

NEW SIGHT

A
NEW
VISION

FIRST QUARTER | 2015

Restoring Sight | Renewing Lives

**JOMBANG
OUTREACH
2015**

Zidan's (9 years old) dream is to become an architect.

**HELP US TO
FURTHER OUR
REACH FOR
THE GIFT OF
SIGHT!**

**RESTORING
SIGHT,
RESTORING
DREAMS!**

THE JOMBANG OUTREACH

IN DECEMBER 2014, **PAK SOEWANDI** from INTI (Indonesian Chinese Association) and Pak Mohd As'ad from Tebu Ireng Pesantren contacted us. Several patients from Jombang, their hometown were successfully operated at our event in Malang in May 2013 and Soewandi and As'ad asked if ANV could perform more surgeries for underprivileged blind in Jombang.

Jombang is a regency town in East Java with population of 1.8 million people, 3 hours drive from Surabaya. The surgery would be held in NU Hospital, NU (Nahdatul Ulama) is the largest moderate Muslim organization in Indonesia. NU is best known internationally as the organization headed by Gus Dur, the late former President of Indonesia (1999-2001)

The dedication from Pak Soewandi and Pak As'ad was truly commendable. These gentlemen worked tirelessly to mobilize volunteers, promote the event (with very limited budget) and reached out to local village figures.

With only 4 ANV crew, the rest of the manpower was from local volunteers and they were definitely the best volunteer team anyone can ever dream of. Dedicated, committed, pro-active, caring and friendly. They worked hard from early morning till the end of the day. Some of them even volunteered to stay overnight at the hospital, in case any patients need assistance during the night.

We completed 573 cataract surgeries and 9 pterygium surgeries over 4 days. Our youngest patient was Zidan (9 years old) and oldest was Siti Rukani (98 years old)

With many blind people still unattended, we can't wait to return to Jombang.

JOMBANG, EAST JAVA



THE STORIES FROM JOMBANG



MIFTAHULLAH

is an educated man who speaks good English.

He is 42 years old, a lecturer at two local institutions.

He could only see up to 50 cm, making him unable to notice any cheating students.

He earns USD75 a month from lecturing, not enough to support his wife and three children (11 months to 11 years), thus Mitfa also peddles SIM card to supplement his income.

If Mitfa did not have his cataract removed now, the cataracts would have thickened and limit his vision to hand movement in under one year, which means he would lose his teaching jobs, leaving his family of 5 with no income.



ANIES HUMAINI IS A 58 YEAR OLD

Prudential insurance agent.

He could only see up to one meter. Seeing under bright day light, he had great difficulty to see where in the forms must he and his client sign.

Anies hopes with his now near perfect vision, he can be more successful in selling insurance policies.

HENDRIK TEWUH

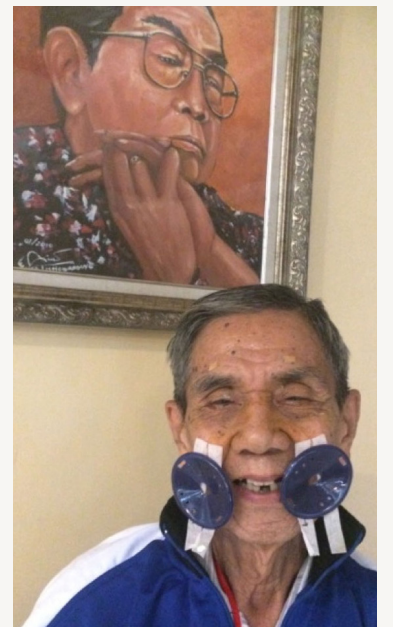
IS 80 YEARS OLD. He lost his vision to cataracts many years ago. His blindness made him quiet, shy and withdrawn.

He could no longer remember the faces of his growing 5 grandchildren and he thought he would just die a blind man.

When his sight was regained the day after the surgery, I asked Hendrik who was the man in the portrait.

"Gus Dur" he said confidently from his chair, sitting 15 meters away from the portrait.

*Gus Dur was the former President of Indonesia, much loved and revered by East Javanese. He died in 2009 and was 5 years younger than Hendrik.



NAWI IS A 78 YEAR OLD

farmer who gave up farming as his poor vision (none in his left eye and up to 3 meter in his right eye) had been giving him severe headaches and feeling of imbalance.

He said, "since I stopped farming, I have become a burden to my children who have their own families to support..."

Notice Nawi's big smile a day after his surgery.



HOPE CAME TO A FAMILY

ZIDAN (9 YEARS OLD)

Suffering from congenital cataract, Zidan could only see up to 3 meters which restricts his ability to play and learn. If his cataracts were not removed, his eyesight would definitely deteriorate further and faster.

Zidan's eye sight is now almost perfect. Zidan dreams to be an architect.

ZIDAN'S SISTER, SIVA (12 YEARS OLD)

also suffered from congenital cataracts. As her eye sight deteriorates, her school performance also drops. She became quieter and withdrew from playing with her friends. Her mum was going to sell a family motor bike to fund her surgery in the provincial city of Surabaya, because she could not keep on waiting for saving from harvests which may take many more years. Siva can now see very well and her dream to be an air stewardess is kept alive.

YIYIN, A 31 YEAR OLD MOM OF

Siva, Zidan and 3 younger kids suffered from poor vision since birth.

She was suffering from congenital cataracts, but the ophthalmologists she visited recommended glasses instead of surgery.

She recalled her glasses were so thick that they could not break even when dropped to the floor.

She tried numerous traditional healing methods, from eye massage, herbal, acupuncture to supplements. The only thing consistent was her eye sight continued to deteriorate.

Finally, in 2009, Yiyin consulted an ophthalmologist who then removed the cataract on her left eye. It changed her world.

A smart young lady, Yiyin is now a primary school teacher.

She was despaired when she found out her two children suffered the same fate as her, having poor vision and she was heartbroken knowing their condition is curable, if only they had enough money for surgery.

With herself, her two children and both parents underwent cataract surgeries at our outreach, Yiyin said she was stunned by the amount of money the family had saved, the money which they could never have afforded.



LINDA YANTI IS A 40 YEARS OLD mother of 4. She used to work at a local SIM card stall, earning USD 50 a month. She lost her job when she lost her vision to cataracts. The family had to rely solely on her husband's irregular income as a construction worker. Linda's eye sight is now back and she hopes to get her old job back too. She has also joined the family planning program.



AMAN SANTOSA IS A 50 YEAR OLD civil servant, working in the local government office.

He has been totally blind for the past 3 months, but continues to report to work.

His tasks are completed by his colleagues who are helping him to cover up the state of his blindness from his supervisor, so that Aman can continue to draw monthly salary to support his 3 young children.



RIFAII IS A 47 YEARS OLD and had been blind since birth.

When he was 22 years old, he left home to a neighbouring town, because he did not want to be a burden to his parents and siblings.

Rifaii took shelter in a mosque and lives on whatever the local community gives him.

I noticed the shirt Rifaii was wearing looked new but clearly way too big for him and he had no footwear.

One of the things Rifaii said when he could see for the first time was, so this is what letter "A" looks like.



SUTIYONO suffered from congenital cataract since birth. Dad is a rubber tapper and mum is a housewife, the family could not afford to bring him for treatment. It is a shame that this blindness condition which is easy to be reversed, robbed this young boy 9 years of childhood and development. He never attends schooling and is often teased for being blind.

SPECIAL THANKS

To INTI Jombang, PP Tebu Ireng, Soewandi, As'Ad, Yusianto, Maria. Wonderful volunteers whom we can't name each and every one.

To our kind donors: supporters of Jeff Paine, David Kolpak and Lawrence Loh's ANV charity bike ride; family and golfing friends of our Chairman Tan Ching Khoo; friends of our volunteers Lee Siew Yian, Theresia Sembiring and Annebel Yu; The Fred Hollows Foundation and Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology.

**PLEASE KEEP THIS WORK ALIVE,
PLEASE KEEP CHANGING LIVES.**

PHOTOS

ANV team, Ripun Dahal.

CONTENT

ANV team

LAYOUT

Sampan.Co

3. Volunteers from local nursing school, learning how to do keratometer reading. Imparting knowledge to local talent is an important part of outreach activity.

4. Elwi Jono, our multi-functional volunteer is a trained architect who can do cataract screening and biometry reading. It is probably just a matter of time before she can do anesthesia!

5. Emily (in yellow vest), is our other multi-talented volunteer. This is Emily's second outreach experience and she can already take charge of registration, patients flow, lend a hand in anesthesia and will be presenting a Cataract Education session to village nurses in her hometown of Pekan Baru soon!



1 Scene in RS NU Jombang Operating Theater. Dr. Teguh Metaputra, nurse Gilang (foreground) and Dr. Wulansari (background).



2 Meet 3 best cataract surgeons in Indonesia and ones with compassionate hearts (from right to left): Dr. Wulansari, Dr. Teguh Metaputra and Dr. M. Irsan. Pak Soewandi (in yellow vest), a social activist with heart of gold who made the event in Jombang possible.



RESTORING SIGHT/ RENEWING LIVES