



Eyes for East Africa (UK)



Registered Charity No: 1053222

Honorary Ophthalmic Consultant: Mr Roger C Humphry MD FRCS FRCophth

Supporting Dr Helen Roberts and the Kwale District Eye Centre (KDEC) in Kenya

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www.eyesforeastafrica.org

Spring 2007 Newsletter

'Eye Give' Success

'Eye Give', the alternative gift idea for Christmas, birthdays or special occasions was launched by EFEA in September of 2006. EFEA are very pleased to announce that the first six months of this new fundraising initiative have been a great success with a considerable number of 'alternative gifts' having been bought. In this edition of the newsletter we highlight a number of the stories where patients' lives have been enhanced as a result of these 'alternative gifts' being received.

Teachers' Christmas Gifts

One EFEA supporter decided to purchase an 'Eye Give' gift at Christmas for the teachers at her children's school instead of giving the usual bubble bath selection.

The recipient of this gift was Omar, an 18-year old student born with sight problems. He joined school at age 10 but because of his low vision problems he has had to repeat classes due to poor progress. In 2005 Omar was assessed, but it was found that he could not benefit from surgery.

Omar received 'Eye Give' gifts of a telescope for distance vision and a magnifying glass for near reading.



Omar with the contact teacher using the magnifying glass for near reading

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Omar is now making good progress at school, and the teachers who received the 'Eye Give' gift were delighted to have been able to help a child with their education.

Giving a Goat

Goats are a popular gift in a number of the 'alternative gift' catalogues. However, many charities cannot specify how the gift funding will be distributed. EFEA is not like this. When you buy an 'Eye Give' gift of a goat, a goat is given to someone who really needs it in Kenya. Here are two stories where the gift of a goat has made a real difference to their lives.

Nadzua is a 42-year woman who went blind in 2005 due to optic atrophy. As a result of her disability she was deserted by her husband, and left to fend for her two small children alone. Nadzua was happy to accept rehabilitation at KDEC as a means of helping herself and her children. She has been attending training sessions on Orientation and Mobility, and Living skills. The gift of two goats through 'Eye Give' will enable Nadzua to start earning an income to support her family.



Nadzua with one of her new goats

Rose is a young, blind mother who already has already received much rehabilitation from KDEC.

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Already looking after a herd of goats, the provision of a male goat through 'Eye Give' will enable Rose to run a goat-breeding project.



Rose with her herd of goats

Gift of Sight

One EFEA supporter gave someone the gift of sight through 'Eye Give'.

Saidi is a 72-year old gentleman with a family history of diabetes. He had been diagnosed with glaucoma and advised to have trabulectomy surgery. At first he was reluctant to have surgery, but then his vision started deteriorating. Saidi underwent counselling from the KDEC patient counsellor together with another post-operative patient, and agreed to have his surgery done.

The surgery was a success and Saidi is very happy to have prevented further loss of vision and pain in the eye. Thanks to 'Eye Give', Saidi's sight has been preserved.



Saidi being interviewed at KDEC following his successful surgery.

Please Sponsor Charity Cycle Ride

On 10th May, EFEA supporter Chris Hill sets out on a cycle ride sets from Lands End to John O'Groats. The journey is expected to take 17 days and will cover over 1,000 miles.



Chris Hill on a training ride

Chris has visited KDEC several times and is keen to raise as much sponsorship for the charity as possible by completing his journey.

Please support Chris as he undertakes this long journey for EFEA. His planned route is given below:

Date	Route
10 th May	Lands End to St Austell
11 th May	... to Postbridge
12 th May	... to Uffculme
13 th May	... to Bristol
14 th May	... to ClunMill
15 th May	... to Wem
16 th May	... to Speke
17 th May	... to Lancaster
18 th May	... to Keswick
19 th May	... to Dumfries
20 th May	... to Kilmarnock
21 st May	... to Cairndow
22 nd May	... to Duror/Glencoe
23 rd May	... to Drumadrochit
24 th May	... to Culrain
25 th May	... to Bettyhill
26 th May	... arrive John O'Groats

If you would like to sponsor Chris please contact Jim Crow at the EFEA address.

Big Band Concert

In January, the Salisbury Big Band held their second Charity Concert to raise funds for EFEA. The evening was a very enjoyable success with over £1500 raised for EFEA.

Jane Dean, an EFEA UK trustee has said that she hopes the concert will now become an Annual Event.



We would like to thank everyone who helped make the evening such a great success.

“Ability in Blindness” A Patient’s Story

Wakesho Fundi is a 25 year old lady who became blind aged 5 due to measles. As a child she lived hidden from the village in her mother’s hut and at age 15 started begging to generate income. After 3 years she was seen at KDEC and was told that her blindness was irreversible. Filled with despair, she returned to begging for another 5 years.

Wakesho was visited at home by a KDEC rehabilitation officer who tried to persuade her and her family to accept counselling and rehabilitation services for the blind. After 6 visits in one year she agreed to accept help.

Wakesho wanted to try to see if the rehabilitation service would enable her to live an “independent, productive and dignified life”. She was trained in orientation and mobility skills for five days at KDEC and after this time she returned home and put these skills into practice. Wakesho now lives and independent and productive life, and helps her parents on their farm and preparing meals for the family of 6 people. Wakesho said “ I have now proved there is ability in blindness. I will never turn into a beggar again”



Wakesho learning to sort beans by feel

KDEC visit to the Masai Mara

In April Dr Helen Roberts and her team from KDEC visited the Masai Mara to carry out a surgical safari with MEAK- Medical and Educational Aid to Kenya. All patients were Masai who receive few medical services and were happy and grateful to have their sight saved.



Field surgery in the Sekanani local health centre

Over eight days 162 operations we performed, of which 100 were cataract removal with intraocular

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lens implants, and 59 were rotations of the upper lid to prevent scarring and blindness from trachoma.

Importantly, the resident nurse was trained how to perform the lid surgeries to prevent blindness from trachoma.

Donations

Please send your donations to:
Eyes for East Africa (UK)
19 Dunmow Hill, Fleet, Hants
GU51 3AN, UK

jim@eyesforeastafrica.org

Standing Order or Direct Debit: If you would like to make regular monthly donations by either standing order or direct debit please ask Jim Crow (address above), for the necessary details.

Eye Give: The perfect gift for birthdays and other special occasions.

Wills: Have you thought about leaving EFEA (UK) a legacy in your will? We hope you have. At present less than 5% of the adult population include a charity in their will. Please think about us.

The Payroll-Giving Scheme: One of the easiest ways of making donations to the Charity is through the Payroll-Giving Scheme now being adopted by many employers. Not only do donors receive tax benefit at source for such payments, but the charity also gains an additional 10% benefit from the Government. For more details please contact Jim Crow at the address above.

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Gift Aid allows charities to reclaim the basic rate tax you have already paid on the money you donate. It can increase the value of your gift by up to 28p on every pound.

Higher rate taxpayers can benefit by reclaiming Income Tax on the difference between the basic rate of tax and the 40% rate for any donations made from personal income.

These benefits are of great value to the Charity and if you have not already done so, please ask Jim Crow, for a gift aid form.