

HONG KONG AUTUMN / WINTER 2017







WORD FROM THE HEAD OF HONG KONG DR ANSON WONG

Our founder, Professor Fred Hollows, believed that everyone's sight was worth saving. A recent report published in The Lancet Global Health predicts that the number of people living with blindness could triple worldwide by 2050 – from 36 million to 115 million. As a result better resources and access to eye care services are urgently needed to combat the situation.

In 2017 we are happy to become a partner of The Esquel-Y.L. Yang Education Foundation's China Rural Eye Care Fund which will support our projects in Xinjiang. Online wine merchant Wine Brothers has also partnered with us to launch The Fred Hollows Wine Club in Hong Kong which will donate 10 per cent of its membership subscription fees to us.

There is great progress in our work in China. We have successfully registered our representative office in Yunnan, which strengthens our foothold to extend our work to restore sight for people in need.

We are also excited to launch The Fred Hollows Humanity Award in Hong Kong in 2018 to celebrate primary students in years four to six who follow in Fred's footsteps by showing compassion for others. We strongly believe in the motto of the late Professor Fred Hollows that the basic attribute of mankind is to help each other and we're sure you do too.

Last but not least, The Fred Hollows Foundation is happy to announce that lan Wishart will be our new CEO taking over from Brian Doolan, who will finish at the end of 2017 after 13 years leading the organisation. With rich experience working in international NGOs, we look forward to the leadership of Mr. Wishart who will commence in Spring 2018.

PROGRAM UPDATE

A FIRST IN BANGLADESH

The Fred Hollows Foundation in Bangladesh has taken a revolutionary approach to eye health, with the first cataract surgery performed in a Maternal and Child Health (MCH) clinic. This project, in association with our local partner, aims to restore vision to empower rural and marginalized women and children in Bangladesh. With 60 per cent of the blind population being women, it is important to integrate eye health into maternal and child services.



MILESTONES IN MYANMAR



Avoidable blindness is a major health challenge facing Myanmar. The Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports has launched the country's first National Eye Health Plan, proudly led by The Fred Hollows Foundation in close partnership with key stakeholders including UN Agencies, the World Health Organization and international non-government organisations.

Cataract is responsible for 60 per cent of blindness in Myanmar, one of the poorest countries in Asia. More than two-thirds of the population live in rural areas where there is only one ophthalmologist for every 500,000 people. It is hoped that the five-year plan will provide a strategic approach to reduce avoidable blindness by 25 per cent by 2021.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL EYE CARE DAY IN CHINA



With myopia being the major cause of visual impairment among young people in China, The Fred Hollows Foundation organized an awareness-raising activity in Beijing and Shanghai for National Eye Care Day on 6 June, 2017.

The activity was a blind experience for students, who walked for 10 metres while wearing a pair of glasses which simulate the blurred vision of a person with cataract.

The activity aimed to remind students of the importance of having regular eye checks.



KIPAR'S SMILE MEANS EVERYTHING

Seven-year-old Kipar is from remote Northern Kenya and life there is harsh. It had not rained for more than five years when we visited Kipar, and the nearest water was 10km away from home. Kipar was always covered in dirt, the result of trips and falls because he struggled to walk the distance.

Kipar was born with cataracts. For children like him living in the developing world, cataracts can result in a life cut tragically short.

Kipar's father knew there was something wrong with his son's eyes, but he didn't know his blindness could be treated. When his family heard that treatment was available from The Fred Hollows Foundation, Kipar and his father walked 25km to a clinic for diagnosis and a referral for surgery was given immediately.

The change in Kipar after the operation was incredible. He grasped his father's finger to prove that he could see and ran into his mother's arms when he returned home. Kipar can now play football with his friends, somersault on tree branches and practice using a bow and arrow with his brother.

Kipar's smile says it all. Experiencing moments like these makes us certain of the impact of our work and the work that is still to be done.



LATEST NEWS

By working in collaboration with partner organisations and local communities, The Fred Hollows Foundation is reaching out to the Hong Kong public to gain their support to end avoidable blindness.



NOMINATE A COMPASSIONATE STUDENT FOR THE FRED **HOLLOWS HUMANITY AWARD**

Professor Fred Hollows, the founder of The Fred Hollows Foundation, used to say that the greatest attribute of human kind was our ability to help one another.

To acknowledge Primary students in years four to six who embody that attribute and make positive impacts in the community, The Fred Hollows Foundation invites schools to nominate these compassionate students for the The Humanity Award. Nominations close on 16 March 2018.

The Award is proudly supported by celebrity Sammy Leung, and sponsored by PizzaExpress and Faust International

To find out more. use the OR code on the right.

Youth Theatre.



SIGHT SIMULATOR LAUNCH

Most of us don't understand what vision loss is really like. Try our latest online Sight Simulator which will give you a sense of what the world might look like through the eyes of someone who is legally blind.

Using Google Street View, users can search for a familiar address or iconic landmark and view them with varying degrees of vision loss due to cataracts, glaucoma or diabetic retinopathy. Try it now by scanning the QR on the right.





DONOR GATHERING FOR WORLD SIGHT DAY

On World Sight Day on 12 October 2017 supporters joined us for a celebration at The Crossroad Foundation by taking up a challenge of blind experience.

Four out of five who are blind don't need to be. We hope you will be with us next year!



RAISING AWARENESS IN THE COMMUNITY

The Foundation is proud to be able to share stories of our work to end avoidable blindness with community partners.

Recently, with the help of our blind friend Mr. Ming Chung, we spoke at Woodland Kingergarten and at the China Holiness Church Living Spirit College.

Our Regional Individual Giving Manager, Ms Godi Li, also gave a presentation at the Annual General Meeting of The Hong Kong Optometric Association.

If you would like to learn more about our work, please don't hesitate to arrange a speaker by contacting us at hkinfo@hollows.org or 3614 6240.

HKD\$150 CAN HELP RESTORE SIGHT AND CHANGE LIVES DONATE TODAY AT WWW.HOLLOWS.ORG/HK/DONATE



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