

My Kingdom for an Eye

The loss of an eye has significant ramifications for the individuals concerned as well as their families. Such ramifications include impact on physical appearance, the loss of self esteem, stigmatization and outcast status, amongst others.

The loss of an eye can result from seemingly innocent activities such as swinging a jersey with a zipper, handling of dry ice, playing with a pet with sharp claws, walking into a branch of a tree, etc. Other causes include the result of systemic and ocular disease, injury or trauma.

Irrespective of the cause, the loss of an eye is traumatic and life changing for those concerned.

Ocularistry is the profession that is dedicated to the manufacture and fitting of ocular prosthetics (false eyes).The professionals concerned posses specialised skills and knowledge to ensure the challenges facing those who have lost an eye (and in some cases, both eyes) are satisfactorily addressed, aesthetically and psychologically.

Beryl Carvalho, ocularist and owner of the Eyes Alive practice with branches in Randburg and Centurion, Gauteng, in collaboration with the Lions Club, Wilro Park, Roodepoort, identified the need to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged individuals in need of an ocular prosthesis.

With the assistance from Radio 702, eligible patients, in accordance with predetermined criteria contacted Lions, Wilro Park. Lions, Wilro Park provided support for transport to and from Beryl's practice, both financially and personally. Beryl provided her services and no or little cost, making significant difference to the lives of all concerned such as Vusi and Didi.

The combined efforts of Beryl and Lions, Wilro Park are best summarized by the following words extracted from a letter, authored by Vusi:

“ Dear Beryl, Delphine and Wilro Park Lions, I just want to take this opportunity to thank you all. You are all such special angels no words can describe. I am still speechless but God will pen my appreciation in your hearts”.

Pics

- 1. Didi prior to the manufacture and fitting of her ocular prosthesis by Beryl Carvalho.**
- 2. Didi, after the fitting of her ocular prosthesis.**

