

# BEYOND THE LENS:

## BUY VISION GIVE SIGHT CASE STUDY #1



### Emmanuel's Story 'My Life is now beautiful'

*Uganda, East Africa Child Eye Health Program*

Emmanuel wished every day that he could go to school. He dreamed of learning to read and being able to play with his peers.

At 12 years old, when he should have been reading and practicing math, he spent his days in the village waiting. Waiting for the other children to return from school and tell him stories of all the things they had learned.

Nearly blind since birth, Emmanuel wasn't able to see well enough to attend school, help with the daily chores, or navigate outside his village safely.

Emmanuel's cousin Yusuf was his connection to the outside world. Yusuf had a teacher who had learned to screen her student's eyes, and checked his. Yusuf didn't have a problem, but he promptly told his teacher about his cousin, Emmanuel. He hoped she would be able to help.

The teacher inquired about Emmanuel and organized to travel to their village to meet him.

She carefully checked Emmanuel's vision. To her absolute joy, Emmanuel was not blind! Emmanuel only needed a pair of glasses to correct his vision.

For the first time, Emmanuel could see. He cried, his mother cried and Yusuf felt proud. A few weeks later Emmanuel said to his mother and cousin, 'My life is now beautiful and so is everything in the world. I feel like my life can begin now.'



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