

25 February 2025



**You have the power to save sight.
You could be the difference between sight and
blindness for a person like John.**

Glaucoma doesn't come with a warning. It sneaks in, unnoticed.

That was the case for John who features in your latest copy of Eyalights. He thought his eyesight was fine. No symptoms. No problems. Until one day, out of nowhere, he was diagnosed with glaucoma.

The shock was so great, he fainted.

As a member of Glaucoma NZ, you appreciate the value of glaucoma awareness and the importance of regular eye health checks. Thank you for your passion and commitment in supporting a person like John. I know you also appreciate that **there's more to be done.**

I can tell you of phone calls I've personally received from distressed New Zealanders with similar experiences. Out of the blue, they've been told that some sight in one eye is gone. **They learn too late** that when glaucoma steals sight, the sight is lost forever.

Today, **my hope is that you'll help a person like this learn about glaucoma** before a frightening diagnosis. Particularly through glaucoma education and awareness initiatives.

Approaching five years as General Manager of Glaucoma NZ, I still witness a high level of anxiety from newly diagnosed members. This is the result of a **late diagnosis due to a lack of awareness.** And overwhelming **fear due to a lack of knowledge.**

You have the power to save sight and allay fear. **A donation from you could be the difference between sight and blindness** for a person like John. Your gift could mean an early diagnosis, stopping glaucoma from stealing any more of their sight.

As you know, with the nature of glaucoma, **we need to act before it's too late.**

Can you [donate](#) to stop glaucoma stealing sight from a person like John? Every little bit helps.

please turn over

When I spoke to John at the end of last year, he explained how glaucoma stole his sight. ***“It was undetected over such a long period of time”*** he said. *“My eye on the right side adjusted so I didn’t notice anything was amiss.”*

Sadly, like John, around half of New Zealanders who have glaucoma are unaware they have it. This is where you and I can help. This is where a gift to Glaucoma NZ could help.

Can you [donate](#) to save the sight of a person who is unaware they live with glaucoma? Before it’s too late? It could be your family member, friend, neighbour or colleague.

You can make them aware of their risk. Don’t let them learn too late that, when glaucoma steals their sight, it’s lost forever.

Like you, John now knows the value of glaucoma education and awareness. *“When I told my colleagues that I had glaucoma, I wasn’t nervous about it at all. I think I was probably conscious that I needed to get this information out because I didn’t know about it, and I got caught. I didn’t want anybody else to get caught”.*

You know the dangers of glaucoma. You know that it can steal the sight of your family, friends, neighbours and colleagues. **A gift to Glaucoma NZ for education and awareness could help them.**

Thank you again for being a member of Glaucoma NZ. Your support means the world to us. Your help to encourage an early glaucoma diagnosis is becoming more and more crucial. Education and awareness are the answer.

Will you help before it’s too late?

You have the power to help a person keep their sight. **Please consider a gift, of any size, to stop glaucoma stealing sight from a person like John.**

I hope that you can be the difference between sight and blindness for them.

Kind regards,



Pippa Martin,
General Manager, Glaucoma NZ

P.S. The end of the tax year is fast approaching – remember if you [donate](#) before 31 March, you will be eligible for a 33% donation tax credit. **Please consider a donation**, no matter how small, **to provide education and awareness to stop glaucoma stealing sight** from a person like John.

P.P.S., Did you know that you can increase your impact by donating each month? [Use this online donation form](#) to become a Sight Saver today.