

RESTORE SIGHT · SHARE VISION
VISION CARE

A Testimony from the 335th Eye Camp in Tanzania



My name is Sujoung Choi, and I participated in the 335th Vision Eye Camp in Tanzania as an optician.

Recently, I took a break from my career and spent time reflecting on myself. I realized that I had a desire to do something meaningful with my career skill-sets, and to explore Africa, so I decided to join the Vision Eye Camp. Due to some personal circumstances that made me hesitate to travel as the date approached, I rather reluctantly boarded the flight to Tanzania.

My role during the Vision Eye Camp was to perform A-scan on patients prior to surgery and to train local opticians to facilitate the examination process. In the beginning, I had a tough time utilizing the A-scan device provided by the hospital because it was different from the ones I am used to back in South Korea. Even though I had practiced several times before the Eye Camp, I felt nervous.



The first patient I examined was one of the local optician's mother, so I got even more nervous at some point, but I was relieved when the examination results came out consistent. It even helped build trust with the optician as well! Despite the rough start, I quickly got used to the environment day after day.

One of the things I noticed from interacting with the patients was that their eye health and nutritional status were worse than I had expected. For instance, there was a patient who could not walk stably coming out of the operating room.

When she came back for a post-op visit, I handed her some vitamins and snacks while gesturing that I was concerned about her. At that moment, I felt that our hearts communicated across the language barrier.

I was also impressed by the patients' outfits. The patients I met at the Eye Camp wore such beautiful clothes, which made me think that they were part of Tanzania's everyday culture. However, when I learned that the patients actually dressed formally or even purchased new clothes to come to the hospital, I was surprised and touched at the same time – they reminded me of my own grandparents and other older adults in my hometown.



The week I spent in Tanzania was also a time for me to newly discover my potential strengths. Throughout the Eye Camp, I felt a strong sense of motivation as I gained more confidence. Instead of the fear and worry that occupied me in the beginning about successfully performing my role, I found myself empowered.

Furthermore, I was deeply inspired by the other volunteers at the Vision Eye Camp who never ceased to put their best efforts during the exhausting schedule.



I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Lisa Park, Dr. Meera Ramakrishnan, nurse Eun Kim, Amy Ahn, Jihye Kim, Yuna Kim, and local staff for gifting me with an unforgettable week of my life. It was an honor to work alongside each and every one of them, and I will never forget the time I had in Tanzania.

Thank you!
Sujung Choi

Thank you, Sujoung, for sharing your heartfelt testimony!

Vision Care USA

[Visit Our Site](#)

[Give the Gift of Sight](#)

Vision Care USA, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.
Federal Tax ID Number: 81-1916116

