



*Press Release
For immediate release*

February is the IRIS Mundial month for a sixteenth year

Laval, January 30, 2023 – IRIS Mundial is proud to announce that, for a sixteenth year, the organization will benefit from an annual fundraising campaign organized by IRIS, The Visual Group, its main partner. Founded in 2001 by Dr. Jean-Pierre Tchang, Optometrist, the organization aims to improve the visual health of disadvantaged people in developing countries giving them access to ophthalmic services.

The campaign will be held throughout the month of February in IRIS stores across Canada. For each pair of glasses sold during the month, \$10 will be donated to the organization. The IRIS Ophthalmology Clinic also agreed to donate \$25 per eye surgery performed. IRIS Mundial also appeals to the public by giving them the chance to give a second life to their glasses; IRIS stores will give every pair of used glasses they receive from the public to IRIS Mundial. These efforts will enable disadvantaged individuals to obtain eye exams, eyeglasses and ocular surgeries. Since 2008, IRIS stores, with the participation of the IRIS Ophthalmology Clinic, have donated more than \$1,311,900 to IRIS Mundial, including \$92,160 in 2022. The goal for 2023 is to reach \$95,000.

“Thanks to the constant support of the public and IRIS The Visual Group, we can continue to offer quality visual care to the most disadvantaged through our projects. Thank you so much for helping to change their lives!”, says Johanne de Champlain, chairwoman of IRIS Mundial.

The donations collected to date have resulted in the establishment of three Programs for the Prevention and Fight against Blindness (PPFB) in Haiti and in Senegal. For several years, these initiatives have enabled adults and children in the targeted areas to have access to a comprehensive quality eye care system. IRIS Mundial's support to its partners takes many forms, from the construction or rehabilitation of community eye clinics, to financial and equipment support, as well as continuing education in the field of eye care.

In addition to its three permanent programs, IRIS Mundial has completed 24 one-time projects around the world. Typically, some 30 Canadian volunteers (optometrists, opticians, ophthalmologists and others) participate in these one-time projects and work with local professionals to provide visual care to 2,000 people. The purpose of these projects is to identify the most common oculo-visual problems, as well as to assess the needs and also the possibility of implementing a permanent program at these sites in the future.

According to the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), 75% of visual impairments throughout the world are avoidable with access to glasses or surgeries and that 89% of visually impaired people live in developing countries.

About IRIS Mundial

IRIS Mundial is an international cooperation organization whose mission is to provide quality preventive and curative optometric, optical and ophthalmological services to populations in developing countries and to people in need in Canada. Since 2001, IRIS Mundial has set up 3 permanent programs in Haiti and Senegal in addition to carrying out 23 training missions and 24 one-time projects mainly in Haiti and Peru, but also in Senegal, Mexico, Benin, Mozambique and

India. IRIS Mundial projects have helped more than 102,000 people and more than 1,000 people have benefited from surgery. IRIS Mundial helps thousands of people to better see the world!

IRIS Mundial – Video of the last 3 projects (2016-2018)
<https://irismundial.ca/en/video-one-time-projects/>

To donate or give your used frames to IRIS Mundial, visit the nearest IRIS store: <https://iris.ca/en/find-a-store>

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