

EyeBall 2014 Was a Success!

Finding host families for blind orphans is focus of Wang Foundation's recent annual charity event

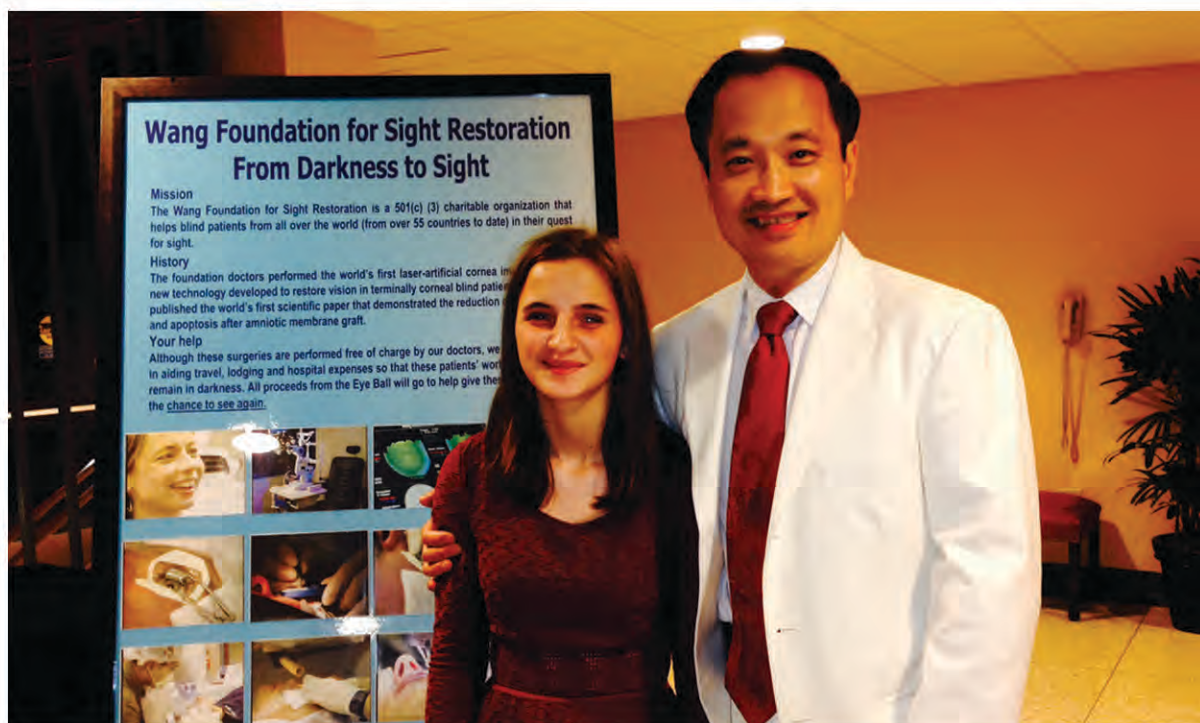
Over 700 people attended EyeBall 2014, the annual charity event of Wang Foundation for Sight Restoration (www.wangfoundation.com) on Saturday 10/11/14 at Massey Performing Art Center at Belmont University, and met Maria, who was a blind orphan from the poor country of Moldova until only one year ago, at the brink of subjection to a life of human trafficking and prostitution. Now, she is a happy teenager who has gone from darkness to light and can see! Maria is loved, lives in Franklin, TN, and goes to school there. Maria was at the EyeBall, told her story and sang a song for everyone in attendance!

The EyeBall is the annual event of the 501c(3) non-profit charity--Wang Foundation for Sight Restoration (www.Wangfoundation.com).



Tennessee house speaker Beth Harwell and Dr. Ming Wang at EyeBall 2014, the annual charity event of the 501c(3) Wang Foundation for Sight Restoration, which to date has helped patients from over 40 states in the U.S. and 55 countries with all sight restoration surgeries performed free-of-charge.

This year marked the 9th EyeBall for the sight foundation, which to date has helped patients from over 40 states in the U.S. and 55 countries, with all sight restoration surgeries performed free-of-charge.



Maria, the formerly blind 15-year old Moldovan orphan who was rescued from human trafficking and prostitution and was brought to the U.S. and whose sight was restored by the foundation and who saw the world and herself for the first time, and Dr. Ming Wang.

The Goal of EyeBall 2014

“The goal of EyeBall 2014--which was a free event--is to find more host families for the blind orphans whom our foundation is trying to help,” said Dr. Ming Wang, MD, PhD, founder and chairman of the foundation. “Our foundation’s focus has been trying to help blind orphans, such as Kajal (a 4-year-old blind orphan from India), Margarete (a 10-year-old blind orphan from Haiti) and Maria (a 15-year-old blind orphan from Moldova). We have realized over the past decade that the most effective way to help these blind orphans is to identify host families. While medical and surgical care is donated by the foundation doctors, these patients have so many other needs—i.e., housing, clothing, transportation, schooling, etc.--which host families would be in the best position to fulfill,” added Dr. Wang.

Maria's Journey from Darkness to Sight

There is no better example of the vital role host families play in helping these blind orphans than Steve and Lynn Hendrich, a Franklin couple who sponsored and hosted Maria Morari, a 15-year-old formerly blind orphan from Moldova. Maria had been blind since birth and was abandoned in an orphanage in Moldova, but the Hendriches took her on the long and arduous journey around the globe to the U.S. to seek the help of Dr. Ming Wang and the foundation, and to give her a chance to have restored sight and the hope of a better life, a story that is remarkable and inspiring. Maria underwent a very difficult and complex 4-hour sight restoration surgery in November of last year. The surgery was a success, Maria's sight was restored, and she saw the world and herself for the very first time! When she looked in the mirror, she exclaimed, “Sunt Frumoasa” (‘I’m so pretty’ in Romanian)!



Ms. Marjorie Mullen, the artist who created the signature fetus-in-the-eyeball painting for EyeBall 2014 which describes the amniotic membrane contact lens invented by the foundation doctors for which they have obtained U.S. patents and Dr. Ming Wang.

The success of Maria's journey from darkness to sight has drawn public attention to the need to help more blind orphans, and according to Dr. Wang, "one of the vital steps of this process is finding more host families like the Hendriches. That is why it was free to attend this year's EyeBall. I wanted as many people to attend EyeBall 2014 as possible, so that we would have the greatest chance of finding more host families, and, as a result, we can help more Marias!" Dr. Wang added.

EyeBall 2014 was a beautiful concert featuring Dr. Ming Wang (on the Chinese "er-hu" violin), Carlos Enrique, M. Mus./composer (guitar), Deidre Emerson, M. Mus. (cello), David Fischer, JD (vocal), Mary Katherine (vocal) and Jim Labriola (comedian). Videos of the foundation's blind orphan patients were also shown, and the foundation appealed to the audience to help to identify more host families.

Becoming a Host Family

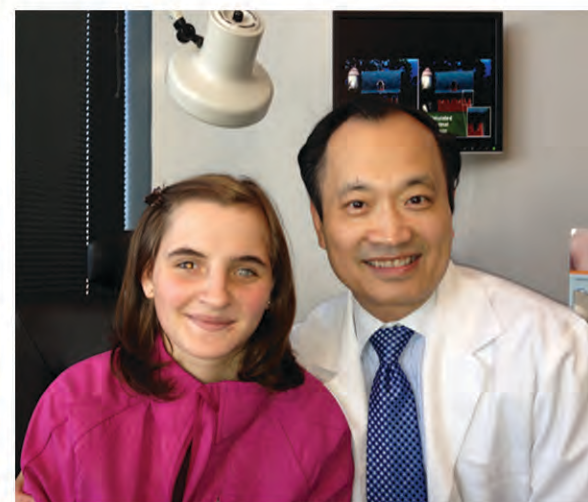
"The best part of EyeBall 2014 was that Maria herself was there. She and her host family--Steve and Lynn Hendrich-- were the featured guests. The Hendriches told us how they became a host family, and Maria shared the joy she felt about going from darkness to sight, and her gratitude for being given the opportunity to avoid the devastating fate of human trafficking and prostitution, and, instead, being able to live a wonderful life as a happy American teenager, with the Hendriches in Franklin, TN. It is stories like this that make all the hard work and effort worth it!" beamed Dr. Wang.



Maria and Dr. Wang after surgery



Maria now can see!



Maria and Dr. Wang

EyeBall 2014 - a concert
A GIFT OF SIGHT FOR OUR CHILDREN

Dr. Ming Wang
 Harvard & MIT (MD, *magna cum laude*); PhD (laser physics)
 Featured Chinese er-hu violinist in Dolly Parton's album

Kajal, a 4-yr old blind orphan from India.

Maria, a 15-yr old blind orphan from Moldova.

Margarette, a 10-yr old blind orphan from Haiti.

Saturday, October 11th, 7:00pm
Massey Concert Hall • Belmont University
 Free Admission. Semi-formal. www.wangfoundation.com

Wang Foundation for Sight Restoration
 A 501c(3) non-profit charity which has helped patients from over 40 states in the U.S. and 55 countries with all sight restoration surgeries performed free-of-charge

For more information about the Wang Foundation and/or EyeBall 2014, contact: Dr. Ming Wang, Wang Foundation for Sight Restoration, 1801 West End Ave, Suite 1150, Nashville, TN, 37203, 615-321-8881 (Office), drwang@wangvisioninstitute.com; www.wangfoundation.com