



The **Fred Hollows**
Foundation | 護瞳行動



HONG KONG

WINTER 2016

**A BRIGHTER
FUTURE**



PROGRAM UPDATE



WORD FROM THE HEAD OF HONG KONG DR ANSON WONG

I am honoured to become The Fred Hollows Foundation's founding Head of Hong Kong. The Fred Hollows Foundation is a leading charity in Australia established in 1992, which envisions a world in which no one is needlessly blind.

The Foundation's new regional office in Hong Kong will allow us to reach the increasing number of needlessly blind people in the Asia region, especially in mainland China, where 20 per cent of the world's blind live. Restoring sight and changing lives is what motivates our staff in more than 25 countries every day.

Hong Kong is a dynamic city with a strong culture of philanthropy and charitable giving. We raise awareness of avoidable blindness and eye health, and support cutting edge research through close partnerships with local organizations, academic institutions and corporates. We would also like to investigate how we can partner with major corporates to leverage their support and mobilize resources to strengthen our work in Asia.

Professor Fred Hollows, Founder of The Fred Hollows Foundation, believed it was important to establish services and train people in the community so they could take control. As he put it: "You have to impart skills and technology, and help them help themselves. Leave the world a better place." Let's help Fred's dream live on!



SUPPORT FOR EYE CARE PROJECT IN YUNNAN PROVINCE

China has the greatest burden of avoidable blindness with almost 20 per cent of the world's blind population.

The Fred Hollows Foundation is honoured to have support from the Standard Chartered Bank in launching the "Seeing is Believing Phase V Project: A Comprehensive Rural Eye Care Model in Yunnan Province".

Working together with The Yunnan Red Cross Hospital, the project will benefit 2 million people across six areas of the province.

The three year, RMB\$7 million project is community-based, and will provide eye health education, training for medical staff, and improved eye health facilities.

Recently commissioned research from PwC found that for every US\$1 invested in ending avoidable blindness, there is on average a US\$4 economic benefit for a country.

This proves that avoidable blindness is more than just a health problem, it's an issue which deserves the attention of society.



RESTORE SIGHT. CHANGE LIVES. EVERY MONTH.

The Fred Hollows Foundation is reaching out to the community by launching our street fundraising team. This team allows The Foundation to effectively engage with the public and work towards achieving our aim of ending avoidable blindness.

More than 32 million people are blind worldwide. We work in more than 25 countries to help communities achieve

long-term, sustainable, eye health solutions. So far, we have restored sight to more than 2 million people.

For as little as HKD\$150, individuals can join The Foundation's efforts to restore sight and change lives.

Visit our web page for more information on how to support our work: www.hollows.org/hk



PHOTO: MICHAEL AMENDOLIA

A MUSIC TEACHER'S BRIGHTER FUTURE

Zengbou Li is 87 but thanks to The Foundation, he now has the eyes of a 20-year-old. Three years ago, the world of the music teacher from Lancang County in south western China began to dim, as cataracts started clouding his eyes.

It saddened Zengbou that he couldn't see his students' faces during his lessons teaching the lu sheng, a reed instrument made of bamboo.

"I could only hear them talking," he said ruefully. He despaired he wouldn't be able to keep his culture alive for a new generation. He took great pride in the fact that his ethnic group, the Lahu, still danced in folk costumes to the music of the lu sheng.

But luckily, Zengbou was found by the screening team of Lancang's First People Hospital, and brought in for surgery. Dr Xianguo Shi, the Foundation-trained surgeon who performed the operation, said 30 to 40 per cent of the

population have cataract, and that's a conservative estimate. "Some people live in very remote areas, and it can be difficult for them to come to the hospital, so the prevalence rates might be a lot higher."

The Foundation is determined to train more eye doctors in rural areas of China, where 50 per cent of the population live, as well as upgrade hospitals and clinics.

"I'm always touched to see patients able to take care of themselves after having their sight restored," Dr Shi said.

Just like Zengbou, it gives them a second chance at a fulfilling life. That's something that would have made Fred proud.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Zengbou:



THE FRED HOLLOWS FOUNDATION HAS BEEN WORKING IN CHINA FOR 17 YEARS. THE COUNTRY HAS THE HIGHEST BURDEN OF AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS IN THE WORLD.

OUR GLOBAL IMPACT

The Fred Hollows Foundation has been established for more than two decades and is working in more than 25 countries worldwide. We set up our Hong Kong office in 2015 with the aim of reaching out to the increasing number of needlessly blind people in the Asia region. Last year, thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we continued to grow in all areas of our work.

In 2015, The Fred Hollows Foundation:

- Supported 890,066 eye operations and treatments
- Treated more than 8 million people with antibiotics for trachoma
- Trained more than 64,000 people, from highly-skilled ophthalmologists to nurses, community health workers and teachers
- Delivered HK\$14.4 million worth of medical equipment
- Educated more than 3.7 million school children and community members in eye health

In China we screened 486,462 people and performed 167,440 eye operations and treatments including 4,292 cataract surgeries. We also distributed 17,367 pairs of glasses to school students.

"If Fred was alive today, I know he would be blown away by the amount of work that has been done by The Foundation," Founding Director Gabi Hollows said.

Scan the QR code to learn more about our global impact:



Gabi Hollows AO
Founding Director of The Fred Hollows Foundation
and wife of the late Professor Fred Hollows.



The Fred Hollows
Foundation | 護瞳行動

THE FRED HOLLOWES FOUNDATION HONG KONG OFFICE

Address: Room 811, 8/F, OfficePlus @Prince Edward, 794-802 Nathan Road, Prince Edward, Hong Kong
Phone: +852 3480 9118 | Email: hkinfo@hollows.org | Web: www.hollows.org/hk

