GLAUCOMA NZ

20 February 2026



## Will you donate to put the right knowledge and support in front of your community? **You can help them act early to protect their sight from glaucoma.**

Dear Friend,

It's easy to put off an eye health check. Especially when your sight feels 'fine'.

Most people who lose vision to glaucoma do exactly that. But it doesn't have to be that way.

Glaucoma is quiet. You'll read in one ***Eyelights*** article, written by Professor Dame Helen Danesh-Meyer, that **glaucoma is also unforgiving**.

There's often no pain or early warning. No clear signal that says 'now is the moment to act (!!)'. By the time many people realise something is wrong, vision has already been lost permanently.

Professor Dame Helen Danesh-Meyer recently shared a story like this:

*"I remember one man who came in for his first eye check in years after failing his driving test. He was convinced he just needed new glasses. Instead, we had to tell him he'd already lost a large part of his vision — and that it couldn't be restored.*

*"His shock, and the deep sadness on his wife's face, have stayed with me."*

Stories like his weren't rare. Too many New Zealanders were walking around unaware they had glaucoma until their vision was gone.

Fast forward to 2026, and I still see this pattern. People delay eye checks because everything feels 'fine'. **By the time glaucoma is detected, the damage is already done**.

That's the problem we're trying to solve. As Glaucoma Awareness Month approaches in March, it's clear that glaucoma needs more than awareness alone. It needs people to **act earlier.**

That means booking an eye health check before symptoms appear. It means a conversation that nudges someone you love not to delay. It means taking eye health seriously, even when nothing feels wrong.

This is where your donation will drive action. **When you give, you put the right knowledge and support in front of your community, so they act in time to protect their sight.**

Your latest Eyelights also features young Leo (*pictured at the top of this letter*). He shared his experience to help others understand what glaucoma can take away and why acting earlier matters. His story shows how understanding can make people take their sight seriously, and why the right support matters too.

That's exactly what your donation helps provide.

**Donate to help put the right knowledge and support in front of your community, so they act in time to protect their sight.**

I see the difference this makes. And so do the families who tell us they're grateful they didn't wait.

So today, I'm asking you to take a few simple steps: Complete the enclosed donation form and place it in the reply-paid envelope provided. Once we receive your gift, you'll be helping your community act in time to protect their sight.

With gratitude,



Pippa Martin
General Manager

P.S. Your donation today puts the right knowledge and support in front of your community who might otherwise wait. **You'll prompt them to book an eye health check before glaucoma has the chance to cause permanent damage.**

With your donation receipt, we'll also send you a Gift of Sight pack. It includes practical tools to help prompt action, **including a 50% discount voucher for an eye health check** at Matthews Eyecare, OPSM, or Specsavers **during March 2026**. You can keep it for yourself or pass it on to someone you love, as a simple way to help make sure action happens while there's still time.

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*Yes Pippa*, **I want the right knowledge and support put in front of my community, so they act in time to protect their sight.**

Please accept my donation of:

☐ $100 ☐ $50 ☐ My choice of $_____

☐ I'll **become a Sight Saver** and gift this every month. ☐ This is a one-off gift.

I wish to give by:

☐ **Secure online payment** Visit www.glaucoma.org.nz. Click donate at the top of the website.

☐ **Bank transfer** Use internet banking or visit your local bank. Use the details below. Glaucoma New Zealand, 12-3013-0180964-00, Ref: <ID>.

☐ **Secure phone call** FREEPHONE Glaucoma NZ on 0800 GLAUCOMA (452 826).

☐ **Credit or debit card** Complete details below. Return in freepost envelope provided.

name on card

signature

card number

expiry /

Send my receipt and update my details to:

**Name:**

**Contact ph:**

**Email:**

**Address:**

*Charity Comission No. CC21421.*
*All donations of $5 or more are tax deductible*

member ID

☐ I'd like to be a Glaucoma Guardian and **plan a gift in my Will to Glaucoma NZ**.

☐ Please contact me using the details above. I want to change my mail preferences.

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