

To (Full Name),

Can you imagine a world *without* seeing?

Beautiful blue skies. Every book you've ever read. Your mother's smiling face.

This is a reality for 1.4 million children. 80% of cases are preventable, but tragically nearly all of them (90%) live in developing countries where treatment isn't accessible.

15 years ago, three South Australian ophthalmologists, James Muecke, Henry Newland and Bob Casson, set out to change this. With one crystal clear vision, to create a world where everyone can see, they began providing eye health services for poorer, neighbouring countries while volunteering.

And 'Sight For All' was born.

### **'Teach a man to fish'... and save eyes.**

We've developed a four-pronged approach that empowers local training colleagues and is rooted in long-term solutions – to address all the major causes of blindness and help to fill gaps in eye health care.

**Collaborative research** with a team of consultants on a variety of epidemiological research activities for our partner countries

**Infrastructure support** by establishing or upgrading equipment and facilities at training and regional centres

**Sustainable education** through Fellowships in Australia, In-Country Fellowships and On-going In-Country Training Workshops

**Eye health awareness** to inform communities of the importance of eye health.

More than 120 ophthalmologists, optometrists, orthoptists, ophthalmic nurses and scientists... each year, these specialists collectively donate up to 10,000 hours of expertise to Sight For All. Together, our work is improving the lives of half a million people every year.

### **Stopping avoidable blindness: Baby Chi**

Children learn through their eyes. They watch, and imitate, the people in their lives. Vision problems can lead to cognitive development, as eyesight and learning are linked so strongly.

In some cases, it becomes a matter of life or death. Like it was for baby Chi, in Hanoi, Vietnam. She had a life-threatening tumour in her eye from Retinoblastoma.

Retinoblastoma occurs when abnormal cells in light-sensing area at the back of the retina, grow in an uncontrolled way. It usually occurs in young children, and can

affect one or both eyes. This condition is common in children under three years of age, at a pinnacle stage of their development.

Baby Chi's mother, Pham Minh Hiep, was powerless. Something as simple as where she lived determined whether she'd see her daughter grow up or not. Her country, her own roots, were failing her.

However, in 2012, Sight For All equipped the Paediatric Ophthalmology Unit at VNIO in Hanoi. The diagnostic equipment and surgical instruments provided the in-country training and now allows them to continue treating children, just like Baby Chi, with the best possible equipment.

Unfortunately, after 12 months of treatment, Dr James Muecke, Dr Pham Minh Chau and her mother decided to begin surgery to remove baby Chi's right eye. No mother wants to ever hear those words but in the end, it was this procedure that ultimately saved her life.

Baby Chi is now growing up healthy like other children. In fact, next August Chi starts kindergarten with all the children her age, living a normal life.

This is just one story out of millions. But, not all end well, like Chi's.

As Australians, we're fortunate to have health resources at our fingertips. A short drive to the doctors or hospital is a dream to many in the eastern world.

Together, we can change this. By helping Sight For All, you're effectively saving the sight and lives of hundreds of children less fortunate than our own.

And like Chi, you will see the impact your support will have.