

Happy Lunar New Year, the Year of the Snake - 2024 Completed 2,098 Eye Surgeries

Challenges During the Lunar New Year Season

The three eye surgery campaigns before the Lunar New Year faced many difficulties, as it was the time when the Department of Health was conducting hygiene checks at hospitals and health centers. Therefore, the medical team from the South West Eye Center had to move to other locations during the two rounds of inspections.

On the 5th, the surgery was moved to the Thoi Lai District Health Center in Can Tho Province. After the surgery, everyone packed up the medical supplies and returned to Saigon.

[Video Link](#)

During this surgery campaign, many members of the Red Cross came to assist patients with the examination process and moving through various areas of the hospital, which is very large due to being located in a small province. Son, a volunteer from Eye of Compassion Relief Org. (EOCRO), ran back and forth through many areas to capture images and make videos for the report. He worked all day and, on his way home, caught a cold and was bedridden for a week.

On the 10th, surgery was conducted at 190 Le Co An Lac, Binh Tan District, Saigon, at the South West Eye Surgery Center, which is where we often perform surgeries.

On the 15th, surgery was moved to Le Van Thinh Hospital, District 2, Ho Chi Minh City. The doctors transported medical equipment and eyeglasses.

[Video Link](#)

Words of Gratitude

EOCRO would like to express our gratitude and fulfill the promise to help 200 eye surgeries from generous donors through the fundraising letter at the end of 2024 that would help the 300 patients who were waiting for surgery.

The promise from our donors gave us the confidence to conduct two rounds of surgery on over 300 cases, even before we received the donations. The unexpected result is that we managed to help 550 patients.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has placed their trust in us. Whenever a promise is made, we can be certain that we will receive the necessary funds. Thanks to the compassion of our donors and the selflessness of the doctors, Son worked tirelessly. As a result, through three rounds of surgeries at the end of 2024, we were able to save 550 patients.

The Ripple Effect of Compassion

In late December 2024, we sent out a letter asking for support for 300 eye surgeries, and in a short time, we received promises of donations to fund 200 surgeries. We were excited to share this good news with Son and asked him to prepare for it. Upon hearing the news, he suggested that we should start the surgeries right away at the beginning of January 2025 because:

- Patients need two weeks for recovery.
- Then, they have 10 days to earn money for the Lunar New Year holiday.
- After the New Year, economic activities slow down and become more difficult.

His suggestion was very reasonable, and even though the funds hadn't been received yet, we agreed to schedule surgeries for January 5 and January 10, 2025.

On the 15th, the hospital also requested help for 200 eye surgeries from a charity that had canceled its scheduled surgeries. EOCRO team promptly took on these patients.

A Patient's Story: "The Eye Surgery Program is Wonderful"

One patient said: For a poor person, 100,000 VND is a lot. How could they afford several million VND to have eye surgery?

[Video Link](#)

Toronto, February 8, 2025

Dear Doctors, friends, and generous donors,

The 2024 Eye Surgery Fund has been completed:

- **2,098 surgeries through 14 campaigns, with each surgery costing 1,230,000 VND (CAD 70)**
- **Total funds raised: USD 69,427 and CAD 48,070, which equals 2,676,440,000 VND.**

List of Contributions for the Year

[Contribution List Link](#)

At the end of 2024, the last three rounds of eye surgeries were successfully completed, with information shared by Son Ho Vu Hai below:

Son's Update:

"I'm sending these pictures to you; can you see them? So many patients are suffering from cataracts. I felt heartbroken during the January 15, 2025 surgery, as these patients came from groups we hadn't worked with before. They had requested surgery through a charity months ago, but they couldn't get funding and canceled. The hospital, understanding the patients' situation, contacted us. We couldn't let these patients suffer any longer. Many of them are in urgent need of surgery, as their eyes are becoming severely clouded, and if not treated in time, they could go blind in a week or ten days. One patient, a young man born in 1997, is already losing his vision at 27 years old. I had to buy high-quality Japanese glasses for him at 4,000,000 VND (CAD 230) to help him because these glasses have a much longer lifespan."

[Image Link](#)

Wishing you all a prosperous new year with health and happiness so we can continue helping the poor in Vietnam.

Warm regards, Son Hai Son

IMAGE OF JANUARY 5, 2025 – 239 PATIENTS

[Link to Image](#)

CONTRIBUTION LIST - JANUARY 5, 2025

[Link to Contribution List](#)

INVOICE

[Link to Invoice](#)

PATIENT LIST

[Link to Patient List](#)

VIDEOS

1. **Focus and Waiting for Screening**
[Watch Video](#)
2. **Screening Round 1**
[Watch Video](#)
3. **Patient with One Leg**
[Watch Video](#)
4. **Measuring Blood Sugar and Blood Pressure**
[Watch Video](#)
5. **Hand Roll and Signing 1**
[Watch Video](#)
6. **Assisting Elderly People to Eye Exam**
[Watch Video](#)
7. **Patients Having Free Breakfast Before Surgery**
[Watch Video](#)
8. **Disabled Patient for Eye Exam**
[Watch Video](#)
9. **Screening Round 2, Preparing for Surgery**
[Watch Video](#)
10. **Chatting with a Patient Who Has Lost Both Legs**
[Watch Video](#)
11. **Disinfecting Eyes Before Surgery**
[Watch Video](#)
12. **Applying Pupil-Dilating Drops to Prepare for Surgery**
[Watch Video](#)
13. **After Surgery, Resting and Waiting for Doctor's Instructions & Medication**
[Watch Video](#)
14. **Red Cross Preparing Free Lunch**
[Watch Video](#)
15. **Interview with an Elderly Woman Who Recently Lost Her Vision and Hearing**
[Watch Video](#)

PHOTOS FROM JANUARY 10, 2025 – 165 PATIENTS

[Google Photos Link](#)

CONTRIBUTORS LIST

[Google Spreadsheet Link](#)

INVOICE

[Google Photos Link](#)

PATIENT LIST

[Google Spreadsheet Link](#)

VIDEOS

Patients and family members arriving at the hospital

[YouTube Link](#)

Patients measuring their vision

[YouTube Link](#)

Patients undergoing two rounds of screening before surgery

[YouTube Link](#)

Team leaders registering for illiterate patients

[YouTube Link](#)

A patient who suffered a stroke and has difficulty walking, prioritized for early examination

[YouTube Link](#)

The hospital gives lunch to the patients

[YouTube Link](#)

After surgery, the nurse takes the patient to the recovery room

[YouTube Link](#)

IMAGES OF JANUARY 15, 2025 – 151 PATIENTS

[Link to Images](#)

CONTRIBUTORS LIST

[Link to List](#)

BILL

[Link to Bill](#)

PATIENT LIST

[Link to Patient List](#)

VIDEOS

- Patients entering the eye surgery department
[Watch Video](#)
- Elderly person who is both blind and disabled, moving through the hall
[Watch Video](#)
- Screening session 1
[Watch Video](#)
- Screening session 2
[Watch Video](#)
- Blood sugar testing for patients
[Watch Video](#)
- Measuring blood pressure and recording patient details
[Watch Video](#)
- Sterilized clothes for patients going for surgery
[Watch Video](#)
- Pupillary dilation medicine, patients who dilate first will undergo surgery first
[Watch Video](#)
- Giving out breakfast sandwiches and boxed lunch to patients
[Watch Video](#)
- Disinfecting before surgery
[Watch Video](#)
- Calling patient names and handing out medicine as they leave
[Watch Video](#)