



NEWSLETTER APRIL 2024

EYE CARE FOR AFRICA

EXCITING NEWS

We are excited to share that May 9th sees a team of 12 leaving for Tanzania, the first trip since the Covid pandemic.

The team will comprise two optometrists, Niall McCormack from Hawkes Bay and Lillian Lei from Wanganui, joining them will be GP, Dr Peter Culham also from Hawkes Bay.

Joining the team to help out with clinics as well as providing advice to local doctors.

The team will initially set up a day clinic in a school at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro, before heading more remotely to the city of Shinyanga as well as Eluwai with clinics for the local Maasai people.

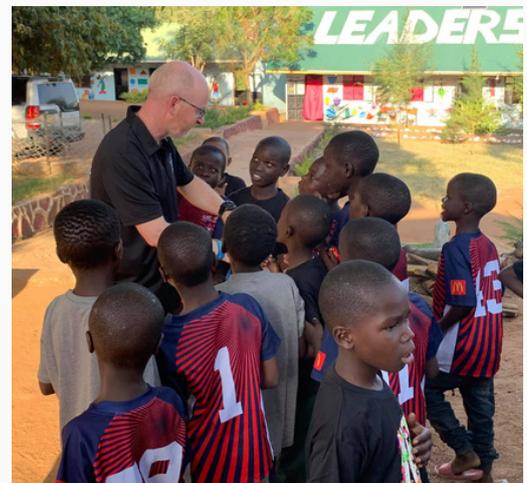
Peter will also be investigating the sustainability of future medical projects and working towards registration for visiting volunteers and health professionals.

Returning Eye Care for Africa volunteers, Lloyd and Sharon Passey, who were part of the 2019 team, are delighted to be travelling to Africa again. They have been involved in education and healthcare projects in Tanzania since 2016 and have a passion for Tanzania, providing care for remote places. Lloyd is a wonderful asset with his logistic skills and experience.

This year's volunteers will include an international flavour with representatives from Australia and New Zealand, as well Ken Macdonald from Scotland.

The inclusion of extra team members is invaluable to the smooth running of eye clinics, and helping to streamline the process of testing patients.

The African experience is monumental for all involved, those who embark will never be the same.





TE ARAROA

Niall completed the New Zealand trail, Te Araroa, in 2023 raising nearly \$20,000 towards the recently completed clinic in Shinyanga. The walk of just over 3,000km was life-changing with many adventures along the way. A big thanks to all who encouraged Niall on his journey and to the many who donated to the charity.

A monumental effort with every step one of determination to help others on the other side of the world.

Well done Niall!



SHINYANGA EYE CLINIC

We are very excited to share that 'Eye Care For Africa' has just finished a brand new, purpose-built building for eye care, in Shinyanga in remote north-west Tanzania thanks to the wonderful fund-raising effort of Niall walking from the top of Aotearoa to Bluff.

This permanent facility is located in the grounds of 'Golden Grace Health Centre'.

The Shinyanga region has a population of over 2 million people all without any access to professional eye care, until now.

For comparison, New Zealand has a population of approx. 5 million and has just over 150 ophthalmologists.

Tanzania has a population of approx. 50 million with fewer than 50 ophthalmologists.

Construction began in November 2023 led by our Kiwi project coordinator Lloyd Passey and, after a very long wet season, the building is now completed, with the added luxury of tiled floors.

We look forward to opening the building on our upcoming trip, with a small ceremony.

We thank our Tanzanian construction team, headed up by Golden Grace director, John Wambura, for the seamless building process.

The hospital building has been entirely funded by 'Eye Care For Africa.'



HELP FROM HAVELOCK NORTH ROTARY CLUB

The Havelock North Rotary club has funded a vertometer to help with the processing of donated glasses. The vertometer machine is a slick model which has a print-out facility so that each pair of glasses can be separately placed in a small plastic bag ready for dispatching in Tanzania. A special mention to Rotary members David Smith and Peter Mayne, who have consistently helped support Eye Care For Africa with collecting used glasses and promoting the charity. Niall McCormack has been invited to speak at several Rotary meetings over the last 2 years, which helps to continue to publicise the charities work being undertaken.

David Smith is also helping to further promote our charity by taking the early steps required to apply for a global grant to help equip the newly built eye clinic in Shinyanga.



KEEN TO HELP?

Finally seeing the achievement of our clinic in Shinyanga come to fruition is extremely satisfying. Because of the difficult economic times, many charities including Eye Care For Africa, have seen funding and donations significantly reduced.

Are you willing to help?
You can partner with us to provide clear sight.

A one off donation or the commitment of a monthly contribution of \$20, \$50 or \$100 can make a huge difference to the lives of a large number of people who do not have the benefit of the health care we often take for granted in New Zealand.

TSB Bank Hastings
15-3974-0049113-00
or

If you are keen to help,
contact

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