



MEDIA RELEASE

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VALLEY VISION OPTOMETRY RAISES AWARD-WINNING AMOUNT FOR EYE CHARITY

Port Alberni, BC - [April 10 2019] — Local optometrist, Dr. Shaun Golemba and Dr. Ryan Trottier and the staff members of Valley Vision Optometry, have been acknowledged by Optometry Giving Sight as Double Diamond award level fundraisers, thanks to their efforts during the 2018 World Sight Day Challenge.

The doctors and staff raised funds during the month of October for World Sight Day 2018 by holding a fundraiser and donating a day of eye exam fees. This money will be used to support sustainable eye care projects in underserved communities around the world, helping people who are needlessly blind or vision impaired and in urgent need of eye care.

“We are delighted to have received a Double Diamond award,” said Dr. Golemba.

“I have supported Optometry Giving Sight for over 9 years and am proud to donate to such a worthwhile cause. The World Sight Day Challenge is a great way to help support the millions of people who don’t have access to the basic eye care that we can take for granted.”

Optometry Giving Sight is committed to supporting programs focusing on training local eye care professionals so that people in need will have access to sustainable eye care from within their own community.

For example, Optometry Giving Sight helped to support the first locally trained optometry graduates in Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. Up until now there were only 10 practicing optometrists in all of Uganda, all trained overseas, to look after a large population of 39.5 million. Together with supporters and the new graduates, optometry development is set to bring great changes in eye health in Uganda.

For more information about Optometry Giving Sight, visit www.givingsight.org



Notes to Editor:

World Sight Day is an annual day of awareness held on the second Thursday of October to focus global attention on blindness and vision impairment. It is coordinated by the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) and is supported by eye health organizations around the world – including Optometry Giving Sight – and is included on the official World Health Organization (WHO) calendar.

The World Sight Day Challenge is a major fundraising campaign coordinated by Optometry Giving Sight.

Optometry Giving Sight is a global fundraising initiative that specifically targets the prevention of blindness and impaired vision due to uncorrected refractive error (URE) – simply the need for an eye examination and glasses.

Optometry Giving Sight was established in 2003 by the Brien Holden Vision Institute, the World Council of Optometry, and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness as a means of mobilizing support from the global eye care profession and the industry to help people who are needlessly blind or vision-impaired. Optometry Giving Sight is a registered charity in Canada, the USA, Australia and Italy. The organization also works in partnership with Vision Aid Overseas.

In addition to projects that train people in developing countries to become degree and diploma qualified optometrists, Optometry Giving Sight funds projects that increase access to vision care for children.

Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation is the implementing partner supported by Optometry Giving Sight.

How donations can help in developing countries:

- \$1,000 – Help provide glasses for 200 children
- \$2,000 – Clinical equipment kit to provide outreach services
- \$3,000 – Upskill clinical staff to provide eye examinations for children
- \$4,000 – Train 100 teachers to conduct child eye health screenings
- \$5,000 – Sponsor a school eye health screening for 2,000 children
- \$10,000 – Purchase equipment to set up a clinical eye health examination room