



THE
SPECTACLE
MAKERS'
CHARITY

IMPACT REPORT 2023/24





£69,052

given in grants and
awards in the year to 31
March 2024

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A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

I am pleased to present the work of the Charity for the period up to 31st March 2024. In total, the trustees awarded £69,052 in grants and bursaries. As you can see from the beneficiaries highlighted in this report, we continue to support a large number of diverse organisations involved in eye health and care both in the UK and abroad. This is in keeping with our charitable aims in seeking to ensure 'better vision for all' and 'improve the lives of people with vision impairment and support those who treat eye health'.

We continue to support and inspire the next generation of eye health professionals, by awarding grants of up to £1000 for students in optometry, orthoptics, dispensing optics, and now include ophthalmic nursing and ophthalmic imaging students. We also offer professional development awards for ophthalmologists in training and ophthalmic nurses, to help with the costs of presenting work and taking up short term fellowships outside the UK.

As we now look forward to the Company's 400th anniversary in 2029, we are planning to introduce a new bursary programme providing support for people with visual impairment in seeking future employment. We intend to pilot this in 2025 to ensure an accessible application process and commence in 2026, repeating annually as we approach the 400th anniversary.

I do hope by reading this report that you will be inspired by some of these stories and think about how you could help the Charity. If you are able to make a donation, or set up regular donations, join the 100 Club or even consider a legacy to the Charity, please go to www.spectaclemakers.com/Charity to find out more.

On behalf of all the Trustees, a big thank you to all our supporters and donors.

DR DAVID PARKINS
Chair of the Board of Trustees



4SIGHT

4Sight is an independent charity providing specialist advice and support for blind and partially sighted people of all ages across West Sussex, enabling them to live life without limits.

Our £1,000 grant has enabled them to develop a new service to respond to the needs of their most vulnerable and isolated clients and overcome barriers to accessing leisure, health, social and recreational activities.



4Sight have developed a bespoke befriending project that has created confidence and higher levels of wellbeing in its participants, both volunteer and client. For client volunteers, being a telephone befriender has delivered opportunities to develop new skills or revitalise skills that visual impairment had put on hold.

The telephone befriending programme gives structured input to improve health and wellbeing through supportive, non-judgmental conversation. There have also been three events at the Shoreham Experience Hub, introducing vision impaired people to new and different activities and signposting them to service providers, so they can continue participating in those activities.

"I sometimes wake up in the morning and think, what am I going to do today? Getting back into the world, into an office and working with other people will be almost back to being the real me." - Client Volunteer

ANDEAN MEDICAL MISSION

£1200

**to raise awareness
of screening for
children in Bolivia**

“Our vision is their vision”. AMM focus on the elimination of avoidable blindness in the Bolivian Amazon by providing free ophthalmic surgery and medical intervention, providing training to doctors and nurses who manage eye emergencies, providing refraction and glasses in schools and immunising children against blinding diseases.

The Spectacle Makers’ Charity grant helped to raise awareness of a screening programme and fund screening of children for amblyopia and subsequent interventions to prevent blindness or low vision in this at-risk population. The aim is to screen all schools in 40 villages in Beni Bolivia and provide glasses and surgical correction for those children identified by the project.

The funding that Andean Medical Mission received from the Spectacle Makers’ Charity has already yielded results with many pairs of glasses distributed and 3 surgical interventions for children with congenital cataract who were operated on in June this year. All are doing well. The team also identified a little girl aged 2 who has a congenital ptosis and cannot open her eye, which they will correct.

Without this project which specifically looks for low vision in children, these children would almost definitely have been missed and their vision problems not identified until too late.



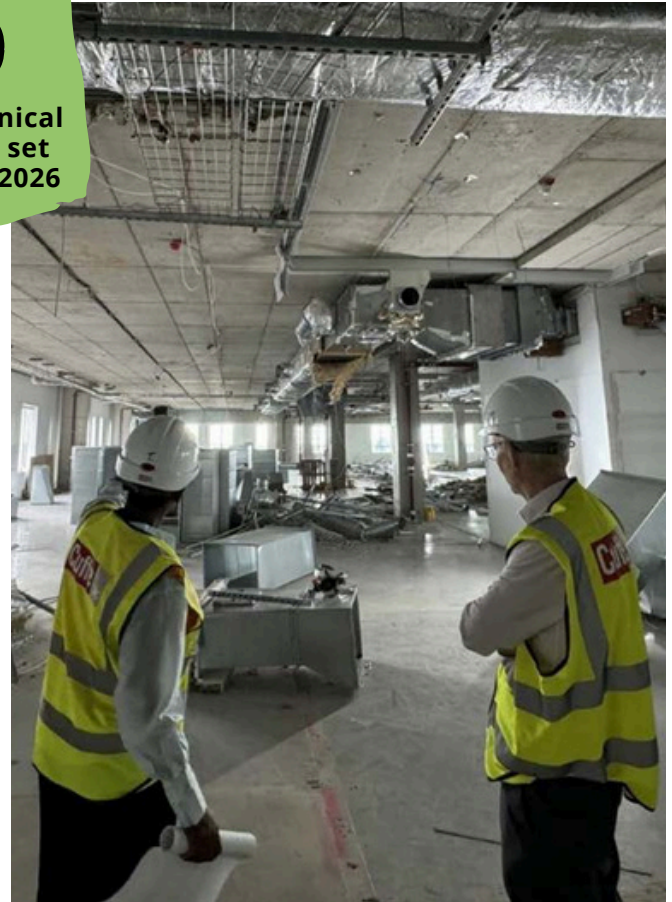
BARTS 900

£900

towards a new Clinical
Research Facility set
to open in Spring 2026

The Barts 900 Campaign is one of their most important appeals to date, to coincide with the 900th anniversary of St Bartholomew's Hospital. The goal is to raise over £30 million to fund two new world-class medical centres in East London that will serve residents and employers in the area, delivering local and global impact.

The new Clinical Research Facility will enable more life-changing research for people in East London and will help to ensure that all patients can access optimal treatment, including surgery, and have the opportunity to join potentially life-saving trials. Once opened, the Clinical Research



Facility will conduct clinical trials of conditions like diabetes, for which early diagnosis and treatment is important to prevent diabetic eye disease.

The facility promises to transform the lives of East Londoners by delivering much greater numbers of early phase research with the added benefit of overnight stays.

The facility is aiming to break ground in April 2025 and open from Spring 2026.

BLIND VETERANS UK

£900

towards a research project evaluating post-clinical rehabilitation support available to vision impaired people in the UK



The Spectacle Makers' Charity contributed funding for research commissioned by the VI Charity Sector Partnership, comprised of leading sight loss charities including Blind Veterans UK, Guide Dogs, RNIB, Thomas Pocklington Trust and Visionary.

The aim of this research project has been to a) understand the full extent of the challenges affecting the post clinical rehabilitation support currently available to visually impaired adults in the UK and b) explore how the efficacy of this support can be improved, the results of which have the potential to benefit the lives of the more than two million people living with sight loss in the UK currently.

The project is now fully underway and the timeframe will be two years, with a final report expected to be prepared for the Summer of 2026.

CALIBRE AUDIO

Sight loss is a life-changing condition that affects people's confidence and choice. For older people, having to rely on others, after a life of independence, can affect their self-esteem which may lead to anxiety and depression. Having access to a friendly, personalised service means that people are no longer excluded: their audiobooks bring choice, companionship and vital mental stimulation. Calibre's members can mentally travel wherever they wish, even if they need assistance physically. Calibre supports 37 active book groups for visually impaired people in the UK.

Audiobooks are provided via freepost through a memory stick service, as well as online via downloads and streaming.

Patrice, pictured, has sight and hearing challenges. She first heard about Calibre when she went to hospital. She got in touch with Calibre and received her first USB stick just a few days later. "I wish I could explain how much this means to me. Can you imagine living by yourself with sight and hearing loss, the days can feel very long. For me, the days aren't just shortened by books - they're transformed. I passed Calibre's details on to someone else and we've now struck up a firm friendship. This photo was taken yesterday at the "keep fit" class I now attend. Ann is with me. See how happy a blind, positive person can be? Thank you Calibre"



£1000

towards the provision of
audio books/news and
information services for
vision impaired people

HENSHAWS

Technology has become an indispensable part of modern life, changing the way we communicate and how children and young people are educated.

Having iPads with accessible Information Technology has opened up a wide range of opportunities for children and young people helped by Henshaws in the North of England. The grant for 2 iPads has helped these young people to feel more included and give them the opportunity to experience life like their peers.

The iPads have been used for both recreational and educational purposes, significantly contributing to the overall experience of the children and young people involved.

On the educational front, the iPads have become instrumental in creating a dynamic learning environment. Applications like Seeing AI, a feature that provides audio descriptions of the surrounding environment using artificial intelligence, allows children to expand their educational opportunities by enhancing accessibility and independence. Recreationally, the iPads have been used for engaging in games during events and downtime.

The iPads will continue to make this process easier and more interactive. Additionally, the iPads enable video and voice recording, allowing the children to express their thoughts and feelings in a more dynamic and personalised manner.



£868

**to purchase 2 iPads for
training young people
on independent living
apps**



£1500

to support better
eye health in
Bangladesh

IMPACT FOUNDATION

In rural parts of Bangladesh, where medical services are vastly inadequate to meet the needs of the population, IMPACT Bangladesh has a programme of community outreach to take the hospital to the people. With the help of the Spectacle Makers' Charity, IMPACT Bangladesh is making a substantial improvement to eye health in rural communities by combining medical care, outreach programs, preventative measures and community engagement.

The floating hospital, the Jibon Tari, traverses the many waterways in Bangladesh to reach remote areas. Cataract is a major cause of preventable visual impairment in the Bangladeshi adult population aged 40 years and older. The medical teams perform cataract operations whilst moored in a rural community and also at the community hospital in Chuadanga.

Alongside this, preventative measures include vision testing for students and training for teachers to conduct vision tests. The Charity's grant to Impact foundation is particularly helping to provide Vitamin A supplements for children to improve eye health.

MACS

With generous support from the Spectacle Makers' Charity, Microphthalmia, Anophthalmia and Coloboma Support (MACS) hosted its annual adventure trip from 29th July to 2nd August 2024 at the Calvert Trust in the Lake District. As the UK's only charity dedicated to supporting individuals born with no eyes or underdeveloped eyes, MACS organised this fully accessible, activity-focused week to help young people with these conditions build confidence, independence, and social connections.

The event welcomed 19 young members, aged 10-18, with the most participants being ages 11 and 14. The inclusive environment allowed all attendees to engage in tailored activities that encouraged them to challenge themselves and bond with peers facing similar experiences.

The trip was designed to create a safe and engaging environment where members could:

- Increase independence through diverse, accessible activities
- Strengthen community ties and reduce isolation
- Build self-confidence and feel accepted within a supportive group setting

This year's event demonstrated MACS' ability to create a supportive, fun environment where young people can thrive and connect with others facing similar challenges. Both MACS and the participants are proud of the positive impact and look forward to building on this success.



“The best days of my life!” - Teenager with MACS

MAGICAL TAXI TOUR

£1500
to fund one taxi for
the Magical Taxi
Tour

The Hackney Carriage Drivers' Charity Magical Taxi Tour is one of the City of London's most recognised and highly regarded charity events. It takes place in autumn each year when a convoy of licensed London taxis take over 200 children, suffering from a range of chronic debilitating illnesses and life limiting conditions, on a three-day trip of a lifetime to Disneyland Paris. The Magical Taxi Tour has bought moments of great joy and happiness to sick children. An important element is the extension of the invitation to a parent, carer and one or two siblings, whose own lives are inevitably governed by the many appointments and emergency situations that come with a diagnosis of this sort of serious health condition.



The convoy leaves Canary Wharf around 6.45am in the morning to reach the ferry service and can stretch over three miles long when running. It consists of 90-100 taxis, escorted by City of London Police and the French Gendarmerie Nationale, London Ambulance NHS Trust vehicles and AA breakdown trucks.

Organised annually by the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers' Charity Trust, this event is only possible with the help of sponsors who generously fund each taxi and associated costs necessary to meet the expenses of hotel, fuel, food, admission charges etc. The taxi drivers naturally give freely of their time and use of their vehicles.

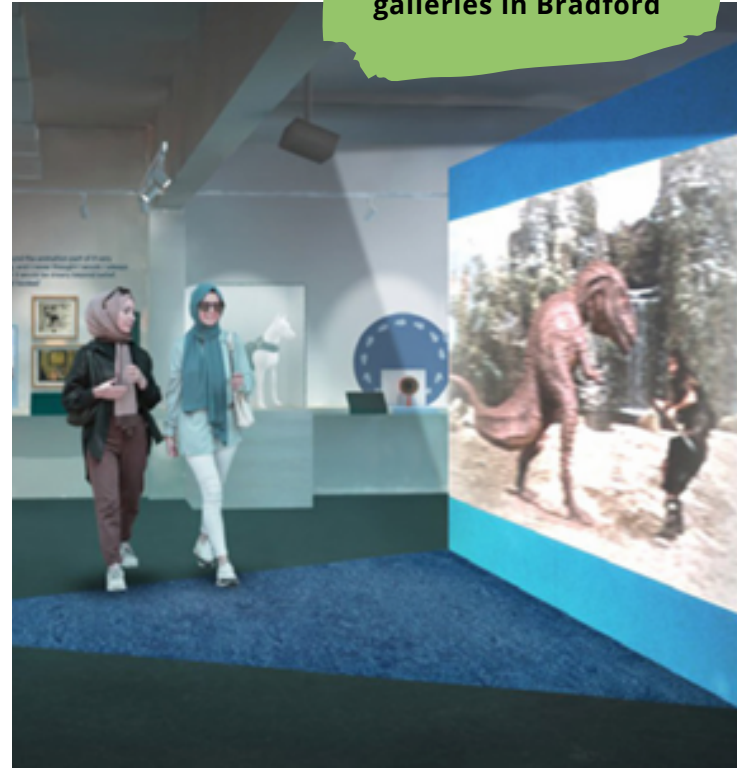
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND MEDIA MUSEUM

£3000

towards audio description for 2 new galleries in Bradford

The mission of the National Science and Media Museum is to inspire the next generation of scientists, inventors and engineers and to be open for all, helping everyone access science and feel science is for them.

With the support of the Spectacle Makers' Charity support, the Sound and Vision project and the Audio Description works will have a lasting legacy and permanent impact. Sound and Vision has accessibility at its heart. The project will completely remodel two floors of the building, the ground floor of the museum will be reconfigured, and an additional accessible passenger lift will be installed to enable all visitors to move around the building with ease.



Millions of visitors will have the opportunity to access and directly benefit from the Audio Descriptions across the lifetime of the galleries. Blind and partially-sighted people who may otherwise be unable to access the galleries will have the opportunity to experience and enjoy them at the same time as their peers. Furthermore, by funding the training and upskilling of staff, our grant will have a long-lasting impact not just for the Bradford museum but for the Science Museum Group as a whole, with learnings and best practice shared across all its sites. The skills developed will be utilised across all five museums in the Group, enabling the internal writing, recording and editing of Audio Guides for future exhibitions and galleries.

NEWCASTLE VISION SUPPORT

Newcastle Vision Support has been proudly serving visually impaired people in Newcastle since 1867. Over the past year the charity has run a fortnightly art group led by a fully qualified teacher.

All the attendees are visually impaired and enjoy coming to the group to try out new activities that they otherwise may not have been able to do.

The 50 people who have taken part so far have formed friendships which in turn has built their confidence and ability within art. The intention of the project is to reach and inspire 80 vision impaired participants each year.

£1000

to provide arts based activities to increase confidence and wellbeing



“In such a short period of time, I feel more confident within my daily life. I have seen improvements with my health and mental well-being, as well as making new friends and joining an everchanging community.” - Denise

ORBIS

Access to quality eye care is a pervasive challenge in Mongolia, affecting both urban and rural areas, due to scarce equipment, limited training and inadequate health infrastructure. Since 2009, when the resuscitation for low-birth weight infants was introduced, infants in Mongolia have faced a heightened risk of Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) - the leading cause of childhood blindness worldwide.

Infants in underserved rural areas are at particular risk of blindness and approximately 50% of premature births occur in rural districts. It is estimated that 40% of children that are blind, are blind from eye conditions that could have been prevented or managed if the child had access to eye care services.

Alongside a lack of capacity to treat and detect ROP, Orbis and their partners have also identified a lack of capacity to perform eye examinations on newborns and children, resulting in many children with vision-threatening eye diseases seeking treatment at a very late stage, when no treatment can save their sight.

Through their work in Mongolia, 41,628 babies were screened for retinopathy of prematurity, exceeding targets by 156%, as the partnership between Orbis and the Mongolian Health Ministry continues to save the sight of premature babies.



£3500
for paediatric eye
care in Mongolia

OXFORD HOSPITALS CHARITY



The Spectacle Makers' Charity grant has created a comprehensive and accessible video that offers crucial information, guidance, and support to patients and their families. This video is for patients of the Age-related Macular Degeneration service at the Oxford Eye Hospital, explaining the patient journey.

Looking forward, the team at Oxford Eye Hospital are working hard to collaborate with national eye charities and organisations. This includes the College of Optometrists and the Macular Society, with the aim of reaching as many people affected by AMD as possible. This video is not just an educational tool; it empowers those navigating the challenges of AMD, ensuring they are more involved and informed about their patient care pathway.

"We appreciate the Spectacle Makers' Charity funding and your commitment to enhancing the quality of life for individuals with AMD and other eye conditions. Your partnership has made a meaningful difference, and we will keep you updated on further developments."

ROYAL NATIONAL COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND

The RNC in Hereford enjoys lovely campus grounds, and improvements such as this canopy ensure we continue to encourage everyone to enjoy those outdoor spaces. We know how important it is for students to socialise and relax, and for those with eye conditions which makes sunlight particularly uncomfortable, this shade will allow students (and their guide dogs!) to sit outside, irrespective of the weather. Low level lighting and rain-proofing also mean that the canopies will provide a great meeting place well into the autumn.



£2000
to purchase
parasols for
outdoor activities

The RNC promotes physical activity in many forms and this latest grant from the Spectacle Makers' Charity supplements previous support for enjoyment and qualifications in sport. The canopy has proved such a success that RNC are now considering an additional sunshade for their newly created sensory garden.

SEEABILITY

The grant awarded by the Spectacle Makers' Charity was used in SeeAbility's Eye Care and Vision Easy Eye Care pathway in South East London.

The pathway supports practices in providing eye care adaptations for people with learning disabilities and autism, including longer sight tests, multiple appointments, and information in an 'easy read' format.

Eye Care Champions Grace and Lance have lived experience of learning disabilities and autism. The pathway supports eyecare practices in providing eye care adaptations for people with learning disabilities and autism, including longer sight tests, multiple appointments and information in "easy read" and other formats.

Twenty percent of London now has access to the service. SeeAbility has sent information about the service to GP practices, pharmacies, advocacy groups and support/service provided for people with learning disabilities.

£1500
supporting development
& roll-out of an Easy Eye
Care pathway for people
with learning disabilities



SIGHT LOSS SHROPSHIRE

Between 1st June 2023 and 10th June 2024 Sight Loss Shropshire successfully delivered six Living Well with Sight Loss courses over the phone (with 4 sessions per course, lasting 90 minutes each) and five face-to-face courses (consisting of 2 days per course). 118 participants enjoyed the courses learning about daily living tips, mobility training, local and national sight loss services, peer support opportunities, advice on wellbeing and much more. The groups included teenagers, people of working age, as well as retired people. The courses were delivered by the Charity Manager and supported by volunteers who are partially or severely sight impaired themselves. Over the last 12 months volunteers have contributed 185 hours of service.

Lorna had worn glasses from a very young age,. She was 10 when she was diagnosed with macular and cone dystrophy. "School was particularly difficult when the pandemic and my sight loss clashed. Online learning wasn't great for me. I only had my phone at the time, so we had to buy an iPad." Lorna found it difficult to get through college. Then, she had an accident, which completely knocked her confidence in going out by herself. She was referred to a "Living Well with Sight Loss" course by her ECLO . The course helped her access cane training and she has now started the journey towards getting a guide dog and is looking at new college options.

Living Well with Sight Loss forms a great basis for a range of advice and tips, which suits most people with sight loss: there is something in these courses for everyone! The impact can be on an emotional, social or practical level. The courses also provide great value for money and will remain a firm part of Sight Loss Shropshire's services going ahead.



£1500
towards living well
with sight loss
courses

£1000

towards screening and
provision of spectacles
for children in
Colombia

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

In March 2024, the Spectacle Makers' Charity generously awarded £1,000 to the Eyes on the Future project in Colombia. The grant has enabled 10 children whose initial eye screenings suggested a need for glasses to attend their follow-up appointments and receive their eyewear.

The Eyes on the Future project aims to bring free eyecare to the children supported by SOS Children's Villages, beginning in Colombia. These children may face multiple barriers to accessing appropriate healthcare, whether they are growing up in alternative care, or in the surrounding communities where SOS Children's Villages work.

Through Eyes on the Future, children receive free and professional vision screening to identify any problems while their eyes are still developing. Glasses are then provided to the children who need them, boosting their self confidence, school performance and enabling them to reach their full potential.



THE GURU PROJECTS FOUNDATION



The Guru Projects Foundation aims to pool together resources, knowledge and talent to address causes of reversible blindness in low-income countries.

In September 2023 a team from The Guru Projects Foundation travelled to the Hospital Universitario Erasmo Meoz in the City of Cucuta, Northern Colombia, following on from the success of the foundation's inaugural trip to Colombia earlier in February 2023. The mission was simple; to provide life-changing eye surgery on people who would not normally have access to this kind of healthcare.

The team delivered a successful programme of teaching medical students at the University of Santander. The team comprised of eight volunteers who in total worked on 548 patients assisting with the following: 106 Cataract surgery patients, 82 Pterygium surgery patients, 75 Blepharoplasty patients, 7 Secondary lens patients, 3 Ptosis surgery patients and 1 Entropion surgery patient.

£2000
towards funds for
IOLs and medication
for a surgery project
in South America

TIME BANKS UK

£3000

towards rolling out
an accessible scheme
including vision
impaired people

Timebanking is a way of exchanging skills without any money changing hands. For every hour of helping someone, a participant earns an hour back. Time Banks UK was keen to roll out a scheme accessible to all, including vision impaired people. In the last 6 months, they have grown the membership to 57, nearly double that of their initial pilot. The most popular activity for time exchanges is Information Technology. This is enabling levelling-up and greater inclusivity to ensure that people with visual impairment are able to be connected with their families, friends and local communities. Through exchanging time on improving IT skills Timesight has enabled members with visual impairment to share their IT knowledge and skills and help others stay connected.

Timesight has also been able to help improve access to sports, leisure and culture for vision-impaired people. Timebanking UK has been working with colleges to encourage students, living with disabilities, to think about how timebanking could be deployed between them to improve their health and wellbeing. Working in partnership with England & Wales Blind Golf, a partner of Timebanking UK, Timesight was able to offer a Have A Go Day for students with visual impairments at a golfing centre.

Timebanking UK will continue to develop Timesight and work with members to co-produce the time exchanges that they find most beneficial to them.



VISION ACTION

£4000

to fund vision screening and treatment for children in Ghana

Vision Action (formerly Vision Aid Overseas) is a long-established charity and many Spectacle Makers over the years have supported the charity individually.

The goal of Vision Action's Scaling-up Community-based Primary Eye Care Project in Northern Ghana project is to achieve better health and education outcomes for children in Ghana through a reduction in the prevalence of visual impairment (VI). Specifically, the intervention will:

- Improve the availability and accessibility of Primary Eye Care (PEC) services.
- Improve eye health knowledge and awareness among children and teachers to inspire timely and appropriate health-seeking behavior.
- Improve infrastructure for PEC and refractive error services.

This is a 3 year project. The grant given by the Spectacle Makers' Charity covered 6 months, during which a total of 91 schools were visited for outreach reaching about 11,745 pupils and teachers with vision screening and screening for other non-refractive conditions. Eighty eight pupils were refracted and prescribed spectacles. These were produced at the Vision Centre at the Bolgatanga Regional Hospital for delivery to schools in September, when children returned after the school holidays.

The project intends to make PEC services available and accessible in the community beyond the project implementation period. 1,257 people have received services since April 2024



VISION 2020 LINKS

£10 062

**towards Year 2 funding
for a Glaucoma toolkit
for Sub-Saharan Africa**

Low and middle-income countries experience the vast majority of vision impairment, but have a significantly lower proportion of trained healthcare professionals to deal with the problem.

The VISION 2020 LINKS & Networks Programme, aims to build long-term partnerships between eye care institutions in the UK and low and middle-income countries.

With the increasing demand for services there is a need to provide standard pathways of care for glaucoma patients with guidelines for health and allied health professionals. Such guidelines have been developed into the Glaucoma Toolkit and this is now being rolled out across Nigeria.



This is the second year of a major 3 year grant commitment to Vision 2020 Links, to support their work on the ground to reduce blindness from glaucoma in Sub-Saharan Africa and support Glaucoma-NET in Nigeria. Glaucoma-NET was established in 2021 to improve the diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma, with the aim of preserving the sight of people with glaucoma through knowledge-sharing and development of clinical services. The LINKS Programme team is working alongside technical lead glaucoma specialist Dr Fatima Kyari, who is based in Abuja, Nigeria and at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and it is being run along similar lines to similar existing networks for diabetic retinopathy and retinoblastoma.

WATERLOO UNCOVERED

A grant of £2,000 from the Spectacle Makers' Charity was given for the Waterloo Uncovered 2023 Finds Programme, which supported 12 Veterans based in the Midlands.

Waterloo Uncovered provided in-person as well as online sessions which allowed veterans who are not so tech-savvy to get involved. The in-person sessions have been excellent, and all the participants were very engaged. All of the programmes are designed to reduce loneliness, which is a factor that significantly impacts veterans' mental health.

The Finds Programme was excellent at helping to reduce isolation for beneficiaries. The sessions served to physically bring people together, and the Midlands was targeted for these sessions to recruit veterans who have not had access to programmes like this before, or to any type of archaeology before! This region is very large and public transport or internet is not easily available for many of the beneficiaries involved, so the chance to be involved in a project like this was amazing.

Roger, 72, got the opportunity to handle finds from the Waterloo Battlefield and take part in a variety of skill-building activities. Roger felt that the Finds Programme improved his wellbeing, and helped him achieve his goals of learning more about military history and building relationships with his fellow veterans.

**"I'm 72 years old and nothing has ever sparked my interest like this programme has."
- Roger**



£2000
for veterans to be involved in interpreting, cataloguing and conserving archaeological finds

YPAG



A Young Persons Advisory Group (YPAG) for eye and vision research which was established at Moorfields Eye Hospital in 2019 and now meets 3-4 times a year on a Saturday. It is open to young patients, friends and family and makes sure information about research is child-and young people friendly.

In the summer of 2024, five members of the Moorfields eye-YPAG, a group facilitator and three parents attended the annual summit of the international Children's Advisory Network (iCAN).

The YPAG group presented their work with myopia researchers, co-moderated two workshop sessions and took part in an activity to crown the winning logo for a new clinical trial that will open at Moorfields and sites across UK and Europe in autumn 2024.

BURSARY AWARDS

The Spectacle Makers' Charity bursary scheme is open to students of optometry, dispensing, ophthalmic Imaging, orthoptics and ophthalmic nursing. Each bursary winner has to provide a report and the best report this year was provided by Jemini Kotchia.

Jemini said: "I am the first to attend university in my entire family on both sides and I always dreamed of making a difference to society – even if that is making someone smile!



In 2019, I graduated with a 2:1 in BSc Ophthalmic Dispensing from Anglia Ruskin University. I then applied for pre-registration at Specsavers Hackney. However, my experience was influenced by the coronavirus pandemic, and I became part of my area critical care team assisting my colleagues in triaging emergency appointments. I realised then that I wanted to go on and study but I would have to use all my savings. In 2021, I enrolled on the optometry course at Anglia Ruskin University.

In my second year at university I had to overcome some challenges, which knocked my confidence at the time, but it led to character building and allowed to me to develop strategies for my learning. I really appreciated how all my lecturers were trailblazers within our industry and inspired me to make a real difference to patients in my clinic and how they went above and beyond selflessly to find solutions. Additionally, the educational staff challenged every decision we made to challenge our reasoning and to deepen our understanding."

Jemini has recently graduated and has started her scheme for registration year. She used the bursary towards the costs of an ophthalmoscope and retinoscope set.

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

£1000

helping an
ophthalmologist in
training

As well as bursaries for undergraduate students aiming for a career in eye health, the Charity offers some funding for travel or professional development, to progress the career of young ophthalmologists. One award was made this year, to Jeremy Tan.

Jeremy said: "I attended the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) conference in Seattle from May 5-9, 2024, supported by a travel award from the Spectacle Makers' Charity. The conference brought together leading researchers, clinicians, and experts in the field of ophthalmology and vision science to present and share their work on their latest research findings.



During the conference, I presented my research on the use of microperimetry in intermediate Age-Related Macular Degeneration (iAMD). Late stage AMD is a significant contributor to visual impairment and blindness in the elderly population. My presentation focused on how we can develop better tools to detect the progression of iAMD to late stage AMD in patients. I specifically presented on novel ways of analysing microperimetry data. Microperimetry is a type of visual field test that allows visual stimuli to be delivered to specific locations on the retina by compensating for eye movements throughout the examination and in different lighting conditions.

I had a great experience at ARVO 2024, and am grateful to the Spectacle Makers' Charity for supporting my trip there."



THE SPECTACLE MAKERS' CHARITY

**You can help the Spectacle Makers' Charity continue to
make a difference by donating at
[https://www.spectaclemakers.com/charity/how-to-give-to-
the-spectacle-makers-charity](https://www.spectaclemakers.com/charity/how-to-give-to-the-spectacle-makers-charity)
or using the QR code below**



THANK YOU

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Email: charity@spectaclemakers.com

Website: <https://www.spectaclemakers.com/>



We are a registered charity in England and Wales number 1186122.