his friend's family struggle for years to save enough money for their father to undergo cataract surgery. After completing his degree as a general practitioner, and seeing patient after patient in the same predicament, Dr. Barang decided to specialize in ophthalmology. Becoming an ophthalmologist was not easy, requiring him to study for an additional 3 years where he commuted weekly from Banteay Meanchey to Phnom Penh and also completed an observership in Boston, Massachusetts. Nevertheless, he remained committed to achieving his goal for himself and his country.

Now, after 10 years as a practicing ophthalmologist, Dr. Barang restores the sight of hundreds of patients each year, enabling them to contribute to their families, communities and country. One of his favorite stories is of a woman who seemed far older than her 35 years. She was a mother of two and worked as a saleswoman but she had become so visually impaired she could no longer do her job or look after her children and she feared her husband would divorce her. Desperate and hopeless, she travelled to the Banteay Meanchey Eye Unit to see if anything could be done. Dr. Barang diagnosed her with cataract, admitted her to the hospital and operated on her the next day. Two weeks later, when she returned for her follow-up appointment, Dr. Barang could hardly recognize the beautiful, joyful woman who sat in front of him.

Dr. Barang has countless stories like this, which keep him motivated to expand his skillset and inspire his team to ensure eye care is within everyone's reach.

Meet Dr. Barang at Seva's AGM on Nov. 16th.
Learn more on page 2.



DR. BARANG EXAMINING PATIENTS AT
THE BANTEAY MEANCHEY EYE UNIT



CATCHING UP WITH AMANDA

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AND SEVA VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Amanda is a 14-year-old high school student in grade 10 who generously volunteers her time regularly at the Seva office. We spoke with Amanda and asked her why, as a young person balancing schoolwork, sports, and friends, she takes time out of her busy schedule to be a part of the Seva community.

Q: What do you do when you're not helping out at the Seva office? Tell us a bit about yourself.

Amanda: Outside of school, I like to hang out with friends. I keep busy and active with my cheerleading team, and enjoy spending time with my dog Kona and my family.

Q: What is it about Seva's vision-restoring work that inspired you to volunteer?

Amanda: I think it is cool how Seva helps people who are less fortunate and need more help with their health and eyesight. I'm inspired by being a part of an organization that helps people so they can see their family again and the world around them.

Q: What have you learned from volunteering at Seva?

Amanda: I've learned about vision problems around the world, and how it can change a person's life when they can see again. I've also learned a lot of valuable workplace skills being in the office, like using databases. It's helpful for me when I start to think about the future and what kind of work I want to do.

Q: What do your friends and family think about you volunteering?

Amanda: My friends think it's great. I have a friend who was interested in volunteering so I told her about my positive experience and what a great feeling it is to give back. She was so inspired that now she's volunteering for a charity.

My parents are very encouraging. They think it's important to do things for other people, not just for yourself. They set a good example for me by being kind to others, even if it's just something little like opening a door for someone.

Q: What do you want to be/do when you are older?

Amanda: I want to be a heart surgeon. My dad works in healthcare and I grew

up learning about it through him, so I've known for a while it's the field I want to work in. I want to be able to help others.

We asked Amanda's mother, Lillian, why she supports Seva, and why she thinks it is important for Amanda to volunteer.

Lillian: Seva represents small changes having a large effect on people's lives. I was introduced to Seva through our neighbours and good friends, Nagib and Maureen. They are huge supporters. As I read more about the story of Seva and the work of the organization, I wanted to pay it forward and to help in any way that I could. I was amazed that a small donation will provide an immediate gift of sight which has such a cascading effect on the livelihood, and emotional and social well-being of an individual. It gives me pleasure to know that I can help in a small way.

I also wanted my daughter to learn about social responsibility, compassion and to recognize that we are very lucky for all that we have. Through Seva, I hope that she is able to learn some life lessons. I am very grateful to Seva for the opportunity to allow Amanda to volunteer.

REMEMBERING NGA-HWA YEO



NGA-HWA IN 1947 AS AN AIRLINE STEWARDESS FOR SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Nga-Hwa was many things – a fresh-faced airline stewardess, a stoic single mother, a beloved teacher, a hard-working entrepreneur, a talented artist, an adventurous world traveller, a Buddhist nun and a long-time donor to Seva Canada.

Born in Singapore on January 30th, 1923, Nga-Hwa Yeo was strong-willed and determined from the start. When she was only 24 years old, she became one

of the first airline stewardesses for Singapore airlines. Years later, as a single mother of 3 children, she put herself through teacher's college and taught art at a girls' school to provide for her young family. In 1968, she moved to Canada, where she settled in Vancouver and owned a small store selling crafts from Asia and rugs from Spain.

While many people slow down after retiring, Nga-Hwa went back to school, attending Emily Carr University of Art + Design where she majored in ceramics. In 1989, at the age of 66, Nga-Hwa bought a backpack and sleeping bag and travelled to India, spending a year studying Buddhism in a Tibetan community in Dharamsala. Inspired by the Buddhist approach to understanding life, Nga-Hwa was ordained as a nun before returning to Canada.

Nga-Hwa discovered Seva Canada in the late 1990's through Brian Harris, a former Seva staff member and photographer. As a donor, Nga-Hwa was drawn to Seva's work with the Tibetan people, for whom she held a special place in her heart. When faced with the tragic deaths of her daughter, and later one of her sons, she turned her grief into something positive and

donated her inheritance from their estates towards Seva's programs in the Tibetan Areas of China. Thanks to Nga-Hwa's incredible generosity over the years, hundreds of Tibetans have received the power of sight and the chance at a brighter future.

Nga-Hwa died on February 23, 2018 in North Vancouver at the age of 95. She will be remembered fondly by everyone at Seva Canada for her loyal commitment to our shared vision – a world in which no one is needlessly blind or visually impaired.



NGA-HWA AT HER HOME IN HORSESHOE BAY, VANCOUVER



GRATEFUL FOR GLASSES



Miranto is a 7-year-old girl who lives with her single mother, Miriam, and younger brother in a rural village in the central highlands of Madagascar. Like the majority of their community, the family farms their small plot of land to provide for themselves.

Miriam had noticed for a few years that something was off with her daughter's vision, particularly during the rainy season. She became concerned for Miranto's ability to succeed in school and for her future.

Fortunately for Miranto, a Key Informant (KI) visited her village to identify people in need of eye care. The KI noticed a white dot on Miranto's eye and referred her to an upcoming Seva-sponsored screening camp. Miriam, who had never been to a doctor before, was hesitant to seek medical care for her daughter but the KI eased her fears. To reassure Miriam, the KI introduced her to another mother whose son had been helped by the eye care team.

At the screening camp, Dr. Richard Andriamampihantona examined Miranto and determined the white dot



in her eye was a bad allergic reaction, made worse by humidity during the rainy season. He also discovered that Miranto suffered from refractive error and was in need of glasses. Thanks to the generosity of Seva donors, Miranto was provided with medicine and prescription glasses free of charge.

Now, Miranto is succeeding in school with the hope of one day becoming a nun. Her mother is overjoyed and relieved that Miranto can now pursue her dreams.

HOW YOU HAVE HELPED THIS PAST SPRING, THE SEVA COMMUNITY CAME TOGETHER TO HELP GIRLS SEE.



Of the 1.4 million children who are blind worldwide, 2 out of 3 are girls due to the socioeconomic and cultural barriers they face in accessing eye care.

Your donations support gender equity initiatives in all of Seva Canada's programs, helping ensure treatment is within everyone's reach.

Thanks to you:

- **7,772** girls were screened for eye disease
- **183** girls were provided prescription glasses, bringing their world into focus
- **45** girls received life-changing surgery

When girls are given the power of sight and are able to lead healthy, productive lives, entire communities have a chance at a better future.

On behalf of all those who benefited from your support, thank you for your generosity and for helping to ensure that girls have an equal right to sight.



HELP KIDS SEE AND SUCCEED THIS SCHOOL YEAR

YOU CAN PROVIDE CHILDREN IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES WITH PRESCRIPTION GLASSES, BRINGING THEIR WORLD INTO FOCUS.

As the school year approaches, and Canadian kids get ready to go back to class, consider that over 10 million children in low-income countries suffer from refractive error.

Blurred vision prevents these children from doing well in school, limiting their potential and keeping them trapped in a cycle of poverty.

A simple pair of prescription glasses can bring a child's world into focus, allowing them to concentrate on their studies,

contribute to their community and grow up to lead a healthy, happy and productive life.

Your gift of \$25 will provide 5 pairs of glasses, giving the power of sight to 5 kids in need in low-income countries.

To donate, visit seva.ca/glasses or mail in the form below today.

☐ **YES! I want to bring a child's world into focus by providing prescription glasses.**

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

INSPIRING SEVA DONORS



Col

Col is a 9-year-old boy who knows firsthand what it's like to grow up with vision problems. He had several significant, non-corrective issues with his eyes. His optometrist referred him for several months of vision therapy.

Col worked very hard to permanently improve several aspects of his sight, which included a considerable commitment to daily therapy sessions. His dedication not only helped his own eyesight, but also that of children in low-income countries around the world. That's because as a motivational incentive, Col's parents implemented a reward system where he earned \$0.25 towards a donation to Seva Canada for every therapy exercise he completed.

Col's positive attitude is an inspiration and through his determination, he has raised enough to provide 10 pairs of prescription glasses for children in need in Tibetan Areas of China and in Egypt!



Abby

Abby, a young Seva Canada supporter, is an elementary school student raising awareness of Seva Canada's mission to restore sight and prevent blindness in developing countries.

For a school assignment called "Project Give Back," Abby's teacher asked the class to present on a charity they felt passionately about. Abby chose Seva Canada because she "wears glasses and contact lenses but some people need extra help with their eyes" and recognizes not everyone is as fortunate as her in getting help with their eyesight.

Abby's presentation included an interactive activity that simulated what it is like to have cataracts, giving her classmates a sense of the reality of those suffering from blindness and vision impairment around the world.



UglyFace Sunglasses

UglyFace Sunglasses is a company brought to life by a group of Bachelor of Commerce students from Royal Roads University.

The students were challenged to apply their entrepreneurship skills to create a business tied into a charitable cause as part of a class project called the Online Venture Challenge. UglyFace is an online store selling fashionable sunglasses, and during the month of February, 100% of their proceeds went to Seva Canada. Their name challenges the fashion industry's views on beauty, and does so with a little sass. By using strategic marketing practices to drive sales, the students were able to generate \$470 in revenue, which they donated toward Seva's eye care work in low-income countries.

UglyFace Sunglasses won the Online Venture Challenge and the students have decided to continue their business beyond the class project. Because they are passionate about giving back, they have kept Seva as the beneficiary and will be donating a portion of proceeds going forward.

You can visit UglyFace Sunglasses at uglyfacestore.com



BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

RESTORE SIGHT AND PREVENT
BLINDNESS. EVERY MONTH.

Join ForSight, Seva Canada's community of monthly donors committed to providing the means, opportunity, and capacity for people in low-income countries to receive surgery, glasses and medicine that they need to build brighter futures. For more information, visit our website at seva.ca/monthly-giving or call 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 people – 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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