



OPERATION EYESIGHT™ U N I V E R S A L

For All The World To See

"Let me not live for self alone, but inspire me to live for all."

- From: Homage Unto Ahura Mazda by Dasturji M. N. Dhalla

March 21, 2008.

Dear fellow Zoroastrian,

Nowrooz Mubarak to you and yours.

At this time of year, many of us choose to celebrate the New Year by giving to those less fortunate. It is harder to imagine someone less fortunate than a child born in a developing country who has started off life blind. According to the United Nations statistics, a blind baby has a 60 per cent chance of dying before the age of five. Close to 99 per cent of the blind girls in poor countries will never receive an education, thus ensuring they live out their lives in a cycle of poverty and suffering. It is through our support of Operation Eyesight, that we break this cycle of disease resulting in poverty, restoring sight and preventing blindness among the world's most vulnerable citizens.

One such success story is of a baby girl, Ikara Shaikh, and her family. She was born into a poor family who recently immigrated to the slums of Pune. Her parents chose to move to the city in the hopes of giving their daughters a better future. Living in the slums may seem to you and me like a step backwards, but for Irka's family it was a step forward. Luckily for them, Operation Eyesight has a primary health care program running in the Kagadipura slums. Ikra's family was first visited by a community health worker, who saw the problem with her eyes, and told the parents that there was hope for their situation. To ensure an accurate diagnosis, Ikra was brought to the pediatric ophthalmologist who serves the slum on behalf of OEU. At the age of two months old, congenital cataracts were confirmed and the doctor and health care worker consulted the parents on a course of treatment. Although initially apprehensive, the family came to trust the medical team and understand that surgery was the best way to ensure a brighter future for their baby, so Ikra was scheduled to undergo the procedure at the Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital.



The surgery was a complete success and Ikra's parents were able to look into their daughter's eyes for the first time. Their older daughter Hashmin, who also suffered with blindness since her birth, was scheduled to have the same surgery. Ikra's parents conveyed to the hospital staff a heart-felt "**Shukiya**" – "**Thank you**" - to all who made this possible. They had not imagined that their daughters' lives could be transformed by people living on the other side of the world. They are

grateful that both girls have a new lease on life and get a chance to grow up as normal, healthy, happy children.

Through annual donations to Operation Eyesight, the Zoroastrian community has made stories like this a reality for countless families who would otherwise have no hope for their children. Individuals and businesses in our community give sight each year to dozens of blind men, women and children. This is a wonderful way to begin the New Year. I hope you will take this opportunity to make a donation and support Operation Eyesight. There are still so many people struggling with the cycle of poverty and blindness. We can make a critical difference in many lives through our generosity and kindness. Please join me in supporting this humanitarian work, and send in your gift today.

USHTA TE, Thank you



Jamshid Jam

P.S.

When you give to Operation Eyesight, you help children see a brighter tomorrow. We hope you will continue to support our vital work.

Yes, I would like to help with the work of Operation Eyesight. Enclosed is my contribution of \$30 (or \$_____)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone: () _____

Payment by: Cheque ____ or Credit card: Visa ____ Amex ____ MC ____

Card# _____ Expiry date: (MM-YYYY) _____

Signature: _____ 08ZMAR

To donate online visit: www.operationeyesight.com This is a secure website.

To donate over the phone, please call 1-800-585-8265 or 416-438-7280

You can also spread out your contribution over the year by becoming a monthly donor.

If there is no envelope attached, please send your gift to: Operation Eyesight Universal
2100 Ellesmere Road, Suite 323, Scarborough, ON M1H 3B7.

(Our charitable registration number is 11906 8955 RR0001)