A Word from Our Founder

In 1984 I traveled to India on a routine visit thinking I was going to perform and teach retinal surgery. I returned with a newfound sense of hope and an idea that would change my life forever. From this idea, Combat Blindness International was born, and my journey has been anything but routine.

The past 34 years have taken us throughout India and beyond to countries such as Paraguay, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Botswana, Mali, Gambia, South Africa, Lebanon, Myanmar, Brazil, and the USA. I often imagine if this 1984 version of myself could fathom that our reach would extend so far. I know that this would not have been possible without all of the help, care, and support from all of you.

When I look back at this path I think of all of the generous, kind, and warm people that I have come across. When I think of what CBI has become today, I am proud of all of the work we have accomplished. When I think of what lies ahead for CBI in the future, I am excited about the possibilities of changing people’s lives.

Giving the gift of sight is what I have dedicated my life to. I consider you all as a part of our CBI family; together, let us move forward with this shared generous spirit to enrich people’s lives with this gift of sight.

Thank you for your caring support.

Warmest Regards,
Paraguay School Screenings

Bryce de Venecia is a second-year medical school student at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. This summer, he traveled to Paraguay as a CBI volunteer to work with our partner Fundación Visión to perform school screening research. During his time there, Bryce and Fundación Visión were able to screen over 3,400 children and provide over 350 pairs of glasses! Bryce recounts the details of his time in Paraguay in our blog at combatblindness.org.

What a success! This year, Combat Blindness International celebrated the internationally-recognized World Sight Day on September 28th, 2017 with the privilege of hosting over 200 guests!

CBI was honored to have Henry “Hoby” Wedler—a brilliant flavor scientist and Forbes 30-under-30 member, as our guide through our main tasting event. Hoby led our guests through an exciting blindfolded taste test, featuring treats from Wisconsin staples such as The Great Dane Pub & Brewing Company, Macha Tea Company, Hook’s Cheese Company Inc, and Infusion Chocolates! The idea is, when you shut one sense off, other senses become heightened in compensation. While sampling some delicious beer, tea, cheese, and chocolate, Hoby challenged guests to explore flavors through these heightened senses of taste, touch, and smell. Guests gained a brief insight into what many of CBI’s patients experiences on a daily basis.

We thank you for your attendance, continued support, and best wishes for World Sight Day 2017!

Changing the way someone sees the world...

$25

Changes the way you see the world.
Empowered Women, Empower Women

CBI strongly believes in the empowerment of women. Whether it is at our headquarters where three out of four staff members are female, or with our programs—we are dedicated to furthering gender equality. This is actively demonstrated with our Certified Ophthalmic Personnel (COP) program. This program, in partnership with Shroff’s Charity Eye Hospital (SCEH) in New Delhi, India, invites young women from rural villages to receive technical education to become ophthalmic personnel in a number of eye care roles.

Anju, a graduate of our COP program, is now an ophthalmic nursing assistant and works in an operation theatre. After informing her family that she was, “Definitely going,”, Anju traveled with SCEH as an ophthalmic nurse to work with our partner in Botswana.

CBI believes that the COP program will not only educate young women, but will also encourage them to inspire other women around them. Speaking of her own experience with COP, “I would like to say that one must pursue this course as they will feel good, become independent, support themselves, and inspire and support their family in the future.”

Check out the rest of Anju’s story by clicking on the Vimeo icon at combatblindness.org

“One MUST pursue this program. They will become independent, support themselves, and be able to support their family.”

- Anju

Have you considered including Combat Blindness International in your gift planning?
Connect with us!