

A New Vision



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anewvision.org



Bilaterally blind six-year-old Tiurmaida waiting for her turn for surgery with another patient (Photo by Debby Ng/The Asia Mag)

Five minutes and US\$80, that's all it takes to restore a blind person's sight, and change a person's life and those of their family's forever. With your continued support, we can bring this life changing work to others who are in need.



Photo by Debby Ng/The Asia Mag

Happy New Year.

Time flies, it has been 2 years since A New Vision (ANV) came to inception.

ANV was started in December 2010 by a group of volunteers, only one of which was an ophthalmologist. With US\$75,000 raised from family and friends, ANV's first outreach successfully treated 625 eyes that year.

Two years later, ANV has operated on more than 3,750 eyes, screened more than 10,000 people and trained 1,040 primary care workers, village nurses, village chiefs and local community leaders.

In addition, ANV has funded training for 3 surgeons and 5 paramedics from North and West Sumatra, equipped them to help build sustainable capability in the local community for restoring sight to those in need.

All of this has been made possible due to your compassionate support and generosity.

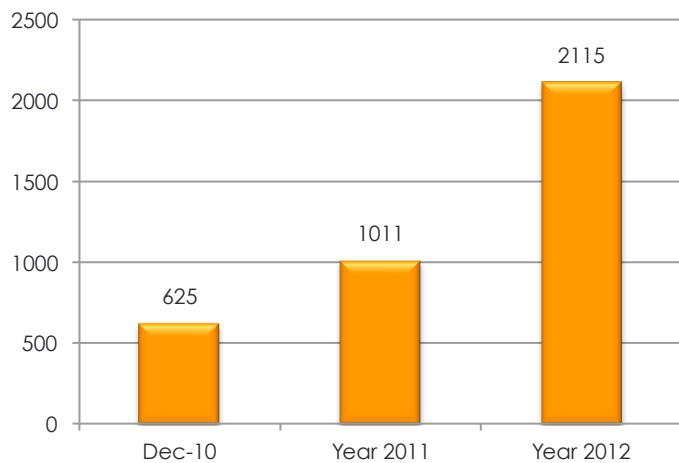
You made it possible.

Thank you.

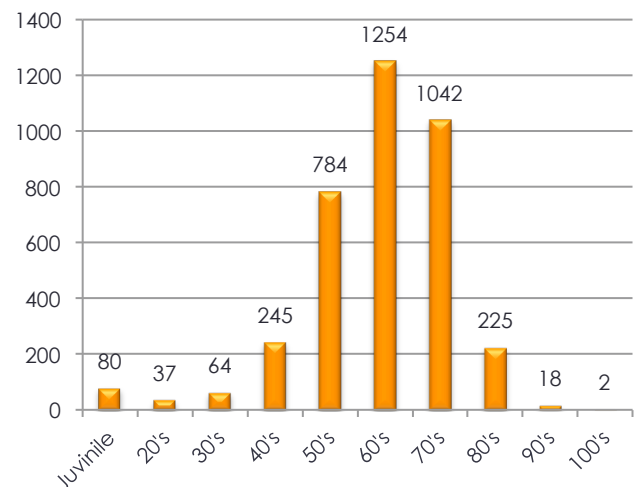
EJ and all of us at A New Vision

2012 Outreaches' Statistics

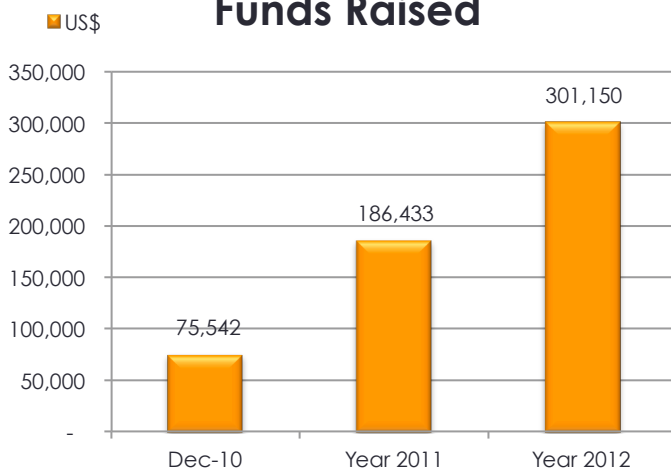
No. of Surgeries Completed



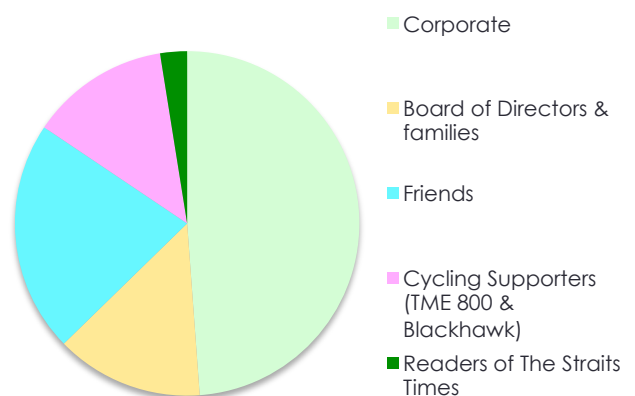
Patients' Age Distribution



Funds Raised



Sources of Funds



Year 2012 expenses have not been finalized.

Current Key Statistics on Blindness



Nine year old Erin is the sole caretaker for her blind grandma
(Photo by: TS/ A. New Vision)

Around 39 million people in the world are blind, 90% of whom live in the developing world and majority of them are women.

80% of blindness cases are avoidable or treatable. That is 4 out of 5...

A further 246 million people are visually impaired to the point that their ability to function, to participate, to learn and to work is negatively impacted.

Most blind people need someone to care for them, and this is usually a child, more often than not a little girl, and that child often misses out on the chance of an education and time to be a child, because of their responsibilities, such as Erin (see photo on the left)

Indonesia has the highest rate of avoidable blindness in the world after Ethiopia (as a % of population)

Please take your part in this life changing cause.



Meet the children operated at Nov 2012 outreach

1. Fransiska Waruwuru, 9 years
2. Glen Waruwuru, 8 mth old
3. Mohd Firli Firansyah 4 years

4. M. Akbar, 4 years
5. Ayu Wulandari, 3 years
6. Marisis, 4 years
7. Tiurmaida, 6 years

8. Aprizal Harahap, 6 years
9. Lastini, 6 years
10. Tengku Silvani, 11 years
11. Darwin Waruwuru, 7 years

12. Henriadi, 13 years
13. Ansari, 9 years
14. Alviero, 4 years

Apart from cataract blindness, childhood blindness from glaucoma and cornea scar has high prevalence in the places we have been in Indonesia. It is very heartbreaking to tell the parents there is nothing we can do to help their children. If only treatment is available, accessible and affordable, it would have prevented them from becoming blind. With no good school for the blind available, what kind of future do these children face?

Behind the Statistics

An operation of this scale would not have been possible without our dedicated, hard working and passionate volunteers, from finding patients, helping patients, compiling stories and everything you can imagine. Please enjoy the fruit of their love:



Photo by TS/A New Vision

Nurhabibah, a 55 year old mother of one, has been working as an English teacher at a public high school in Padang Sidempuan for almost 30 years.

She had been wearing thick corrective lenses for more than 11 years. The visual disability took its toll on her teaching job. "I can't see the students at the back rows. My view is limited to the first two rows," she said regretfully.

Over the years, her vision worsened until there were no lenses available that could correct her sight. Surgery was the only solution.

Her husband earns a living from renting tents for events. "It costs US\$500 per eye for a cataract surgery at a public hospital. How can we have that kind of money?" She asked.

Fortunately, she did not have to wait many years before her sight was restored.

"My dream is to join the Air Force," said the 16-year old Nelson shyly.

Who would have thought this well-built young man had been blind for 6 years? It happened when he was in grade 4, when the volleyball he was playing with burst and sand flew into his eyes. Afterwards, he experienced searing pain in both eyes.

Despite his visual impairment, Nelson was an intelligent student. He scored above average on national examination papers at grades 6 and 9, with special test for the visually impaired. Despite his intelligence, he felt inferior from his peers as he couldn't read as well as them.

Nelson is the youngest of four children. His eldest brother took guardianship of the siblings when their parents died many years ago. It was this brother, an odd job construction worker, who heard about our outreach event and brought Nelson to the registration.

Following the operation, Nelson was standing proud with bandages removed, a beaming smile filled with happiness spread across his face. Gone was the downcast look he used to wear. His dream was now achievable.



Photo by TS/A New Vision



Photo by Debby Ng/The Asia Mag

Lindawati's husband passed away 8 years ago, leaving her and their four children behind. Unable to pay rent, she and her children moved in with her mother, who lived with her brother's family and they are all struggling to make ends meet.

Lindawati's eyesight had been poor for years. Visits to local optician for corrective glasses were to no avail. Three months ago, she lost all her vision. As a result, she also lost her job as a waitress. Lindawati could no longer provide for her family.

A day after corrective surgery, Lindawati was overwhelmed by emotion.

"Thank you", she said to Dr. Ruit, "It feels like a dream. I will find work and I can earn for my family again", she added with determination.

Please visit <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ap-photos-indonesians-plagued-blindness> and <http://www.theasiamag.com/see-you-tomorrow> for more photo stories by Binsar Bakkara (Associated Press) and Debby Ng (The Asia Mag)