

WHEN VISION BECAME A PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE

# 49 Years of the Eye Foundation of America 1977 – 2026

Commemoration & Global Launch  
of

## International Day for a World Without Childhood Blindness

*31 January 2026 | House of Lords | London*

*From one eye camp in India to a global movement for every child.*



# Where It All Began

On 31 January 1977, a young ophthalmologist, Dr. V. K. Raju, conducted his first free eye camp in Vijayawada, India.

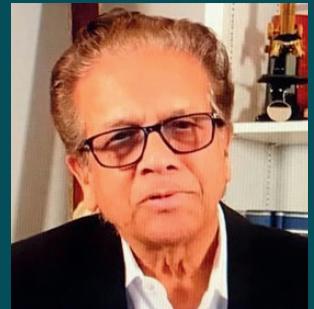
There were no institutions behind him. No funding pipelines. Only a simple belief: **blindness in children is preventable, treatable, and unacceptable.**

That single act of service became a lifelong mission. From this beginning emerged the Eye Foundation of America — a global humanitarian movement restoring sight, dignity, education, and opportunity to children across continents.

“ —

“Every child deserves the right to sight. Vision is the gateway to learning, confidence, and opportunity.”

— Dr. V. K. Raju, Founder President



# From Service to Systems. From Camps to Countries.

Over four decades, EFA has evolved from individual eye camps into sustainable eye-care ecosystems.

## Global Impact Highlights

- Millions of children screened across India, the United States, Africa, Nepal, and underserved regions
- Global leadership in Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) prevention and care
- Low-cost, high-impact interventions with lifelong outcomes
- Integration of public health, education, and equity

## Why Childhood Vision Matters

- Over 90% of a child's learning depends on vision
- One treated child changes the future of an entire family
- Vision care remains among the most cost-effective health interventions worldwide



# A Movement Led by Conscience

## Dr. V. K. Raju

Founder President – Eye Foundation of America & UK  
Global pioneer in childhood blindness prevention

Recognised internationally for his humanitarian leadership, Dr Raju has shaped policies, strengthened institutions, and mobilised partnerships across governments, academia, Rotary, Lions, & civil society.



*This gathering marks not just a commemoration,  
but a collective moral commitment.*

# 31 January - A Global Call

The International Day for a World Without Childhood Blindness (IDWWCB) is rooted in history — & driven by hope.

## Why 31 January?

It marks the day in 1977 when a mission began — a mission proving that no child need be blind because of poverty or geography.

### The Movement Aligns With

- SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being
- SDG 4 – Quality Education
- CSR and ESG priorities
- National health systems and global equity frameworks



*IDWWCB transforms charity into responsibility —  
and vision into policy.*

# Serving Children Since 1977

Founded in 1977 by Dr. V. K. Raju, the Eye Foundation of America (EFA) is a global non-profit dedicated to eliminating avoidable childhood blindness. Guided by the vision of a world where every child has the right to sight, EFA delivers comprehensive eye-care solutions that combine prevention, treatment, education, and research.

Over the past four decades, EFA has served more than four million patients worldwide, performing 400,000+ sight-restoring surgeries, including interventions for over 2,000,000 children. Through sustainable programmes and partnerships, EFA continues to transform lives by restoring vision, dignity, and opportunity.



## Join us

Be part of a meaningful moment that brings leaders, partners, and supporters together in shared purpose.

*Your presence matters.*

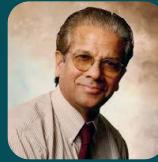
# INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR WORLD WITHOUT CHILDHOOD BLINDNESS

January 31, 2026

Historic Launch at the House of Lords, UK



Lord Rami Ranger  
Parliament UK  
Chair IDWWCB



Dr VK Raju  
Founder President EFA  
Co-Chair IDWWCB



Siddharth Chatterjee  
United Nations China



Padma Bhushan  
KI Varaprasad Reddy  
Patron EFA



Dr. Mukesh Batra,  
Padma Shri  
Founder-Chairman, Dr  
Batra's Healthcare



Sam Maddula  
Board Member EFA



Dr Leela V Raju  
President EFA

*"Alone We Can Do So Little. Together We Can Do So Much" -Helen Keller*

# A World Without Childhood Blindness *Is Possible*

As we gather at the House of Lords, we reaffirm a shared  
commitment:

- No child blinded by preventable causes
- Vision care embedded within public health systems
- Sight recognised as a birthright, not a privilege

## Join the Movement

Governments | CSR Leaders | Foundations | Medical Institutions | Youth |  
Global Citizens



*#WorldWithoutChildhoodBlindness | #Jan31ForSight*

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