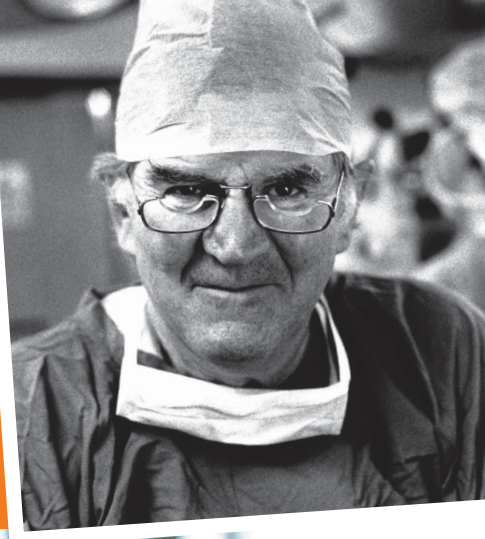




The **Fred Hollows**  
Foundation | 護瞳行動



**HONG KONG**

FALL/WINTER 2019



**FAMILY SEES  
A BETTER FUTURE**

# PROGRAM UPDATE

## WHO RELEASES FIRST WORLD REPORT ON VISION



### ONE MINUTE WITH LAURA

*We speak with Laura Lee, the Chief Representative of Hong Kong and ASEAN for The Fred Hollows Foundation.*

#### Can you tell us what's so cool about your job?

One of the best things is the knowledge that whatever tasks you perform, no matter how mundane or tedious, serves to help someone. The best part about my job must be the incredible colleagues and donors whom I've been privileged to meet with and they all demonstrate the very best of humanity.

#### What touches you so much about restoring sight for people?

It is amazing that someone who has been blind from cataracts for years can have their sight restored with a simple 15-minute operation. I remember one time in the field where I witnessed the moment a blind child had her sight restored – up until then she had only heard the sound of her mother's voice, but had never looked upon her face.

#### Do you have a life motto that keeps you motivated at work everyday?

Try to leave the world a better place than when you entered it.

#### You have worked in humanitarian field for many years. What appealed to you about The Fred Hollows Foundation in particular?

What drew me to The Foundation is that it doesn't do flash-in-the-pan engagement. We work to build up the capacity of the country to facilitate access to eye health care for all. This is why The Foundation focuses on training local doctors, nurses and community health workers; on building and supporting permanent local health facilities; on providing eye health education to schools and communities; on collaborating with local partners and working with ministries of health and other government stakeholders; and on creating sustainable models of care that can be replicated elsewhere. As Professor Hollows said: "First, train the trainers. Then, they can go out and train others!"



The World Health Organization released its first-ever World Report on Vision. It is revealed that globally more than 2.2 billion people have a vision impairment and around half of the conditions could have been prevented or have yet to be treated.

Vision impairment is impacting hundreds of millions of people and putting them at higher risk of bullying and sexual violence. A large proportion of people rank blindness as one of their most feared ailments, ahead of other conditions such as cancer.

The report attributes the condition to the growing and aging population, as well as sedentary lifestyles.

Having contributed to the Report, The Fred Hollows Foundation believes that everyone has the right to good sight, equal access to quality eye care, and to not be impoverished by it.

With your donations and support, we will continue to empower people and communities by providing eye care. We know that eye conditions will affect almost everyone in their lifetime. Through training medical staff, organising screening camps and ensuring that eye health becomes a core part of national health plans, more people should be receiving care tailored to their circumstances.

## GIVE THE GIFT OF SIGHT



It's time of the year to send season's greetings. You can make a difference by giving a **Gift of Sight** card from The Fred Hollows Foundation.

Starting from just HK\$150 our **Gift of Sight** cards offer the choice of meanings.

Select a card and personalise it with your own message.

Cards can be delivered to you directly to your loved one via post.

Order a printed card today and partner with The Fred Hollows Foundation's to spread hope.

Shop online at <https://www.hollows.org/hk/give-a-gift-card>



## FAMILY SEES A BETTER FUTURE

Porlee and his children Shoua and Blong live in a small, remote village in Laos.

Life is hard for local villagers, but for Porlee it's been especially tough as both his children were born with cataract.

Porlee takes care of the children and works hard as a farmer, where he earns just enough money to get by.

"Our life was so difficult. I had no idea what to do," Porlee says.

"My children don't go to school. My daughter went but another student would hit her. She was scared and wouldn't go back."

The family heard about a Fred Hollows Foundation outreach eye camp where Porlee discovered there was help for his children. He immediately packed their bags for an eight-hour journey to meet the eye surgeon, Dr Phetsamone.

At the Provincial Hospital, Dr Phetsamone examined the children and confirmed they had cataract. He also examined Porlee and his suspicions were confirmed - Porlee also had cataract in both eyes.

"This is a very important case," Dr Phetsamone said.



"The father and both his children have cataract. He is a single parent, his wife has left him and the children. I will operate, but I will only do five eyes. I will only operate on one eye for the father. He needs to look after his children so I can't have both eyes bandaged."

As the family go in for surgery Porlee is excited. "I'm not worried. Just happy that the Doctor could help me and my kids for the eye treatment."

After about an hour, the surgeries are complete. The next morning, one by one, Dr Phetsamone removes all five eye patches. The whole family is overjoyed.

The children take some time to adjust to their surroundings, but Porlee is happy that his children can now see clearly. He knows their futures will be much brighter and the children can now go to school.

# 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.

## WORLD SIGHT DAY 2019

While there are more people being impacted by blindness and visual impairment as a result of population growth and aging, the work of The Fred Hollows Foundation to end avoidable blindness cannot be possible without you.

During the 2019 World Sight Day, we are proud to have had blessings from people of various walks of life in Hong Kong. We are honored to have support from local celebrities including Sammy Leung, Chu Fun, Stephanie Che, Andy Leung, Jase Ho, Jay Fung and Feanna Wong who feature in our promotion.

We also launched the Little Philanthropists campaign which encouraged donations in the name of children to nurture them into a generation of charitable hearts. The Little Philanthropists also sent in their smiley photos to support children with avoidable blindness in need. The photos were featured in our two-week World Sight Day Pop-Up Exhibition thanks to our venue supporter Hysan Place.



## JOIN OUR COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING CIRCLE

You don't have to be an ophthalmologist to end avoidable blindness! The work to restore sight to people can't happen without you and you can add some fun to it. The Fred Hollows Foundation has launched an individual fundraising platform and you can raise funds to support our sight restoration work while running a marathon, holding a celebration party, throwing a bake sale or other fun events.

Create your own fundraising event and we will provide all the fundraising tools for you. You can get as creative as you like, and we appreciate anything you can do to support our work to end avoidable blindness. Scan the QR code or check it out at <https://fundraise.hollows.org.hk>.

MORE DETAILS:



**HK\$150 CAN HELP RESTORE SIGHT AND CHANGE LIVES**  
**DONATE TODAY AT [WWW.HOLLOWS.ORG/HK/DONATE](http://WWW.HOLLOWS.ORG/HK/DONATE)**



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