



WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER



DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT WITH YEAR-END GIVING

You can end 2020 on a bright note by giving others the gift of sight – and by doubling your impact.

Thanks to CBI's generous friend, Diane Ballweg, all gifts will be matched up to \$50,000 through Dec. 31. "Think about how you would feel if you lost your job due to sight loss, and then, through others' generosity, you got both back!" says Diane.

For every \$100 donation that is matched:

8 adults will receive vision-restoring surgery, or

400 children will be screened for vision diseases, or

40 people will receive glasses.

Please give at [combatblindness.org/donate!](https://combatblindness.org/donate/)

Dear CBI family and friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones healthy, safe and in good spirits.

Without a doubt, 2020 will be a year to remember. Especially for the children, parents and grandparents who we serve in low-income countries, the COVID pandemic has created unimaginable challenges.

And yet, you were there when we needed you most.

You selflessly bolstered Combat Blindness International at this crucial time, enabling us to support free cataract surgeries, vision screenings, ophthalmic training and so much more in areas hard hit by the pandemic.

You also joined our virtual World Sight Day celebration online to learn about our impact, contribute heartfelt donations, and bid in our online silent auction.

We are deeply grateful for your compassionate support.

As 2020 comes to a close, we have an exciting opportunity to positively transform more lives. Thanks to an amazing matching gift from our dear friend, Diane Ballweg, you can help twice as many people conquer blindness, so they can thrive, care for loved ones and contribute to their communities.

Kindness can change lives for the better. You have the power to create a lifetime of new opportunities for so many who need our help.

I wish you peace, happiness and good health in the new year.

With gratitude,

Reena Chandra Rajpal, MPH
President & Executive Director

MEET CBI'S NEW PARTNERS

Combat Blindness International (CBI) has expanded its "family" of partners. Here is a look at who they are, what they do, and how we will support them.



Patients at Jayapriya Eye Hospital receive pre-visit COVID screening.

JAYAPRIYA MEDICAL FOUNDATION HUBLI, KARNATAKA, INDIA

Jayapriya Medical Foundation (JMF) is the charitable arm of Jayapriya Eye Hospital in Hubli, India, and is dedicated to providing free eye care to the underprivileged. JMF's medical teams screen more than 200 villages every year for cataracts, diabetic retinopathy, and other eye diseases.

We are thrilled to partner with JMF on its "Mission Jyoti 1,000" initiative focusing on delivering eye care to the rural poor in the districts of Dharwad,

Haveri and Gadag. Specifically, CBI will support 1,000 free cataract surgeries for some of the neediest people in the region.

"We share the same commitment to empowering others through the gift of sight, so our collaboration with JMF is a perfect fit," says Reena Chandra Rajpal, CBI president and executive director. "Jyoti" means 'divine light,' and this mission will light up so many people's lives."

In 2021, we also will broaden our impact via new projects in Paraguay, Kenya and Brazil.

Your compassionate support will help CBI transform even more lives in the coming year!

NAV BHARAT JAGRITI KENDRA BAHERA, JHARKHAND, INDIA

Founded in 1971, Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra (NBJK) focuses on rural development through education, health, microfinancing and other initiatives in the states of Bihar and Jharkhand. Through its network of 300 nongovernmental organizations, NBJK touches the lives of over 3 million people annually.

Combat Blindness International is now a proud partner of NBJK, and has provided funding for ophthalmic equipment that will expand the screening and diagnostic capabilities at the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Eye Hospital in Gaya.



NBJK supports eye care for the poor, such as Sonamuni Murmu in Dumka, India.

"Our new friends at NBJK have a solid track record of improving the lives of the disadvantaged in India," Reena says. "We are pleased to help improve Lok Nayak's ability to diagnose and treat eye care patients, which will reap huge benefits for generations to come."

DESPITE COVID, OUR MISSION CONTINUES

Imagine losing your vision during a frightening pandemic, but you didn't have the money or support to get treatment.

That was the case for Ram Yadab, a dairy farmer in Jurudi, India. After his vision gradually diminished over the past year, his grandson took him to the Bijayananda Patnaik Eye Center in Keonjhar, co-founded by CBI. Cataract surgery at the Center in May 2020 restored Ram's vision – and his independence.

The COVID pandemic has put a tremendous strain on our partners' efforts to treat people like Ram Yadab. And yet, they are prevailing via phased re-openings, innovative safety protocols, and smart new screening and treatment procedures.

In the face of COVID, CBI is more committed than ever to offering equitable access to eye care for all. And your generosity makes that possible. Thank you!



Ram Yadab's vision was restored, thanks to supporters like you.

WORLD SIGHT DAY WAS A VIRTUAL SUCCESS!



During our virtual event, CBI President and Executive Director Reena Chandra Rajpal was joined by Founder and Chief Visionary Officer Suresh Chandra, MD.

You made our first-ever virtual World Sight Day celebration a huge success! We raised **close to \$75,000**, which will have twice the impact with a kind supporter's matching gift.

The Oct. 8 livestreamed event featured our impact, a fun silent auction, and interviews with YouTube star Lucy Edwards, as well as Bryan and Brad Manning of the Two Blind Brothers clothing line. Your participation has translated into crucial eye care for those who cannot afford it. Thank you!

Our World Sight Day Right to Sight Clinic, in partnership with the UW-Madison Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (DOVS), provided free eye care for 62 underinsured patients. Thanks to Dr. Anna Momont and other DOVS faculty who made it possible!





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STAY INFORMED!

If you aren't receiving our emails, please send your name and email address to info@combatblindness.org. We'll keep you up to date with the latest news about projects, events and more.



In 2021, CBI will expand eye care efforts in other countries, including Kenya, Paraguay and Brazil!

FOLLOW US!

Get timely updates by following us on social media. Be sure to like, tag or mention us, too!

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Combat Blindness International is dedicated to eliminating preventable blindness worldwide by providing sustainable, equitable solutions for sight through partnerships and innovation.