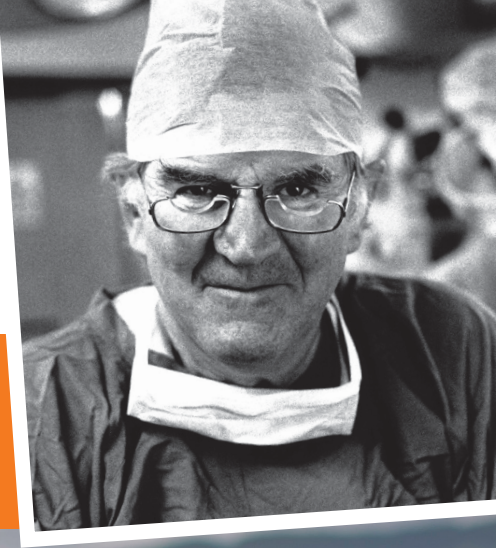




The **Fred Hollows**
Foundation | 護瞳行動



HONG KONG

SPRING/SUMMER 2019

**THERE IS
A HOPE,
THERE IS
A WAY**





WORD FROM LAURA LEE, CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE, HONG KONG AND ASEAN

What is the most common eye problem for Hong Kong children? The answer is myopia or shortsightedness.

Globally, children face many more complicated eye health challenges. More than 1.4 million children are blind worldwide. Besides myopia, many of these children suffer from eye diseases such as cataract and trachoma. Poverty and hygiene standards are major contributing factors. Fortunately, half of the cases can be cured through a simple eye surgery or a dose of antibiotics. We still have a lot to do.

The story of Eric from Rwanda explains the situation well. Eric was born with cataract in both eyes but nearly all doctors thought he had no hope. As the founder of The Fred Hollows Foundation, Professor Fred Hollows said: "Every eye is an eye. When you are doing surgery there, that is just as important as if you were doing eye surgery on the Prime Minister or King." The Foundation-trained Dr Ciku never gave up the slim chance of helping Eric. Turn to the next page to witness how the fate of Eric was turned around.

We were also thrilled to deliver the second Humanity Award in May. More than 400 students who made a difference to our community enrolled in this year's awards, while 50 outstanding students were recognised at a presentation ceremony attended by model mum Christine Au Yang and actor Gregory Charles Rivers. Congratulations to all our kind-hearted students.

The Fred Hollows Foundation is also looking forward to celebrate World Sight Day in October and raise awareness to avoidable blindness. Watch this space to see what will be happening and how we can work together to restore sight for more people.

PROGRAM UPDATE

SEE HOW A DRAGON FLIES



What should children do? They should be laughing, playing and exploring this world. Sadly not all children can enjoy their childhood like everyone else.

Four-year old Xiao Long, or nicknamed Little Dragon from Yunnan, China was born with congenital cataract in both eyes and also suffers from severe eye conditions.

He would try to reach things but always failed. Sometimes Xiao Long would fall when he walked. Xiao Long loved drawing circles on paper but sometimes drew accidentally on his hand. To see his creations, he needed to lift the paper close to his eyes.

A team from The Fred Hollows Foundation's partner hospital,

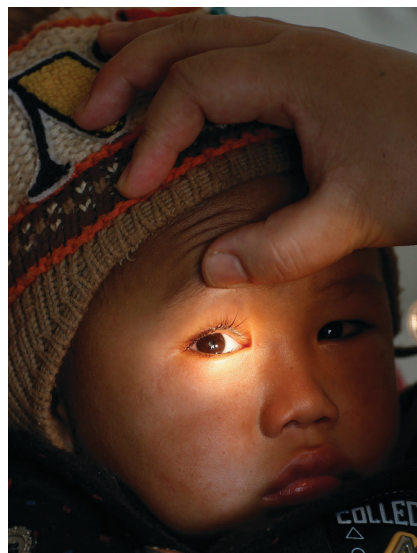
The People's Hospital of Wenshan Prefecture, visited the village and organised an operation for the boy.






Although the doctor feared that the complications affecting Xiao Long's eyes would prevent him from enjoying perfect eyesight, they decided to give it a try.

When the patches were removed after the operation, Xiao Long reached for the toy the doctor gave him and started stacking blocks. He can now play with the toy cars by himself.

Xiao Long would need to wear glasses and the chances of going to school is very high when he is old enough. Xiao Long is fortunate enough to have his sight back thanks to your support.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CHILDHOOD BLINDNESS



-  Globally, more than 1.4 million children between 0 to 15 years old are blind
-  Three quarters of these children live in middle to low income countries
-  Cataract is the main cause of childhood blindness
-  In China, the rate of myopia is 45.7%, 74.4% and 83.3% for primary, secondary and high school student respectively
-  Fortunately over half of these cases can be avoided



THERE IS A HOPE, THERE IS A WAY

In a remote village, high in the hills of Rwanda in Africa, Eric traces the walls of his tiny mud-brick home, investigating the world in which he lives.

He is waiting for his little brother to come home from school. He desperately wants to join him and the other kids, but his mum doesn't let him stray too far from the small home for fear he will get hurt or fall down one of the steep hills.

Nine-year-old Eric was born with cataract. He has some light perception in one eye, but nothing in the other. When his mom first noticed that Eric couldn't see, she took him to a local health clinic and then referred him to a bigger hospital. But the family simply didn't have enough money for any treatment.

Thankfully, a team of community health workers trained by The Fred Hollows Foundation visited Eric's district.

"A few days ago, the team from The Fred Hollows Foundation came and said to me that they've heard there's a little boy who lives quite a long way away from here, and they think he's blind from cataract," said Dr Ciku Mathenge, who was trained by The Foundation.

"When they described where the boy comes from, I realized it's a long way and it would be really hard for the mother to bring the child to us. The best thing was to go and see for myself and assess whether there was any hope for the little boy."

Eric's was one of the worst cases that Ciku had seen and she brought Eric back to the country's capital Kigali to carry out further examinations.



"We find that his eyes are extremely small. His eyes move abnormally which usually mean the communication between the eye and the brain may not be developed, and the fact that he has had cataract since he was born. All those together mean that you could do a perfect surgery and there's still no vision at the end of the day," Ciku said.

"But, I felt it's worth giving him a shot. He has a lot going wrong with his eyes, he has to learn to see, but I think he's going to do really well."

Eric's small eyes make surgery difficult, but Dr Ciku was confident.

She removed his patches the next morning. Eric immediately reached out for Ciku's hand and smiled shyly at his mum.

"No matter how many children like Eric I perform surgery on, it still gets to me. Because each story is so tragic and so personal. Eric's world has been just a world of sound – and now it's going to be a visual world also. I think it's the most fulfilling surgery, because this boy's life is going to change, and his mother's life is going to change."

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.



CELEBRATING THE 2019 HUMANITY AWARD

Over 50 students were acknowledged by The 2019 Humanity Award for giving back to the community. Eight students from the HHCKLA Buddhist Chan Shi Wan Primary School were awarded Ambassador of Hope for helping single elderly people cut their hair. Six Graders Kwan Tsz Fung and Leung Ching Hei from Grantham College of Education Past Students' Association Whampoa Primary School were Ambassador of Kindness for taking care of a P.1 fellow classmate who has a physical disability. Chong Wing Ching from HK True Light Middle School (Primary Section) is Ambassador of Compassion for regularly collecting unsold bread and sending it to people in need. For more details please click the QR Code.

Thanks to our sponsors who made The 2019 Humanity Award successful: Chiu Ball, Consolidated Marketing Group, Amanda Tong Ceramics, Elegant Interiors Contracting Co. Ltd., Make The Right Call, Noah's Ark and Ocean Park (in no particular order).



MORE DETAILS:



DONATE IN THE NAME OF YOUR CHILDREN

Over 1.4 million children are blind worldwide, but half of them can be avoided or treated. A simple and straight forward operation can change their lives. Children should be able to see the world and enjoy their childhood.

Donate in the name of your children to help end avoidable blindness.



DONATE NOW:



HKD\$150 CAN HELP RESTORE SIGHT AND CHANGE LIVES
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THE FRED HOLLOWES FOUNDATION HONG KONG OFFICE

Address: Room 811, 8/F, OfficePlus @Prince Edward, 794-802 Nathan Road, Prince Edward, Hong Kong
Phone: +852 3614 6240 | Email: hkinfo@hollows.org | Web: www.hollows.org/hk

