



A New Vision

2016 | 2017

# NEW SIGHT

Restoring Sight | Renewing Lives

*Dear donors, supporters, volunteers and friends.*

**A**fter a hectic past 4 months and busy end to 2016, we here at A New Vision (ANV) are delighted to reconnect with you all and share our news as well as some inspiring stories about some of the people we've recently met. In the last 4 months, we administered 6 cataract surgical outreach events, screened the eyes of 12,000 people, completed 4,846 cataract surgeries and given community education to 450 people. A monumental effort by all of our team including many volunteers, our surgeons, paramedics, anesthetists, nurses, core team members and more.

In September 2016, we went to Central Java with an ambitious plan to conduct 2,000 surgeries. We are aware that cataract surgical outreach rarely takes place in that province and expected many potential patients - people suffering from cataracts who'd never before had an opportunity to have their eyes examined, much less their cataracts removed. Concurrently, we knew that there was likely to be poor community awareness of the fact that cataract blindness is curable - and that many people may in fact be unaware of the cause of their blindness. We needed to find a way that was both innovative and inexpensive to reach the public.

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## New Chapter, New Life with **Mutikun**

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**ANV**  
AT-A-GLANCE

  
**45**  
LOCAL SURGEON  
& PARAMEDIC  
TRAINED

  
**50,000**  
SCREENED

  
**19,000**  
SURGERIES  
PERFORMED

  
**5,000**  
COMMUNITY  
EDUCATION

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We were so fortunate that Tanty Endowati - a friend and ANV volunteer - introduced us to Rusmin, the owner of CPP Radionet. CPP Radionet operates 8 radio stations across Central Java. Rusmin sprang into action and anyone who listened to the radio in Central Java during that period would have heard news of our event broadcast at least hourly. Rusmin also aired a Q&A session, where he interviewed ANV Director Effi Jono on questions pertaining to eye health, cataract blindness, prevention and available cures. Incredibly, thousands of people came to the screening after listening to the radio. 40% of the surgeries we eventually did in Central Java, were direct referrals from our radio advertisements.

This outreach way exceeded our expectations with the number of surgeries we conducted reaching almost 50% more than our original target. We carried out 2,817 surgeries over 8 days, in two separate Central Java towns – Magelang and Purwokerto. This outreach was in fact the largest ever in Indonesia, and perhaps Asia/the world. We are still investigating whether perhaps we set some kind of record and will update you via our website with any news regarding this. Due to the unexpected volume of patients, we found ourselves very short of funds and wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to Sanwah, KCL Consulting, Sushi Sushi, Italmec, May Kwok and friends, friends of Tan Ching Khoo and Lee Siew Yian, and many generous individual donors who answered our call for donations.

There are several people who we absolutely could not have done without over this period. Firstly, Tanty Endowati who connected us with Rusmin, worked as our ground coordinator and who has allowed us to store some supplies in her home, saving us money in storage. She also gave us monetary donations and deployed her whole family and staff to help at the event. Next the Magelang Search and Rescue Team who were rallied to action by Rusmin - members of this team came in droves to volunteer at the hospital, from morning till midnight, day after day. And finally, Doctors Heriyanto and Aditya, both from Dr. Soedjono Hospital in Magelang, went beyond the call of duty in providing unlimited help, as we required it, from their hospital.

After Central Java, we proceeded to Bandung in West Java, for the third outreach sponsored by local company Indorama. 651 surgeries were completed there with Indorama generously deploying over 100 staff to volunteer. We are pleased to report that this event ran extremely smoothly. Our thanks are extended to the Lohia family and Indorama for their continued gener-

osity and championing of our mission to provide free cataract surgery to the vision impaired with in Indonesia.

As soon as the outreach wrapped up in Bandung, the team of surgeons and anesthetists moved to Surabaya in East Java. Here, together with local foundation, Yayasan Abdi Husada Utama, we conducted 451 surgeries. We had originally planned for a one day 200 surgeries and had not call on most of our reliable volunteers to join. With the number higher than expected, it was extremely tiring for the small team on the ground.

After a 2 week break, the last outreach for the year was held in North Sumatra in the towns of Padang Sidempuan and Medan. PT Agincourt Resources has been sponsoring our North Sumatra outreaches every year since 2011 and for the sixth year running, did so again. Their support is hugely appreciated and we are proud to say that this year at our outreach in North Sumatra we completed 927 surgeries.

The entire team worked incredibly hard over this period. In total we were on the road for over 45 days across a period of three months with a lot of logistical and administrative work to do between trips.

After a 3 month rest, we were ready to start again and headed back to East Java in April 2017. We completed 509 surgeries at our 4th outreach in Jombang, a small regency in East Java. This event was made possible largely by a handful of donors to whom we'd like to express our gratitude. Thank you to Cargill, Allergan International Foundation, VisionQuest (who raised their funds via 6 cyclists who rode from Bangkok to Phuket), Detroit2Nepal Foundation, brides and grooms of a generous Solemnizer in Singapore who donated in lieu of service fee, Roger Lim, Judy Tai and many more generous individual donors.

To our long term partners Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology, the Fred Hollows Foundation, HelpMeSee, and everyone who has supported our work, donors, volunteers, influencers, supporters - thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We are excited to inform you that Channel 8 Singapore TV is going to air a documentary on our work in mid May 2017. We hope that this piece will provide you, our readers, donors, volunteers and supporters with even more evidence of the incredible impact of your generosity. We look forward to sharing the link to this documentary when it becomes available.

Cover Story :



## New Chapter, New Life with ***Mutikun***



*Mutikun* is 30 years old and has been having impaired vision since he was 7. When he came to our outreach, he could only see shadow.

Although physically young and strong, Mutikun could not contribute to the family where he has 5 siblings.

Helping his family in the paddy field is challenging. He'd fall and knock into the buffaloes.

The family was too poor to afford his surgery


One month post surgery, his vision was 6/60 in both eyes.

He said proudly, I can walk steadily now and help my brothers in the field.



## A New Vision

**TOGETHER WE CAN END  
AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS**  
[anewvision.org](http://anewvision.org)

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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](mailto:we@anewvision.org)



# A young boy by the name of **BAGUS ROHMAN**



**11** year old Bagus was always at the top of his class until he had cataracts on both eyes. He was teary when he told A New Vision that he missed reading.

Bagus's parents once took him to a local eye doctor to check why his eye sight was deteriorating. The doctor said he had cataracts and should be operated. But the surgery did not proceed because it would cost 20 million Rupiah (USD 1,500) and there is a risk that will last for 6 to 12 months after the surgery.

Bagus' parents didn't understand what that risk was nor did the doctor explain further.

Seeing very little possibility to cure his eyes, his parents did their best to help Bagus.

Mum read him his textbooks which Bagus would listen and try to memorise.

Mum also asked his teachers to give him more attention. As a result, Bagus managed to have a reasonably good performance in class—but he was no longer top of the class.

When Bagus' parents heard about A New Vision's free

cataract surgery, they wanted to give it a try.

Dad brought Bagus to us. Dr. Blanche (A New Vision from Singapore National University Hospital) urged Bagus to immediately undergo surgery because his cataracts were still in good condition and easy to remove. The chance of him getting perfect vision is high.

But dad, remembering the one year risks the other doctor said, kept asking Dr. Blanche about the risks.

Whilst Bagus was keen and ready, dad decided to give it day to think through. The next day though, they returned to the hospital.

Bagus was so eager to have his sights back he did not need any persuasion to go under local anesthesia, nor did he flinch when the anesthesia needle went under his eyes.

An incredibly brave and resolute young boy. Day after the surgery, Bagus was all smiles. The immediate thing he was going to do was to read his books, by himself, again.

# A Mother's Plight for sight!



**INTI HARYANI**, 40 year old.

Inti had been blind since she was 35.

When we first noticed her, she constantly looked down and spoke very softly, she lost her self confidence.



She was house bound, could not leave the house unless someone was willing to accompany her. She cried often from sadness and helplessness. What made her sad most was not only she could not see the face of her 7 year old son, she could not help him grow. She was, in her mind, a useless mother.

"I cannot help him do his homework. How can I help give him a good future?" Inti said.

A day after surgery, her vision was restored to 6/9 in both eyes, that is close to perfection!

When we met again a month after surgery, she said she has already started looking for a job.

She cooked delicious meal for us. Her house was also much neater than when we first visited.

We asked what is her favorite activity nowadays.

She said, "EVERYTHING. I could not do anything before. Now I can and I love doing everything."



# Hope is in sight for **Latifa!**



**LATIFA** is 53 year old. She is blind. She lives with her husband. Her husband has been bedridden for the past 6 months from advanced pneumonia.

The couple is dependent on her old mother who lives nearby, for food and to get by. What would happen to them when her mother passes on?

Luckily, this predicament is now averted with Latifa's sights restored.

"I would like to run a small stall out of our house, so I can make a living whilst looking after my husband too". She said.

# A NEW VISION FOR NEPAL: REBUILDING SCHOOLS AND ESTABLISHING HEALTH POSTS

As many of you will recall, in April 2015, Nepal was hit by a devastating earthquake. Close to 9,000 people lost their lives and 22,000 people were injured. Many buildings were destroyed—including heritage buildings, monuments, schools and private homes.

Nepal is a country with special significance for us at A New Vision. Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology in Nepal has been a close partner of ours' from the very beginning, with Dr Ruit of Tilganga being one of ANV's founders. We have many friends in Nepal and were therefore delighted and grateful when the Singapore Red Cross decided to partner with us to support the rebuilding of Nepal.

As an organisation, rebuilding is not our specialty, but we joined forces with incredible partners - the Detroit2Nepal Foundation (D2N.org) and dZi Foundation - both of whom have done notable work in Nepal over the past 6 years.

Our immediate focus was to rebuild schools in order to try to return normality to the lives of effected children as quickly as possible. Our region of focus has been the Khotang district—a very remote area in eastern Nepal reached by plane followed by car followed by a day walk.

We completed construction of three schools in the district in September 2016, while seven more schools continue to be in the process of being rebuilt. In addition to the schools, two health posts - locations where local people effected by the earthquakes can attend for low cost medical treatment - will be completed in the coming months.

On May 4th 2017, to commemorate the second anniversary of the Nepal earthquakes, the



Taken in front of A New Vision's booth at the exhibition



From left: Chokpa Sherpa (dZi Foundation), Richard Keidan (D2N), Raju Tuladhar (D2N), Lee Siew Yian (A New Vision), Hon. Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman (Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence), Mr Tee Tua Bah (Chairman, Singapore Red Cross) and Mr Benjamin William (Secretary General, Singapore Red Cross)

Singapore Red Cross staged an exhibition in Kathmandu: "Partnerships for Humanity: Rebuilding in Nepal". The guest of honour at this exhibition was Singapore Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Defence, Hon. Dr. Mohamad Maliki

Bin Osman. We (ANV) are honoured to have been invited to showcase the rebuilding work we supported. We thank the Singapore Red Cross and the people of Singapore whose donations made this work possible.



## RESTORED SIGHT, RESTORES RELATIONSHIPS

Elawati tries her best to be a good mother. She engages the little boy and speaks to him all the time. The impact of her care is obvious, little Hikalana is an active and smart boy.

**MUHAMMAD HIKALANA**, is 20 months old and is the younger of two children of Andri Wijaya (32 years old) & Elawati (27 years old)

His parents realised his vision impairment when he could not reach out for his toy.

Andri earns a living running a motor-bike repair shop. On a good month, he could earn USD 45. On an average month, USD 20.

With that kind of earning, he could never be able to afford cataract surgery for his son.

With his sight is now fully restored, Hikalana has a much brighter future ahead.

As Dr. Teguh Metaputra, the surgeon who operated on Hikalana said, "He may one day, be the leader of our country. You never know."



## A Homeless Lady Gets Hope in Sight!



**Tan Swie Lan** heard about our cataract surgical program on the radio.

She is a homeless lady who takes shelter at her neighbour's house. She has no other family members.

Her vision was limited to shadow (hand movement) but her determination to see again was so great she took a bus to our screening place on her own. She practically stumbled at the front gate.

Although she has no material possession to speak of, Swie Lan is a woman of

dignity. When lunch time came, we bought her a packet of rice. 10 minutes later, she said, "Someone gave me a packet of rice, I haven't paid for the rice yet, how much do I owe?", as she reached into her pocket to retrieve a few pieces of old notes.

Everyone was so fond of this sweet lady, she made friends at the outreach. Though she came alone and blind. She went home with new sight and new friends who lived in the same village as her.

BE A PART OF US!

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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