

NEW SIGHT

Restoring Sight | Renewing Lives

A
NEW
VISION
JUNE | 2016

That's right, you truly can. Just \$100 can fund the surgery required to restore vision in one cataract effected eye. This small amount of money can transform lives from darkness to light, from desolation to hope, from dependence to self-reliance. An amount unfathomable to many people living in poverty.

A New Vision is dedicated to eliminating curable blindness. We bring ophthalmologic specialists to those living in poor and isolated regions of developing countries. We do this through what we call "cataract surgical outreach" in isolated locations where hundreds - and sometimes thousands - of patients are operated on over the course of a few days. We also provide preventative education. We fund some existing ophthalmology practices to be able to extend their services to patients who are unable to pay. And we are building partnerships to establish permanent and self-sustainable community eye centres. We reach far and wide to restore vision to those people who would otherwise remain blind.

Do something
Extraordinary
Give the Gift of Sight



↑ PHOTO BOOK
LAUNCH

PAGE 2

Five year old Fonis was a blind and non-responsive little girl. She wouldn't smile, or speak. Many children who lost their eyesight when they were very little also lost their ability to speak. A month after her sight restoration surgery, Fonis was a completely different girl, full of smile and has started her learning process.



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PHOTO BOOK LAUNCH



TOGETHER WE CAN END AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS
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With the support of 40 photographers from the Facebook group "Asian Passion for Imaging" led by Bob Endert, a **unique photo book** has been produced to raise funds for A New Vision's next Cataract Surgical Outreach this September. We aim to raise a net SGD 50,000 from this photo book fundraising event to be launched on the 7th July. The photo book will be printed on beautiful high quality paper using the latest High Definition photo printer: The Canon Dreamlabo. Each book is filled with the winning images from the latest Asian Passion for Imaging photo competition – all stunning images depicting life in Asia.

We wish to thank Canon Singapore, Fotohub Singapore, Seyacolor in Sri Lanka and the 40 photographers from "Asian Passion for Imaging" for their generosity in producing these books and their valuable commitment to A New Vision. We also wish to acknowledge the indispensable input from our volunteer Lee Siew Yian for her vision and hard work in forging this partnership and bringing the project to fruition, and to Bob Endert who works tirelessly to campaign and organize this event.

To make a donation and receive your copy, please go to <http://www.anewvision.org/photo-book-launch/>

(Photo by Alland Dharmawan. A scene during registration at Jombang – East Java, April 2016 cataract surgical outreach)



Table One
 A New Vision Activity
 January 1 – May 31, 2016 vs Total ANV numbers



Activity Type	Numbers since January 1st, 2016	Total ANV Numbers since December 2010
Pre-Operative Patient Screenings	4,505	39,250
Cataract Surgeries	1,770	13,585
Cornea Transplantation Surgery	13	13
Community Health Leader Education	200	6,216
Cataract Surgical Outreach	3	16
Cornea Transplantation Surgical Outreach	1	1

Dear Supporters,

It's hard to believe we're nearly halfway through 2016 already and 6 months have passed since our last newsletter. It's been a busy 6 months for us, full of work restoring vision to people in need. With 3 Cataract Surgical Outreach events, over 3,000 patient screenings, 1,500 single eye surgeries and training of 200 community leaders, our limited resources have impacted the lives of many (see the table below). Our pride at what we have accomplished however is tempered by the knowledge that worldwide, 39 million people remain blind, 20 million of these as a result of cataracts. There is still much work to be done.

Over and over we hear from our patients the same story. They remain blind simply because they either do not have access to eye care or are unable to afford treatment. Some are fearful of medical interventions, having suffered damage by unqualified community medical people – often the only option in these impoverished and isolated communities. Our mission is to overcome these barriers and enable everyone access to highly qualified medical professionals and equipment. We strive to return vision to those who's impairment is curable.

The World Health Organisation's strategy for preventable blindness is based on the idea that the most effective strategy is to equip communities with the expertise, education and facilities to prevent, screen and treat their own residents. Under the leadership of our co-founder, Dr Sanduk Ruit, we at A New Vision are embarking on a new venture, that of building permanent community eye centres in regions most in need. Indonesia, Myanmar, Laos, North India, Western Nepal and Bhutan have been identified and we will be involved in a venture to fund and establish centres that will be self-reliant in the medium to long term.

If you would like to know more about this, or any other of our ongoing work, please drop us a line at we@anewvision.org



ROCHIMIN

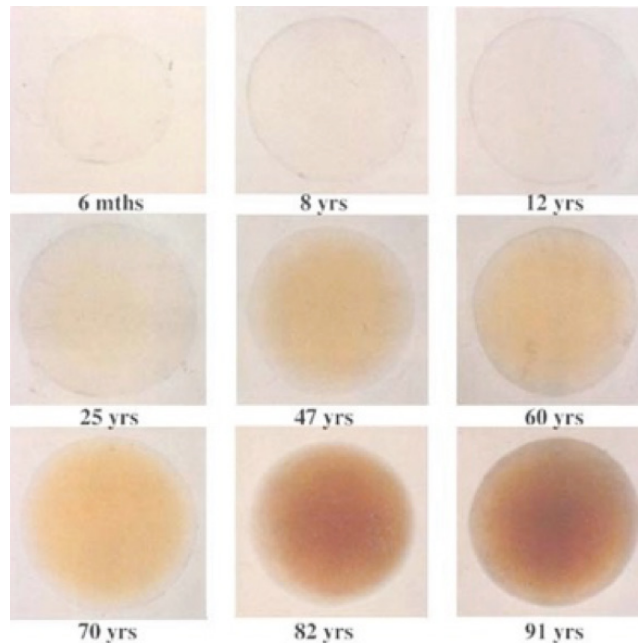
Have you ever seen a ship in a bottle? If you have, I bet you've wondered how it was made. How could a ship be assembled and placed inside a bottle with such a narrow neck? Without a doubt, making these works of art require the work of a skilled craftsman. Someone perhaps like Rochimin, a 74 year old craftsman from Mojokerto in East Java. He has been making ships in bottles for over 40 years, inspired by his love of nautical vessels. In the beginning he would sit at Perak Port in Surabaya observing passing ships and boats. As he watched, he'd make detailed drawings of these vessels and later, from his drawings would create models. His quality products were much loved, particularly for their painstakingly perfect details, which enabled him to turn his passion into a livelihood, his craft earning him his income.

Rochimin however had *cataracts*. And five years ago his eye sight deteriorated to the point where he could barely see and could no longer craft his ships in bottles. We met Rochimin at our Cataract Surgical Outreach in Jombang in April 2016. Prior to surgery we tested his visual ability and the reading came back as being PL, meaning Perception of Light, on both eyes. This means he could see nothing but changes in light. Perhaps superseding the miracle of placing a ship in a bottle, 24 hours after his surgery, Rochimin was testing at 6/9 visual acuity on both eyes – this is a near normal range. It means that when reading a vision chart, Rochimin can read at 6 metres what someone with perfect vision can read at 9 metres. And Rochimin's vision would continue to improve for weeks and months after the surgery. Rochimin not only had his vision restored and the ability to once again work on his passion for boats, but he also has regained his ability to earn an income and maintain his independence. Truly miraculous.



"Rochimin not only had his vision restored and the ability to once again work on his passion for boats, but he also has regained his ability to earn an income and maintain his independence."

WHAT ARE CATARACTS?



"Cataract, if left untreated, progresses to blindness."

Source: The human crystalline lens at various ages from Sidney Lerman's "Radiant Energy and the Eye"

A cataract is the clouding of the lens of the eye. This initially prevents clear vision and eventually, if left untreated, progresses to blindness.

Predominantly, cataracts are an aging disease - chances of developing cataracts increase with age, from 40% for those between the ages 50 to 60, to 90% for those between the ages 70 to 80 (source: Pacific Cataract and Laser Institute, Canada). In addition to age, other factors can contribute to or cause cataracts, including genetics, trauma, radiation, drug use, smoking, →

Reflection by ANV volunteer, Alland Dharmawan

I've heard people say that things are much more appreciated when they are gone. I've been volunteering with A New Vision for some time now. I've met people who have lived with cataract blindness for many years before finally receiving surgery to fix this. I've encountered happy faces of those who could see again after just 10 minutes of surgery. I've seen kids and teenagers whose future is changed for the better because they can see again. I've witnessed with my own eyes that things are much more appreciated when they are gone and then regained.

A PRECIOUS GIFT CALLED SIGHT



I remember very fondly a man whom I met during Jombang Cataract Surgical Outreach - he cried right after his post-operative eye patch was removed. He shed all those happy tears and thanked me constantly. I myself hadn't done much to help him, but witnessing this made me realize how precious the gift of sight is. It was very moving. Before I realized it, I shed a tear or two, joining him in his celebration

If you want to help people regain their sight, to create a brighter future for them, volunteering and donating opportunities are wide open. Your help would mean the world to those who need it.

"I remember very fondly a man whom I met during Jombang Cataract Surgical Outreach - he cried right after his post-operative eye patch was removed."

WHAT ARE CATARACTS?...cont'd

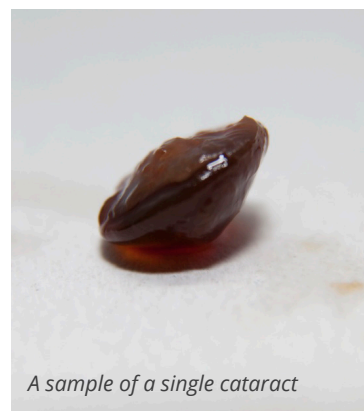
medication and medical conditions.

Although cataracts are not completely preventable, their occurrence can be delayed. High exposure to sunlight, diabetes, smoking and excessive consumption of alcohol increase the risk of early formation of cataracts. Meanwhile eating plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables is shown to be effective in delaying the formation of cataracts.

People who live in the tropics and work outdoors typically develop cataracts 15 years earlier than those who don't. This is significant in the poor rural

populations to whom we provide care. UV exposure from sunlight is more intense in the tropics, while occupations commonly held by people in these more rural areas of developing countries include farming, fishing, plantation and other outdoor work. Further, compared with the developed world, dwellings and transportation in these settings are more rudimentary leading people to live their lives more outside. Walking, bike and motorcycle riding, water collection, food selling, eating meals, children's playtime and more all occur outside.

Global Blindness



Untreated Cataract Patients



THE MUFIDAH FAMILY



The Mufidah family are farmers from Simangambat, Tapanuli – North Sumatra. They were told about, and attended, our January 2016 G-Resources sponsored cataract clinic in Martabe Sidempuan. Mariamah and her 4 children (pictured above) as well as her husband and 19 month old grandchild all suffer from cataract blindness. The four children above were diagnosed with cataracts at just 3 years of age, while 5 years ago 43 year old Mariamah herself lost her own vision due to cataracts. Mariamah and her 4 children (pictured above) all underwent surgery to cure their cataracts at the Martabe Sidempuan Cataract Surgical Outreach.

The entire family presented as being very shy and withdrawn. Their visual impairment restricted both communication and their ability to build relationships with other people. It was difficult to extract a smile for the camera, so we were quite taken when 11 year old Ana whispered, "I want to be an eye doctor because I want to help people and surgery is not painful". We can imagine their lives were tremendously impacted by their vision loss and will be equally enhanced by its return. We do know that Ilham, Iman and Ana who previously had to sit right next to the blackboard in class now sit with their peers and report that their studies have improved enormously. And little Ana's dream is no longer impossible.

Mariamah hopes that at the next cataract clinic in their region, she will bring her husband and grandchild to restore their sight as well.



The Mufidah family. From left are pictured son Ilham 14, daughter Iman 13, Mother Mariamah 43 and daughters Ana 11 and Sopiahrini 21



EMPOWERING WOMEN

Lelihai and her Mother



MEET 32 YEAR OLD LELEHAI, who, as a child, was blinded in her right eye by a rock from boys playing slingshot. Imagine the devastation when she found her only functioning eye became blind from

cataracts. Her husband divorced her. She had to give her 6 year old daughter to her sister because she could no longer look after her. She subsequently moved back to live with her Mother in a remote village where the two earned a living selling wood collected from a nearby forest. Their average daily income was just US 38 cents.

Working together, the two would collect

wood. Dewi, Lelihai's 62 year old Mother, would find and pick up the wood. She would then hand it to the younger Lelihai to carry. With their futures uncertain except for the likelihood of poverty, anxiety was high. But both women's lives have been transformed by recent surgery curing the cataract in Lelihai's left eye, their job prospects and earning potential vastly improved.

WE WISH TO EXTEND A HUGE THANKS TO:

- * The Management and staff of G-Resources Agincourt Martabe for unwavering support since 2011 which has resulted in 15,000 people screened for eye diseases and 6,000 sights restored in North Sumatra.
- * Yayasan Abdi Husada Utama for supporting our Surabaya Cataract Surgical Outreach.
- * Canon Fotohub Singapore, Seyacolor Srilanka and Asian Passion for Imaging Facebook Group for selecting our cause and generously supporting us.
- * RSUD Ploso management and staff who have been very professional, welcoming and caring.
- * MJ Creative Ventures (mjcreativeventures.com) for developing our fantastic new website.
- * Vara Bennett - Editor
- * Peter Sam - Graphic Design | Sampan.Co
- * All of our donors, volunteers and supporters.

Your generosity, kindness and hard work make our miracles possible!

COMING UP

Cataract surgical events in September in Java. Please write to us if you'd like to know more.

Do something life changing- join us as a donor or volunteer.

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 FACEBOOK.COM/ANWVISION.ORG
 WE@ANWVISION.ORG