

## ☀️ From Darkness to First Day: Samson's Journey

We talked in our last newsletter about Operation Eagle Eye where we are using schoolkids to lead the charge against needless blindness. The tale of **Samson** from Mariakani perfectly illustrates the urgent need and the power of this community-led initiative. Identified through the keen eyes of Vision Champions in his local school, Samson had never been to school because he had been blind since he was small. His brothers and sisters, after learning about the crucial vision screening linkage, brought him to the attention of our community-based worker.

It was a moment of immediate recognition: Samson did not need to face a lifetime of blindness.

Thanks to the rapid intervention facilitated by Operation Eagle Eye, Samson successfully underwent cataract surgery. **He can see now!** 🎉

But the story doesn't end there. Our Vision Champions embody the true spirit of community care. They are now actively supporting Samson as he experiences his **very first days of school**, ensuring he's not bullied and that he's warmly welcomed into the classroom. They are not just champions of sight, but champions of **inclusion** and **hope**.



How many more 'Samsons' can we empower?



## Eye Care: Finding Those Who Can't Find Us

**Blindness and vision impairment** cast a deep shadow, and for many in our community, the reason isn't just a medical one—it's a matter of **poverty and access**.

We hear time and again that people do not know that **affordable, high-quality eye care** is available. Even when they do know, financial hardship prevents them from affording the fees, or simply paying for the bus fare to travel to the clinic. When poverty makes it impossible to leave home, people are left behind. Poor education and lack of awareness compound this problem.

### Our Solution: Going to the Grassroots



This is why our program is structured to actively seek out those who need us most. Our **grassroots, community-based approach** is built on a simple principle: **if people cannot reach us, we must reach them**.

We work with **Community Health Workers** and trained volunteers—directly going into homes and communities to:

1. **Educate:** Dispel myths and raise awareness that quality eye care *is* accessible and affordable.
2. **Identify:** Actively search for and screen individuals who are home-bound or have limited knowledge of available services.
3. **Facilitate:** Connect them with transportation, subsidised care, and the follow-up treatment they need to prevent permanent vision loss.

By taking this critical service to the community's doorstep, we are directly dismantling the barriers of **poverty, distance, and lack of awareness**. Your support ensures we can continue this vital work of turning avoidable blindness into restored sight, one neighbour at a time.

## The Heart of Eye Care 💖

When we talk about **training eye care professionals**, we're not just discussing medical competence; we're talking about nurturing **passion, empathy, and a profound dedication to human dignity**. Every well-trained optometrist or ophthalmologist carries the power to reverse isolation, despair, and dependence. **Preventable blindness is a solvable tragedy**, and by passionately investing in this workforce, we are healing lives, restoring futures, and ensuring that no citizen is left behind in darkness. Their expertise is the light that strengthens the very soul and productivity of our nation



Thank you for being part of our Family!

**Thank you for helping us make lives brighter, one smile — and one glance — at a time**



[www.kwaleeye.org](http://www.kwaleeye.org)  
[www.facebook.com/kwaleeyecentre](https://www.facebook.com/kwaleeyecentre)  
[www.instagram.com/kwaleeyecentre](https://www.instagram.com/kwaleeyecentre)  
[www.linkedin.com/company/kwale-eye-centre](https://www.linkedin.com/company/kwale-eye-centre)  
[welcome@kwaleeye.org](mailto:welcome@kwaleeye.org)