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Chris Pool: A Practice of Purpose



Chris Pool & Martha Entin

When Chris Pool was young, he held strong convictions about inequality. He believed material possessions mattered far less than making a difference in the world, but he also wanted to be his own unique self and to walk his own path. That conviction never left him, even as his life wound through unexpected turns: stockbroker, building inspector, immigrant services work in Vancouver, artist, spiritual seeker, and beyond.

During one particularly demanding stretch working as a stockbroker, Chris developed a practice: on the hard days, instead of letting frustration settle in, he would donate to Seva Canada. If he had to be at work, at least his labour

could give someone their sight back. It was a small act of alignment, a way of ensuring his time counted for something larger.

Chris first discovered Seva in 1978 or 1979, and he's been a committed supporter ever since. What resonates most is the elegance of Seva's model: one person's restored vision gives two people back their lives. *"You can do a lot for other people without having to donate a lot,"* he reflects. For someone drawn to both spirituality and practicality, that efficiency matters deeply.

His connection to Seva Canada runs even deeper. A lifelong spiritual seeker, Chris spent considerable time meditating in India, and years ago in Tamil Nadu, he crossed paths with Jerry Jones, one of Seva Foundation's early board members and longtime supporter. That encounter, meeting someone at the heart of Seva's origins, reinforced what he already believed: that this work was rooted in something genuine.

Chris and his wife Martha have continued their support from Arizona, where they now live. Still, Vancouver, where Chris spent about thirty years, and India, where Chris discovered so much of himself, remain close to his heart. After all these years, he has never abandoned his youthful belief in a more just world. He's simply found a way to build it, steadily and thoughtfully, through nearly fifty years of partnership with Seva.

Thank you, Chris and Martha, for your enduring commitment.



Beyond the Numbers: The Magic of Going the Distance

Dear Seva Canada donors,

As I write this, I'm on a plane to Tanzania, ultimately headed to both Moshi and the Ngorongoro area, the very places this letter is about.

Many of you may be familiar with "effective altruism," the idea of maximizing the good our giving does for the greatest number of people. It's a philosophy and approach to philanthropy that has drawn real attention to eye care: restoring sight is widely recognized as one of the most cost-effective health interventions in the world, and Peter Singer even featured Seva in his seminal book, *The Life You Can Save*.

The reality, though, is wonderfully complex. When we talk about "*reaching the unreached*," we mean going to the very end of the road: funding outreach up the Amazon River, or into places like the one I'm travelling to right now. These are places far from hospitals, where people often live with very little, and where the loss of a family member's sight and productivity can be devastating. Reaching them takes more effort, and more resources, than reaching patients in a city.

If we measured success by raw numbers alone, we might focus only on urban centres, where people are more likely to already have access to care. But proximity to a city shouldn't determine whether someone gets to see their grandchildren, read, or go back to work.

Everyone deserves the power of sight.

That's why our work is about strengthening our partners, helping them become more effective and supporting them to go further, to the people who would otherwise be left behind. That is reaching the unreached, and it's a kind of magic our donors make possible every single day.

By the time you read this, I'll have returned from Tanzania, having met people whose sight you helped restore. Effective altruism asks us to care about people we'll never meet just as much as those in front of us. Thank you so much for caring, and for going the distance for them.

With gratitude,

Liz Brant Executive Director

**Read one
highlight of Liz's
Tanzania trip on
page 7**

Make a Bigger Impact: Give the Gift of Securities

Restore Sight and Receive Valuable Tax Benefits

Did you know that donating publicly traded securities is one of the most tax-effective ways to support Seva Canada?

By giving shares directly, you can eliminate capital gains tax and receive a tax receipt for the full market value of your gift. That means more of your donation goes directly to restoring sight and transforming lives.

It's a meaningful way to give, and a smart way to save.

Contact Erika at ErikaKinast@seva.ca to learn more.



You're Invited:

Seva Canada's 44th Annual General Meeting

We are delighted to invite you to Seva Canada's 44th Annual General Meeting, taking place via Zoom on **December 8th, 2026.**

This year's theme, **Reaching the Unreached**, reflects our donors' ongoing commitment to bringing eye care to the communities who need it most, often those in the hardest-to-reach corners of the world, where distance, poverty, or lack of infrastructure have long stood between people and their sight.

Special Guest Dr. Binita Sharma



We're honoured to welcome our special guest, **Dr. Binita Sharma**, Seva Nepal's Country Director, who is also an ophthalmologist and eye health advocate. Dr. Sharma has spent her career championing high-

quality eye care programs, promoting gender equity in healthcare, and helping hospitals build the training, capacity, and resources required to serve those who need it most. She'll be joining us to share reflections on the past year and what "reaching the unreached" means on the ground in Nepal.

In addition to a presentation of our financials, we'll be sharing key highlights from the past year, including our program milestones, progress on our ongoing initiatives, and the continued growth of our work restoring sight and transforming lives around the world.

Work that couldn't be done without the compassion and generosity of the Seva Canada community. Thank you!

Event Details

Date: December 8, 2026

Time: 5:30pm PT / 7:30pm EST

Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86987739750?pwd=G8ZvwdxfDDWdiuN6ScHmNMapdH1F7n.1>



Please RSVP:

bit.ly/RSVP26AGM



We hope you'll join us to celebrate what we've achieved together and the impact of your generosity.

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 AGM, a person must have donated a minimum of \$20 between November 5, 2025 and November 24, 2026. 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 Seva Canada Society. Letters can be sent to the Seva Canada office to the attention of the Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee.



- **Booking an eye exam** for yourself and your family and encourage friends and co-workers to do the same.
- **Share eye health tips** and your commitment to healthy vision on social media using **#WorldSightDay** and **#LoveYourEyes**.
- **Get the kids involved!** Download free *World Sight Day* activities like colouring pages and word scrambles at seva.ca/news/world-sight-day-2026



Seeing Clearly, Playing Freely



Zenaice wearing her new prescription glasses

Twelve-year-old Zenaice is in secondary school in a community not far from Moshi, Tanzania. She lives with her parents, Isaya and Lucy, her younger siblings Isabela and Istaray, and her grandmother Monica. Before she received her first pair of glasses, school and play were both a struggle.

"I was unable to see the blackboard, and I couldn't see far, especially in the sunlight," Zenaice explained. The glare outdoors was so difficult that she stopped going outside altogether. *"Before, I couldn't stay outside and would remain indoors,"* she said.

Everything changed once she was fitted for glasses at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre—ones she chose herself, in colors she loves: white, green, yellow, and pink.

"The difference is that now I can be outside in the sun," Zenaice said. *"I can read my teacher's handwriting clearly, even though it's very small. And I can play well again, because before, the sunlight made it too hard."*

That last part matters most to Zenaice. She loves netball and football with her best friends, Eva, Samson, Nora, and Ana, and getting her sight back means she's no longer

sitting on the sidelines. She even knows her positions: *"In football, I know there's the referee, the goalkeeper, and the defenders."*

Looking ahead, Zenaice has a clear goal of her own. *"I want to become a science teacher,"* she said, a career only possible if she has healthy vision.

Because of supporters like you, children like Zenaice don't have to miss out on the classroom or the playground. With clear vision, they can do it all and thrive.



Zenaice picking her favourite frames



Zenaice and her proud Grandmother



One Surgeon, Two Worlds: A Cataract Story

Written by Dr. Marty Spencer, Co-chair of the Seva Canada Board



As an ophthalmologist, I've spent half my life volunteering with Seva, teaching and performing cataract surgery in Seva Canada's program countries. I've also had a busy practice in Canada, performing thousands of cataract surgeries here. So it was unexpectedly instructive when, recently, the person having surgery was me.

Consider a woman in a remote village in Cambodia. She has slowly lost her sight and can no longer do the simple tasks of daily living. She depends on her family, feeling the pain of that dependence and the anguish of not being able to see her grandchildren.

I, on the other hand, still had good vision; with a stronger prescription lens, I could see close to 20/20. But I knew the cataract would progress, so I consulted a trusted partner and arranged surgery on my own schedule. I was able to choose the date and time of my surgery, familiar with the routine, the eye drops, and the precautions.

The Cambodian woman may not even know that restoring her sight is possible. Let's assume she lives in Banteay Meanchey, a province where Seva Canada Cambodia supports eye care. Outreach workers on motorcycles travel

from village to village seeking people with vision problems and connecting them with treatment, so there's a good chance she'd eventually receive care.

For her, though, this is stepping into the unknown: taken to an unfamiliar city, told that a stranger will cut into her eye, her fear sharpened by her blindness.

Fortunately, one of Seva Canada's core values is to treat every patient with dignity: she'll be met with gentle hands and kind voices.

My cataract surgery took barely an hour, most of it spent waiting for the eye drops to work. I needed only numbing drops, no sedation, and walked to my nearby office afterward, then drove myself home once my surgeon confirmed my eye was already seeing well. The next day I was back at work.

The Cambodian patient's surgery requires an injectable anesthetic, an eye patch, and at least a day in hospital, meaning a family member must also leave their work and home to accompany her.

We hope she returns to her village, delighting in her grandchildren's faces again, telling everyone about the kindness and sight-restoring treatment she found at the eye hospital.

As for me, the improvement in my vision still amazes me, even after doing this surgery countless times. And it reminded me how many people in low-income countries go blind every day without access to the care that I've always taken for granted.

There's much more work to do, and it's why your partnership with Seva Canada matters. You're making that same restoration of sight possible for someone just like the Cambodian woman.



Twenty-Five Years of Sight and Partnership

Made possible by you.

For 25 years, Seva Canada donors have helped build something lasting: a partnership that is changing how eye care reaches people across Africa and around the world.

This August, eye health leaders from across Africa and beyond filled the auditorium at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College (KCMC) in Moshi, Tanzania, for two days marking a milestone 25 years in the making: the anniversary of the founding of the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO). It's a moment made possible by African eye health leaders, visionary founders Drs. Paul Courtright and Susan Lewallen, KCCO's skilled, dedicated team, and supporters like you.

Over two days, leaders shared lessons and celebrated the impact of African-led eye care programs, learning across borders from Nigeria to Ethiopia and beyond. Discussions explored KCCO's pioneering community ophthalmology model, community-based pediatric eye care from early detection through follow-up after cataract surgery, progress on gender equity, and efforts to eliminate trachoma in some of the hardest-to-reach communities. That last effort has become a blueprint for collaboration that other disease-elimination programs now look to.

But behind every program and every new approach is something much more important: **people who can see, learn, work, care for their families and participate fully in their communities.**

For Seva Canada, the forum was also a moment to reflect on what 25 years of partnership—and 25 years of your generosity—has accomplished. The partnership between Seva Canada and KCCO is more than a funding relationship. It has been about **learning together, solving problems together, listening closely to local leaders and communities who understand what will work best in their own context—and together finding better ways to reach people who might otherwise be left behind.**



KCCO's team shows up day after day with skill and heart, always with the patients in mind first.

Dr. Marty Spencer, Seva Canada
Board Co-Chair

As KCCO looks ahead to its next chapter, one thing hasn't changed: **none of this happens without you.** Thank you for being part of this journey and here's to the next 25 years of sight and partnership.



Headline Image: Robert Geneau, ED of KCCO and Dr. John Mpande.

How You've Helped



This past spring, you and 213 other supporters came together for our Madagascar matching campaign. **\$90,000** was raised and has already funded eye care for children and adults in Madagascar!

That is not just a number. That amount means lives changed.

Lives like Lorenzo's. At seven years old, he could not read the board at school and told us he felt different from the other children. Today, he has glasses and is back in class, playing with his friends, and seeing clearly for the first time.

And then there is Delphine, a 78-year-old grandmother who lost her sight to cataracts and, with it, the independence she had known all her life. Today, she is back at the market, working on her own, seeing the faces she loves.



Lorenzo and Delphine are real people. Your generosity did that for them.

And in the months ahead, your generosity will reach more people... Young children whose vision problems have never been detected, adults living with treatable conditions who do not know that help is available,



women and girls facing barriers to accessing care, and communities that simply do not have access to treatment.

The Seva Canada community chose to give. And because you did, adults and children in Madagascar are seeing the world around them clearly.

On behalf of our team, our partners, and the people whose lives you are changing, thank you.

Give a Child the Power of Sight this Back-to-School Season

Every Child Deserves to See Their Future Clearly



\$25

provides **5 children** with
prescription glasses



\$50

provides **10 children** with
prescription glasses



\$75

provides **15 children** with
prescription glasses



\$100

provides **20 children** with
prescription glasses

Every donation helps provide a life-changing pair of glasses to a child in need!

Back-to-school season is here, and for millions of kids, that means new backpacks, new friends, and a fresh start. But for children with uncorrected vision problems, it can also mean struggling to read the board, falling behind in class, or missing out on playing with friends.

Healthy vision changes everything. When a child can see clearly, they can learn, connect, and thrive in the classroom and beyond.

This back-to-school season, you can help make that possible. For as little as \$5, you can provide a child in need with prescription glasses and open the door to a school year full of promise.



Donate today by scanning the QR code, visiting seva.ca/glasses, or mailing in the enclosed form.



Reaching Children, Changing Futures

Written by Priya Reddy, Seva Canada, Program Research

During a recent visit to Punjab, India, I had the opportunity to spend time with Dr. Priyanka, the ophthalmologist leading Project Roshani, and to see firsthand how your support is helping make pediatric eye care accessible through Project Roshani at Dayanand Medical College & Hospital (DMCH).



The Project Roshani team being recognized for their great work

Project Roshani works to prevent and treat childhood vision loss, including conditions such as cataract, refractive error and squint, so children can experience all that childhood has to offer. Through outreach to rural communities, the project provides free community eye screenings and treatment, including glasses, medication and surgery.

During my visit, I was honoured to meet some of the young patients whose care has been made possible by Seva Canada donors, along with their families. One story that particularly stayed with me was that of Fateh, a five-year-old boy who lives with his parents and grandmother near Ludhiana. Fateh is on the autism spectrum, and for years that diagnosis overshadowed a second problem no one had thought to look for: dense cataracts in both eyes. He spent his early years



bumping into chairs, tables and walls, and his family didn't understand why.

It was a Project Roshani outreach camp that finally found what doctors had missed. Fateh's aunt, Kamaljit, has taken on much of his care, bringing him from his parents' home to her own near the Community Eye Centre so he could get to his appointments, and both of his eyes were treated in a single surgery at DMCH. The early progress was modest, but seven or eight months on, Fateh is walking with confidence, playing with friends and going to school. When his aunt was asked what he was most excited to see once his vision came back, she didn't hesitate: his grandmother's face. His transformation was a powerful reminder that restoring sight can change much more than a child's vision. It can change how a child experiences the whole world around him.

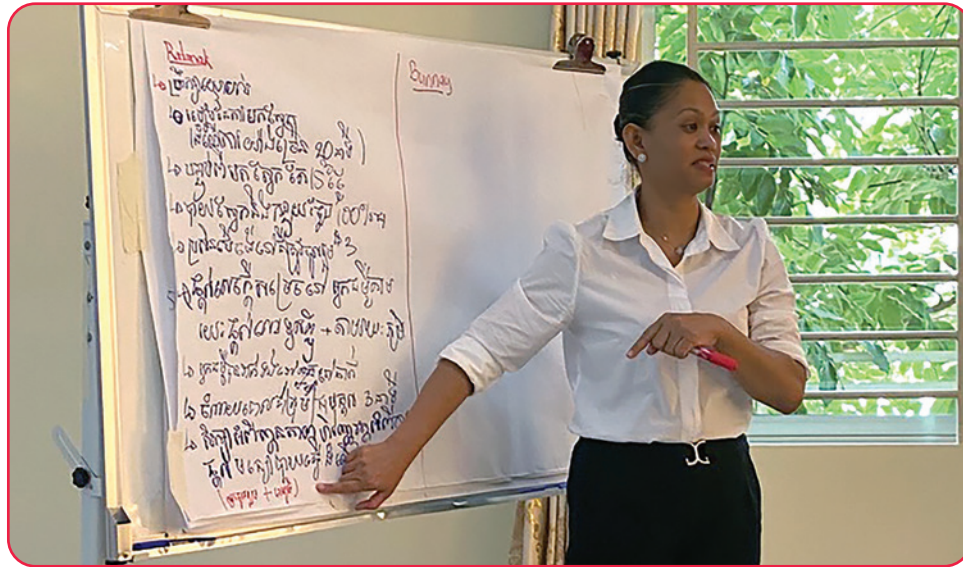
Dr. Priyanka also shared remarkable growth in pediatric cataract surgeries since our partnership began last year. **She has performed more pediatric cataract surgeries in the past 12 months than in the previous 11 years combined.** This extraordinary increase shows why proactive outreach is so important in finding children and families in need of eye care.

The impact of Seva Canada donors' generosity in Punjab goes far beyond the numbers. It is strengthening hospital services, expanding access to pediatric eye care and reaching children and families who might otherwise go without.

For me, the most powerful part is seeing what happens when a child finally receives the care they need: the smiles, the laughter and the possibilities that open up.

That is what your generosity makes possible: more children found, more surgeries, and more families supported. It also means stronger systems, ready for the next child who walks through the door. Thank you for making it possible.

Local Teams. Local Solutions. Local Impact.



Sophon conducting a training exercise with the outreach workers

On a sweltering day in May at the Seva Canada Cambodia office, five outreach workers gathered for their monthly meeting. Sophon Vin, Program Manager, opened the day as she does every month: with the numbers and data. She walked through each outreach worker's stats: how many community screenings they held, how many people they saw, how many were referred for glasses or surgery, and how many of those people actually received the care they needed.

More than 70% of the patients who come to Seva Canada for care are connected through an outreach worker first. That's why Sophon reviews this data so closely, month after month. Outreach workers are the backbone of our Cambodia programs: they travel village by village, explaining that vision loss is treatable, and that Seva Canada donors cover the cost of care for anyone who cannot afford it. Careful monitoring of their work shows exactly where the gaps are, and where more Cambodians could be reached and connected to services.

This month, Sophon used the data to lead the outreach workers through an exercise: naming every challenge communities faced, and brainstorming a strategy for each

one. In under an hour, the group worked through more than thirteen issues. One pattern the data had already hinted at: fewer people came in for care during rice harvest season, when families are consumed by fieldwork and can't spare someone to accompany a relative to treatment. The outreach workers proposed two fixes, shifting screening schedules around the harvest calendar, and grouping patients together so several people could be transported to and from the hospital in a single trip.

It's a simple solution, but it's exactly the kind of fix that only comes from people who know their communities firsthand. Every country has its own culture, its own laws, and its own structures that shape how care reaches the people who need it most. That's why your generosity goes toward supporting locally-led programs like Sophon's team in Cambodia, who see these problems, name them, and solve them, one month at a time.



Become a Monthly Donor

Restore sight & 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- and middle-income countries to receive surgery, glasses and medicine, so they can build brighter futures. For more information, visit our website at seva.ca/monthly-giving or call 1-877-460-6622.

FOR SIGHT

66

Donating every month makes me feel like I'm making a small difference. It's simply amazing that a 15-minute cataract procedure can change someone's life.

— Laurent P.

About Seva Canada

Vision

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

Mission

Seva Canada's mission is to restore sight and prevent blindness in low- and middle-income countries.

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, self-sustaining 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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