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Volume 4: Issue 2

April 2013

### ***“Blindness is My Blessing”***

Ganesh carefully made his way up the staircase to the Cheddi Jagan Lecture Hall on the compound of the University of Guyana. He had only a few minutes to spare but was eager to update us on recent developments in his life.

Two years ago **Eye On Sight** introduced you to Ganesh, he then told us how he lost his vision to Glaucoma twelve years ago and the struggles encountered, including depression that engulfed him for over five years.

He then declared that his involvement in Blind Cricket saved him and propelled him out of the depths of despair. Today Ganesh has another story of triumph over adversity in that he is fulfilling one of his dreams – that of attending a tertiary institution. His dream became a reality when he enrolled in the University of Guyana in September 2012. ([Read more](#))

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### ***From the Desk of the CEO -Arvel Grant.***

CCB-Eye Care Caribbean has completed refurbishment of space allocated as Vision Centres in the communities of Gray’s Farm, Johnson’s Point and Clare Hall. The Cabinet of Antigua-Barbuda has now approved the appointment of 4 Refractionists and 2 Dispensing Clerks. Their formal employment is now being administered by the Ministries of Health and Finance. When the appointments are effected, CCB-Eye Care Caribbean will start the installation and testing of: Diagnostic Refractive and other systems, which the Refractionists and their colleagues will use to examine and treat patients. ([Read more](#))

## ***Programme Highlights - Quarter 1 (January-March), 2013***

During the period under review, CCB/Eye Care Caribbean, with the support of its Members and Partners, and despite many challenges, continued to execute its programme across the region. The following are some of the highlights:

### **1. Meeting of the CCB Project Management Committee:**

The Project Management Committee, tasked with overseeing the implementation of the EC Project, "Delivering Vision 2020 in the Caribbean" held its annual face-to-face meeting during January 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 at the City View Hotel, in Antigua and Barbuda. The meeting was attended by Representatives from the Project Countries: Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Haiti and the CCB Secretariat (Antigua). The EU Programme Office in Guyana, which holds responsibility for the Project, was not represented due to operational reasons. [\(Read More\)](#)

### ***World Book and Copyright Day, 2013***

World Book and Copyright Day is observed on April 23 each year. It is a date that is symbolic in the world of Literature as it marks the death of several well known authors, including William Shakespeare.

Louis Braille brought the published literature to the finger tips of persons who are blind, by developing a system which makes it the norm for us to acquire the art of reading. Modern technology (including) Electronic Screen Readers, provides every one (including persons who are blind or low vision) with unprecedented access to the written word. In recognition of World Book and Copyright Day, the Caribbean Council for the Blind takes a look at the work of the Special Education Unit of the Ministry of Education in Jamaica. [See our short documentary about the work of this unit at - {.....}](#)

### ***Hypertensive Retinopathy***

Hypertensive Retinopathy refers to the effect of hypertension on the retina. Hypertension damages the walls of the Retinal Arterioles resulting in thickening of the walls and narrowing of the lumen.

These thickened arterioles then compress the retinal veins where they cross over them resulting in arteriovenous or AV nipping. These signs are related to Chronic Systemic Hypertension. [\(For more on this article by Consultant Ophthalmologist - Dr. Hazel Shillingford-Ricketts visit.....\)](#)

Hypertensive Retinopathy is a condition that describes damage to the retina caused by high blood pressure. The retina is the layer of tissue that lines the back of the eye and is responsible for the conversion of images that enter the eye into signals that are sent along the nerves back to the brain. The changes in Hypertensive Retinopathy result from adaptive changes in the large and small vessel circulation in response to the high blood pressure resulting in damage.

[\(For more on this article by Consultant Ophthalmologist - Dr. Gavin Henry visit.....\)](#)

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**The European Union**



**Sightsavers**



*The Government of Antigua and Barbuda*



*The Government of Guyana*



*The Government of Jamaica*



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*Our Mission.....*

*Our Purpose.....*

*Our Goal.....*

**Our purpose is preventing blindness and visual impairment while restoring sight and creating opportunities for persons whose sight cannot be restored.**

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