



## **NEW SIGHT EYE CARE**

**Registered Address:** The Megacentre, 32 York Road, Leeds LS9 8SY

**Charity Commission Registration Nr:** 1144893

### **Annual Report for the year ending 5 April 2014**

#### **OVERVIEW:**

New Sight Eye Care is a registered charity founded in the UK in 2011, and is constituted by Memorandum and Articles of Association. We provide support and financial aid from the UK to the Republic of Congo to pioneer the first and only eye surgery centre in the northern part of the country.

The charity, whose objects are below, is administered by the Trustees, namely;

Dr. Joyce Samoutou-Wong

Mr. Henri Samoutou

Mr. Christopher Denham

Mrs. Linda Adam

Mrs. Safi Newton

The charity is governed by trust deed administered by the trustees, as well as being a non-profit limited company. There are five trustees at any time. When a vacancy occurs, the trustees note the fact in the minutes of their next meeting. The trustees discuss a possible candidate with relevant experience and commitment. Apart from the first trustees, every trustee is appointed by a resolution of the trustees passed at a special meeting.

The **OBJECTIVES** of the charity are:

1. The Advancement of health and / or saving of lives in particular (but without limitation) by providing assistance overseas principally (but not exclusively) in the Republic of Congo for those affected with sight difficulties; and
2. To fulfil such other purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales and are connected to the charitable work of the Charity as the Trustees may from time to time think fit

#### **ACTIVITIES, PROGRESS and PLANS to date:**

The north of Congo has never had an eye centre. This is the reason that Joyce and Henri Samoutou uprooted their families' lives in the UK in April 2012 to pioneer the first and only non-profit eye centre in the north of Congo. The eye centre is based in Pioneer Christian Hospital in Impfondo, the capital of the Likouala Region. This general hospital founded in 2006 is developing rapidly. It has 32 buildings

in a 17-acre site. It has grown from 50 to 75 beds this year. New Sight and the hospital continue to enjoy good relationships with the government, the Ministry of Health, as well as the local authorities and communities. We collaborate frequently with other non-profit organisations such as United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees and Médecins d’Afrique, who frequently send their patients to us for their eyes.

Vision 2020 is the WHO global initiative to eliminate all avoidable and reversible causes of blindness and severe visual impairment by the year 2020. According to the WHO, worldwide, 4 in 5 people who are blind or severely visually impaired are blind from avoidable causes. This means that we can prevent or treat their blindness. New Sight follows the Vision 2020 technical guidance to plan, budget and purchase the equipment and consumables needed. In the year ending April 2014, we performed 1235 consultations. The bulk of our charity’s surgery is cataracts. Patients blind from cataracts can see again the day after this one-off operation. When sight is restored, lives are transformed, not just for the patients, but also for their families and even the wider communities.<sup>1 2</sup> There have been several well documented studies that proved cataract surgery to be one of the top operations with the most measurable improvement in quality of life, and supported the argument that it offers economic benefit to relieve poverty.<sup>3 4 5</sup>

In addition to cataract surgery, we provide vision tests and aids (e.g. glasses), prevention and treatment of eye diseases and systemic illness involving the eye (e.g. diabetes and hypertension), an accidents and emergency service, as well as other surgeries (e.g. glaucoma and pterygium). Free administration of Vitamin A supplements and River Blindness treatment are offered. For those who are assessed to be genuinely unable to afford paying for our very low-cost non-profit services, their costs are covered by New Sight’s charitable poverty fund.

In March 2014, Henri represented New Sight at Mercy Ship, the biggest floating hospital in the world that was visiting and docked in Pointe Noire, about 1000km away from our hospital in the south of Congo. A visiting ophthalmologist would come for 2 weeks at a time and operated round the clock with Henri. Together, they performed 350 surgeries (of which 323 were cataracts) in the 6 weeks that Henri was on the ship. Several useful links with both Mercy Ship and the local authorities have been formed through this mission.

Training and empowerment are some of the core values of New Sight. We teach weekly in the nursing school, and provide clinical, IT and administrative training to local staff. We are developing a curriculum for trainees in the eye centre.

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<sup>1</sup> Javitt, International Congress Ophthalmol 1983.

<sup>2</sup> International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment. Annual Report 2004. <http://www.icevi.org/publications/Annual%20Report%202004.htm>.

<sup>3</sup> Javitt et al. The economic and social aspect of restoring sight. International Congress Ophthalmol 1983; 1308-1312.

<sup>4</sup> Kuper et al ‘Does Cataract surgery alleviate poverty? Evidence from a Multi-Centre Intervention Study Conducted in Kenya, the Phillippines and Bangladesh’ PloS Medicine 2010; 5.11.

<sup>5</sup> Faal and Gilbert, "Convincing governments to act: VISION 2020 and the Millennium Development Goals" Community Eye Health. 2007 December; 20(64): 62–64

We renovated and extended an old building for our clinic, and are renting an operating theatre from General Surgery. However, we are rapidly outgrowing these premises. We have plans for building our own dedicated eye centre, with our own optical shop, pharmacy, outpatient clinic, inpatient wards and theatre. Unfortunately, we continue to experience considerable delays in our application for building permission from the government. The majority of the funds raised have been reserved in preparation for the construction.

In January to April 2014, Joyce worked in Hong Kong to consolidate the infrastructure and fundraise for New Sight. Major achievements of the trip include:

- 37 public speaking engagements in settings ranging from Rotary Club, to Harvard and Ivy League clubs, hospitals, schools and churches
- Publicity through features in newspapers, magazines and radio. Filming began for a TV documentary that will run for 4 weeks (Filming in Congo originally planned for Sept 2014 postponed due to threat of Ebola in Africa)
- Marketing enhanced through video recording of speeches and interviews for YouTube and newly designed printed materials such as posters and leaflets
- Formation of Strategy Planning Committee; Mobilisation of volunteers including training through Seeds Foundation, a non-profit foundation that helps empower charities
- Analysis of historical data to establish business plan with various scenarios
- As our newsletter subscription grew, communication and donor management systems received an overhaul
- Official partnership formed with Optical 88 - one of the biggest chains of Optical shops in Asia
- Fruitful contacts made and meetings held with construction companies, sourcing companies, shipping companies, eye hospitals, and foundations
- Several fundraising efforts were made in Hong Kong including Playing for Sight, a series of 3 concerts to raise awareness and funds for New Sight

In the UK, we continue our fundraising efforts by running our Priceless Gift Store – an on-line donation gift store.

In the next 12 months, we will continue to develop our clinical service. We will introduce screening, and reduce our prices to reach and help more patients. We will expand our staff by taking on new trainees. We plan to consolidate our infrastructure as a charity to ensure our sustainability. We hope to lay the ground works for the construction as soon as we receive building permission from the government. In addition, we hope to continue to build our reserve so that we will have enough funds to build.

## Financial summary

Monies are held and administered through one bank account and one PayPal account. They are reported as one in the annex to this report.

Joyce and Henri Samoutou won the international Excellence in Ophthalmology Vision award in November 2012 and won £42, 065.02 for New Sight. While this grant is unrestricted, the funds are planned for the construction of an educational centre within our new building, as well as for the scholarships for an ophthalmic technician and cataract surgeon. The schools require our nurses to have a minimum of 3 years of working experience before they can be accepted. There is no deadline to when the funds must be used.

In addition to funding from New Sight Eye Care in the UK, the eye centre also receives funding through Alliance Global Serve, a charity in Hong Kong and Global Outreach Mission, a charity in North America. Medication, clinical supplies, medical, surgical and administrative equipment were almost all paid for from Hong Kong due to logistics reasons.

Joyce and Henri Samoutou do not receive any salaries from New Sight Eye Care in the UK. A one-off homeschooling expense of £56.64 for their 3 children was covered by New Sight in the UK.

We are reserving funds in preparation for the construction of the new centre.

*Signed by Joyce Samoutou-Wong, trustee, 15 November 2014*

<b>Income &amp; Expenditure for the year ended 5 April 2014</b>				
	£		£	
	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Total Fund	
<b>Incoming resource from generated funds</b>	(A)	(B)		
<b>Voluntary income</b>				
UK	10,218.44			20,961.24
Paypal	10,742.80			
Total	20,961.24			
<b>Charitable Expenditure</b>				
Equipment	373.23			
Medical consumables	1,509.58			
Other consumables	181.57			
Stipend	0.00			
Staff	0.00			
Rent	0.00			
Utilities	29.67			
Shipping	13.43			
Samoutou Family	56.64			
Travel	0.00			
Construction	0.00			
Maintenance	0.00			
Marketing	1,092.00			
Professional Services	0.00			
Fees and Commissions	2,796.91			
Depreciation	2,875.71			
Others	0.00			
Total	8,928.74	0.00		8,928.74
Net income for the year	12,032.50	-		12,032.50
Fixed Assets brought forward	2875.71			
Cash brought forward	25.52			
Bank brought forward	52,516.14			
Paypal brought forward	0.00			
Total assets brought forward	55,417.37	0.00		55,417.37
Bank carried forward	56,707.07			
Paypal carried forward	10,742.80			
Total funds carried forward	67,449.87	0.00		67,449.87

**Notes**

(A) This is a normal donation received accounts. Unrestricted fund are available for use at the discretion of the trustee in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Grant received from Novartis Pharma Switzerland of Euro50,000 (£42,065.02) has not been restricted for the Charity.

