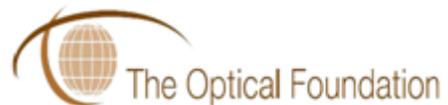




AKWAABA TO GHANA
WELCOME TO GHANA!



MAKING EYE CARE ACCESSIBLE IN GHANA
THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE EYE EXAMS, EDUCATION
AND RESEARCH

2018: A YEAR OF FOCUS



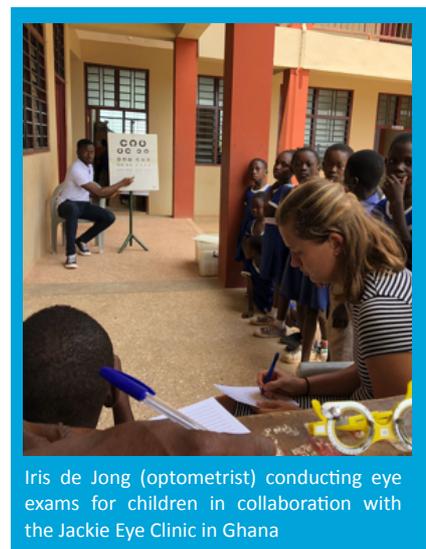
2018 OUTREACH PROJECT

Our objective for 2018 was to make resources available to provide comprehensive eye examinations for some of the poorest children and adults in collaboration with the Eye Clinic in Jachie, while offering optometry students the opportunity to gain more practical experience under the supervision and guidance of our experienced volunteers.

We commenced fundraising via the 1%club crowd funding site for this project in early May and raised a total of €1,830. Even though we didn't meet our target of €2,500, it was still a great achievement considering the limited time we had in which to raise funds. The main learning we have taken from this fundraising experience is to allow more time to raise funds.

We sent out two Dutch volunteers to Ghana in June 2018: Iris de Jong, an optometrist, and Ellen Blom, an orthoptist.

Ellen, for whom it was her second assignment with The Optical Foundation and Iris for who it was her first ever mission, had previously work as colleagues at Eyescan in Amstelveen, The Netherlands, so the team dynamics were already established allowing them to hit the ground running.



Iris de Jong (optometrist) conducting eye exams for children in collaboration with the Jackie Eye Clinic in Ghana

The project ran for two weeks and during this time our volunteers:

- were able to perform eye examinations at 8 different locations
- performed comprehensive eye examinations on 1757 people.
- prescribed 9 pairs of prescription glasses
- dispensed 96 reading glasses
- referred 308 patients to the Eye Clinic for glasses or additional examination
- trained 1 optometry student



These results are a testament of all the hard work our volunteers had put into reaching as many people as possible in this short span of time, and in having exceeded our target of 1000 comprehensive eye examinations by 75%, we are over the moon with the success of this project.

FRANS OOSTERHOF TRAVEL GRANT

We are excited to inform you that we have finalised selecting the candidates for The Optical Foundation 2019 Frans Oosterhof Travel Grant to attend the 2019 British Contact Lens Association Conference. The successful candidates will be officially announced in January 2019.

This process involved the assistance of The Optical Foundation Advisory Committee who were tasked with first preparing the application form and then the scoring rubric. We advertised the grant widely within the schools in Ghana, with the deadline being the 15th October. We received a total of 20 applications from both from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana and University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana, with 8 female and 12 male applicants.

The Optical Foundation would like to extend our gratitude to both Cooper Vision UK and the British Contact Lens Association for enabling this travel grant. Your support will be providing two Ghanaian students with an incredible opportunity. Thank you!

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Optical Foundation's Advisory Committee was formed in 2017 and is comprised of researchers and clinicians from around the world. They include Professor Eric Papas (UNSW, Australia), Dr Fayiz Mahgoub (DeFocus Media, USA), Dr Ayeswarya Ravikumar (University of Houston, USA), Bianca van Leeuwen (Gelre ziekenhuizen, Hospital & Health Care Apeldoorn, The Netherlands), and Dr Thomas Stokkermans (University Hospitals of Cleveland, Ohio, USA).



The majority of our Advisory Committee meeting at the American Academy of Optometry in San Antonio (Fayiz Mahgoub, Carolina Kunnen, Thomas Stokkermans, Ayeswarya Ravikumar, and Maria Markoulli)

The Advisory Committee provides the board with support and advice, and offers insights to assist The Optical Foundation to produce meaningful results and impact. Each member of the Advisory Committee is a non-affiliated individual and like The Optical Foundation's board members, they fulfil their role on a voluntarily basis.

In 2018, the Advisory Committee was tasked with preparing the application form for the travel grant, preparing the marking rubric and ultimately scoring the 20 applications received. The committee also prepared the forms to be completed by any organisation intending to apply for funding in order to undertake vision screening

in Ghana.

We thank the Advisory Committee for their efforts and look forward to working with them in 2019 and beyond!

NEW WEBSITE

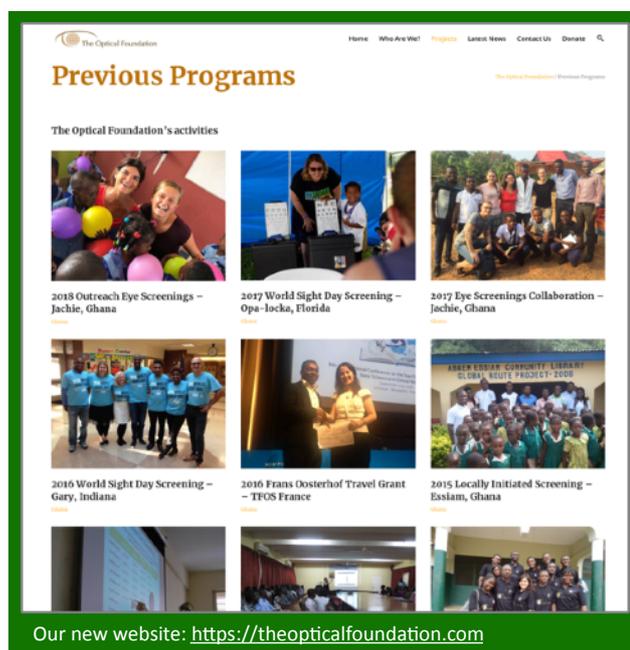
After months of hard work and dedication, we are excited to officially announce the launch of our NEW website!

With a fresh and modern new look, it is now easier to learn about who we are and what we do. Fully optimised for mobile devices, it is easy to navigate whether you're at your desk or on the move.

We needed to refresh our website not just to provide up to date information, but to also allow for the ease of downloading forms and submitting information online in an effort to make us accessible for local screening project coordinators.

Another big improvement is that we have also included a platform that allows visitors to donate directly through our website, which means we are no longer reliant on crowd funding sites when we run a fundraising campaign.

We hope you will enjoy our new website! If you have any feedback, suggestions or comments, please submit them on our contact us form (<https://theopticalfoundation.com/contact-us/>)



Our new website: <https://theopticalfoundation.com>

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Based in different corners of the world (Dr. Carolina Kunnen – USA; Huub Villevoeye, Mathieu Kunnen, and Simone Stad - The Netherlands; Charlotte Marbus and Dr. Maria Markoulli - Australia; and Dr. Rianne Harmsen - Norway), each month The Optical Foundation's board members have a scheduled video conference call to run through actions items that each has been assigned. All board members work for the foundation on a voluntarily basis. Although each of us is driven by our own desire to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate, at times our assigned tasks require a significant investment of time, focus and drive to ensure projects are successfully implemented and followed through to completion.

It is therefore important to acknowledge the team that makes sure it all happens while keeping the organisation on course.

THANK YOU

In winding up for the year, we would like to take a moment to extend our gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this being a successful year.

We would like to acknowledge Rick Elenbaas who was instrumental in us receiving a Google Grant valued at \$10,000 per month, and also for all the endless hours he has spent tirelessly building our new website. Like all board members, Rick volunteers his time and expertise, and while his work may not be eye care related, this behind the scenes role is pivotal in the structural framework that encompasses The Optical Foundation.

A special thanks goes out to another behind the scenes person: Joey Tichenor. Having only joined the team in late June, Joey has been ensuring that all projects we have been running have been supported by advertising campaigns to drive traffic to our site.

We would like to again thank the advisory committee for their support, enthusiasm, and fresh and innovative ideas. There is no way the success of the year and in particular the 2019 Frans Oosterhof Travel Grant to attend the 2019 British Contact Lens Association Conference would have been achieved, if it were not for this committee's dedication.

There are also a number of companies and organizations we would like to recognise for their contribution to the success of:

The outreach project:

- Anna's Optiek in Amsterdam (The Netherlands) for donating 44 children's frames.
- Clinic Care Services B.V. in Haarlem (The Netherlands) for donated 68 boxes of 4 different types of medical eye drops.
- Hans Croese (The Netherlands) for donating 500



children's frames.

- Jachie Eye Clinic (Ghana) for enabling the collaboration with TOF on this outreach project.
- Monastery in Jachie (Ghana) and Sister Aba for providing our volunteers with board and accommodation.
- Schulten Lederwaren in Raalte (The Netherlands) for donating two sturdy suitcases in which we were able to pack frames and other items for our volunteers to take to Ghana.
- Zuyderland Zorgcentra (The Netherlands) for donating visual acuity charts.



THE OPTICAL FOUNDATION WISHES YOU ALL A HAPPY, HEALTHY & PROSPEROUS 2019!
