

RESTORE SIGHT · SHARE VISION
VISION CARE

KAOS / Vision Care at the 2024 AAO Conference



Earlier this month, Vision Care USA and the Korean American Ophthalmology Society (KAOS) gathered at Vu Rooftop Bar during the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) conference in Chicago to network and to celebrate Vision Care’s sight-restoring work worldwide.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and made the event a huge success!

Q & A with Sightshare

In this month’s e-newsletter, we are excited to introduce **Sightshare**, a dynamic student-led organization that recently supported our sight-restoring Vision Eye Camp in Morocco. Below is a Q&A with Sightshare, where they discuss their mission and recent fundraising efforts.



Tell me about your organization Sightshare and how you came to start this student-led group.

Sightshare is a youth-led organization that aims to raise awareness for visually impaired individuals and assist them around the globe. The co-founder, Jiwon Lee, underwent eye surgery at a young age—a scary experience for a young girl. However, her mother’s unwavering emotional support, day and night, helped Jiwon endure the fear and anxiety of the procedure. Inspired by this experience, Jiwon hopes to do the same for others going through similar eye surgeries, encouraging them and providing emotional support through Sightshare.

In addition to her own experience, Jiwon and her sibling, Junseo, were influenced by their best friend’s mother, who was blind. When visiting her friend, they noticed that some peers made negative comments about her blindness. This prompted them to question why such behavior occurred. Jiwon and Junseo believed that the strong youth group could have a powerful impact on such issues, and they realized that it could be mitigated with better education about visual impairment and visually impaired individuals. All of these experiences sparked the idea to start Sightshare, which focuses on educating others about visual impairment and assisting visually impaired youths around the world.



What attracted you to Vision Care and how have you been able to support its mission?

Sightshare sees Vision Care as an organization with a shared vision: viewing visual impairment as a global issue that can be prevented. Both organizations believe in this vision and initiate various services around the world.

One of Vision Care's initiatives is the Vision Eye Camps, which offer ophthalmological treatment and surgical services to people in countries with underdeveloped medical infrastructure. This initiative attracted Sightshare because it aligns with our mission of bridging the gap in health disparities in different countries.

Brayden Choi, the founding partner and the Head of Finance in Sightshare, has spearheaded fundraising efforts through the Youth Volunteers Organization (YVO). YVO organizes special fundraisers, such as the sale of food, drinks, and various accessories, to raise funds for non-profit organizations like Sightshare. Notably, during regional and state Kendo competitions, the organization capitalized on the occasion by setting up venues and selling Korean snacks and meals. Furthermore, various high school clubs contribute to the fundraising efforts by selling snacks, photographs, and handmade crafts to support Sightshare's mission and their partnered organizations who share the same vision. The funds raised recently in Sightshare will be directed to the Vision Eye Camps to provide essential eye care and treatments to those in need.



Tell me about Sightshare's future goals, and how you hope to continue your partnership with Vision Care.

Sightshare aims to broaden its reach and provide services worldwide. It has already provided medical infrastructure in African communities, but Sightshare hopes to expand its support to communities across all seven continents. Beyond its global support efforts, Sightshare is also committed to educating youth about eye health and visual impairment to raise awareness, giving them guidance on preventing serious vision issues and giving opportunities for youths to learn about visually impaired community. To further its mission, it has created various chapters in many high schools across the United States and hopes to grow further to reach more students about essential lessons. We also plan to implement programs that allow students to connect directly with the visually impaired community.

In the future, Sightshare intends to strengthen its partnership with Vision Care to continue preventing visual impairment worldwide. By providing more funding to those in need, Sightshare seeks to help individuals take critical steps to prevent severe eye damage, visual impairment and blindness.

2024 Eye Camp & PTC Schedules

2024 Eye Camp Schedule

Eye Camp No.	Location/Country	Date
361	Pakistan (Lahore)	Feb 12 - 16
362	Morocco (Fnideq)	April 29 - May 3
363	Mongolia (Bayan-Olgii)	June 3 - 7
364	Guatemala (Peten)	July 1 - July 5
365	Zimbabwe (Harare)	July 1 - July 5
366	Vanuatu (Tanna)	August 26 - 30
367	Cambodia (Phnom Penh)	August 26 - 30
368	Pakistan (Lahore)	Sept 16 - 20
369	Kyrgyzstan (Kara Balta)	Sept 30 - Oct 4
370	Mozambique (Maputo)	Oct 7 - 11
371	Peru	Mid-October
372	The Philippines (Angeles)	Oct 23 - 28
373	Morocco (Marrakech)	Oct 28 - Nov 1
374	Morocco (Kelaat M'gouna)	Nov 4 - 8
375	Mauritania (Nouakchott)	Nov 11 - Nov 15
376	Cambodia (Battambang)	December

2024 PTC Schedule

PTC Phase	Location/Country	Key Dates
2023 PTC 1	Ethiopia (Addis Ababa)	January
2023 PTC 2	Ethiopia (Addis Ababa)	February
2023 PTC 3	Ethiopia (Addis Ababa)	March
2023 PTC 4	Ethiopia (Addis Ababa)	July
2024 PTC 1	Tanzania (Dar es Salaam)	May
2024 PTC 2	Tanzania (Zanzibar)	June
2024 PTC 3	Tanzania (Dar es Salaam)	September
2024 PTC 4	Tanzania (Dar es Salaam)	November

Give the Gift of Sight

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