

## President's Insights September

### Every day is a World Sight Day

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate World Sight Day. This day is a powerful reminder of the critical importance of eye health and the urgent need to address vision impairment worldwide.

#### The Significance of World Sight Day

World Sight Day is a global initiative orchestrated by the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) and supported by organizations like VOSH/International. It aims to raise awareness about blindness and visual impairments, advocating for better eye care services and preventive measures. With over 2 billion people affected by vision impairment globally and at least 1 billion cases being preventable or treatable, our collective action is essential. The theme for this year, "Love Your Eyes, Kids," emphasizes the importance of prioritizing eye health in our children, recognizing that good vision is vital for learning and critical for their development to become productive citizens.

#### VOSH/International's Commitment: every day is a World Sight Day

At VOSH/International, we are dedicated to providing sustainable vision care to underserved communities worldwide. **For us, every day is World Sight Day.** Our mission is to ensure that everyone has access to quality eye care, regardless of their socio-economic status. Each year, our organization supports over 100,000 patients through various outreach programs and humanitarian clinics, focusing primarily on areas where access to eye care is limited.

We also partner with local organizations and optometry schools and colleges to establish sustainable clinics that deliver immediate care and empower communities by training local optometrists and promoting education in vision health. Our initiatives extend beyond immediate treatment; we aim to build long-term solutions that enhance the capacity of local healthcare systems.

#### The Path Forward

As we observe World Sight Day, let us reflect on the profound impact of vision on quality of life. Visual impairments can have significant physical, emotional, social, and economic consequences. Raising awareness and advocating for policies prioritizing eye health can help prevent unnecessary blindness and improve lives.

I encourage everyone—healthcare professionals, the academic community, corporate leaders, community members—to take action. Whether it's organizing eye screenings at your workplace or supporting local initiatives aimed at improving access to eye care, every effort counts.

Together, we can create a world where everyone has the opportunity to see clearly and live fully. Join us in celebrating World Sight Day by committing to protect your eyes and those of others. Thank you for your continued support of VOSH/International and our mission to restore sight and hope around the globe.

Regards,

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