“Let’s all use our lives to spread a little sunshine!”

“Good fortune and smiles are two things which increase rather than decrease when shared.”

ORBIS Sight Ambassador, Sandra Ng

While always busy filming and caring for her husband and little daughter, Sandra insists on visiting a developing country to see ORBIS’ work and share hope with the needy every year.

What inspired you to become an ORBIS Sight Ambassador?
Sandra: After my daughter was born, I couldn’t bear to see other kids facing needless difficulties. When ORBIS invited me to be their Ambassador four years ago, I jumped at the opportunity to be a role model and do something for the less fortunate! Who would have guessed our partnership would have lasted so long!

What’s your role when visiting other countries?
Sandra: During my time with ORBIS, I have visited Inner Mongolia, India, Vietnam and Gansu, China this year. Each region has its own economic and visual problems due to different cultures, living environment and economic policies. In Vietnam, for example, poor maternal care means premature babies and Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) are common. My mission in each country is to understand the difficulties it faces and then alert the public to the problems, and hope everyone can help to restore the needlessly blind’s sight!

What experiences from your visits have impressed you the most?
Sandra: I remember one little strabismus and amblyopia sufferer called Zhang Tianshan met in Inner Mongolia. As the poor kid’s diseased eyes were teased mercilessly by other children, Zhang taught me that the biggest hardship facing the preventably blind is not sightlessness, but its mental impact. I’ll never forget how he smiled after surgery – his very first since we originally met. I believed that at the end of the day, all blind kids’ lives can be transformed with our help!

Can you tell us a little about the important mission you’ll be undertaking for ORBIS later this year?
Sandra: Gladly! I’m sure you already know that as the current plane has now been saving sight worldwide since the 1990s and badly needs replacing, ORBIS will soon launch a new Flying Eye Hospital (FEH) From what ORBIS staff tells me, the new plane will be narrow-bodied. This will greatly expand ORBIS’ effectiveness as their volunteers will be able to fly into and out of more airports. That said, transforming the plane into a flying hospital requires a massive investment! So the sooner you and I help fund the new plane, the sooner even more blind people can see again!
Editor's Note

For ORBIS, 2012 is not the end of an era, just another important turning point on our sight saving journey. While it seems like just yesterday, it was actually an incredible 30 years ago that our Flying Eye Hospital first took to the skies on its maiden voyage to Panama. Today, the plane’s volunteer faculty and crew are still doing their utmost to fight the scourge of preventable blindness worldwide. Sadly, after 18 years on sight saving’s front line, our current Flying Eye Hospital has reached the end of its lifespan and a new MD-10 is scheduled to take off in 2013. So let’s all join hands and work towards achieving a world free of preventable blindness sometime between now and 2042!

Your compassion has helped perform 3,400,000 miracles!

In Financial Year 2011, your generous support enabled our Macau office to raise MOP$525,895. Your kindness ultimately helped fund 49 long-term, 39 hospital- and 4 plane-based programs and 76016 operations and laser treatments in unimaginably poor countries. You also helped us train 2,258 doctors, 12,664 nurses and other health care workers. Thank you as always for so unselfishly transforming the lives of over 3,400,000 people and their families worldwide!

As we said earlier, our 30th anniversary is a milestone year for ORBIS. In looking forward to the future, let’s try and share our blessings by freeing the 39,000,000 people still in the prison of needless darkness with the gift of light.

Break The Dark Wall!

The latest example of how we are doing all we can to raise awareness of the difficulties facing the blind is an online initiative called “Break The Wall!”. Please visit www.thedarkwall.com to see the campaign’s centerpiece – a long dark wall designed by leading Hong Kong-based illustrator, Pooja Leung and displaying the stories of 10 visually impaired people. To “break” the wall isolating the world’s 39,000,000 blind people from the light, simply click on the hammer icon. In maximizing awareness, we have also invited Hong Kong artists Sandra Ng, Paul Wong, Pehko Chow, and photographer Koan Chan to join us as project partners. ORBIS Macau thanks Ignite Media Group, Carparking Company Limited, and NewGen Magazine for working so hard to promote this initiative.

How your kindness helped a Filipina grandma to see again

Tragically, almost all poor families afflicted by blindness in the developing world are too poor to seek treatment. An elderly Filipina lady called Grandma Berlina suffered from serious cataracts and was causing a steady decline in her vision. While she was barely able to see for the last two years, the old lady generously sacrificed her chances of surgery for her glaucoma-afflicted daughter. This inspiring story began when the ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital visited Philippines earlier this year and the old lady was encouraged to take advantage of free screening and possible medical treatment. ORBIS volunteer faculty member, Dr. Shoba, chose Berlina as an excellent way to sharpen local doctors’ low-cost manual small incision cataract surgical skills. Enabling the removal of large, dense cataracts through small incisions, this procedure immediately boosts patients’ visual abilities. Thanks to Dr. Shoba’s training, local doctors were also able to offer an alternative to patients who could not afford commonly used phaco-emulsification procedures.

Thanks to ORBIS’ free-of-charge surgery, Berlina’s life has been totally transformed. “I am really happy and excited that I can see my family and farm again. I can’t wait to get back to my squash, radishes, eggplants and mango trees!” said the grateful grandmother.
Charity Raffle Sale 2012

Held at the start of 2012, this year’s ORBIS Annual Raffle Sale saw your generous support significantly enhance medical professionals’ ability to treat blindness in poorer countries. In doing so, you helped provide love and care for visually impaired kids all over the developing world. The mastermind behind much-loved local comic, “Old Master Q”, legendary Hong Kong cartoonist, Mr. Wang Ze, was kind enough to design the Raffle’s key visual. Bringing good fortune and joy to both prize-winning donors and preventably blind kids, the lucky draw was held on May 7th, 2012.

Please join us in extending our sincere gratitude to the generous local organizations who donated fabulous prizes worth over MOP250,000. The grand prize came from long-term ORBIS corporate sponsor, MGM MACAU, who offered a one-night stay in a one-bedroom villa with breakfast and dining coupons for one table of 12 persons at Imperial Court. Galaxy Macau also provided our lucky winners with 3D movie tickets at the total price of MOP 57,000. Notable donors included the staff of Bank of China’s (Macau Branch) who raised a sight saving war chest of over MOP130,000 for afflicted youngsters.

Our thanks must also go to everyone who bought a ticket, and our generous sponsors including A) Hackett Macau Tower, Bruno Design, Dora Tam Design Limited, I LOVE BABY SHOP, Mag Kitchen, Circle K, Original Technology Limited, Caltex Oil (Macau) Ltd, Air Asia, Sands China Limited, Hong Thai Travel, Charisma Ethos Ltd, Galaxy Macau, Turbojet, Mocha Clubs, Mandarin Oriental Macau, Four Seasons Hotel Macau, Cotai Strip, MGM MACAU, Luso International Banking Ltd.

Side-by-side with ORBIS – MGM MACAU

MGM MACAU has been one of our longest and most generous supporters since our Macau office opened in 2006. The various ways the hotel has helped us to raise funds and awareness include a December 2011 MGM MACAU Charity Golf Invitational Championship which generated MOP300,000 in donations. 2012 also marked the fourth year running that the hotel has been the biggest seller of ORBIS Raffle tickets, with the donation amount of MOP155,000, by establishing a special booth in its staff area. Employees can also learn more about eye care and our work on pediatric global blindness during a special “ORBIS Eyecare Week” mini-exhibition. MGM MACAU has also collaborated with famous Polish illustrator, Filip Pagowski, to create a collection of special edition premiums in October 2012, and part of the sales reverts to support ORBIS.

To demonstrate our appreciation, we invited the staff to visit our Flying Eye Hospital during its recent sight saving mission in Guangzhou.

Some 40 team members and their loved ones subsequently travelled up to the FedEx Asia Pacific Hub at Guangzhou Airport for a 45-minute tour on June 8th, 2012. While onboard, attendees watched an introductory video in the plane’s training room and inspected the laser treatment and operating rooms. Having tried our operation training simulator, everyone went home from their once-in-a-lifetime trip with a much better understanding of ORBIS and its work. We sincerely thank MGM MACAU and its people for their long-term support and we look forward to many, many more years of saving sight together.
ORBIS Charity Day creates a brighter world with no walls

July 28th saw us celebrate 30 years of saving sight by joining forces with Banco Weng Hang, S.A., AFA Macau and Macau Tower Convention & Entertainment Centre to organize the “ORBIS Charity Day 2012”. Themed “Creating a World without Walls”, the day was a great success, attracting hundreds of participants to demonstrate their passion for brightening needlessly blind lives by visiting Macau Tower.

The “Make a Wish Facebook Campaign” laid the groundwork for the day’s series of charitable events by encouraging donors and friends to leave “wishes” on ORBIS Macau’s Facebook wall. Messages could either take the form of birthday greetings to ORBIS or encouraging notes to our patients. Long-term supporter Polytrade Paper then donated MOP5 to us for every well wisher’s message. Volunteers did their bit to help by transforming the various Facebook “wishes” into real post-it notes which they then used to create a huge Wish Wall at Macau Tower on July 28th itself.

The event proved very popular, inspiring around 350 local supporters and journalists to discover first hand the terrible hardships facing the blind by trying to eat appetizers while their eyes were covered. Such a uniquely personal experience left everyone even more determined to make a difference in needy people’s lives. Other highlights included Macau’s first-ever group light-painting initiative and an eye-shaped dining table arrangement which conveyed everyone’s love and care for the blind. One of the day’s Guests of Honor was ORBIS medical volunteer, Ms. Flora Lau, who kindly shared her memories of a recent Flying Eye Hospital mission to Lanzhou, China. Musical entertainment was provided by the FOCUS band, whose members are themselves visually-impaired.

ORBIS Macau and its growing army of supporters are determined to ensure that the battle against preventable blindness will not conclude with the end of Charity Day. Instead, we see the event as being the first step in a committed joint effort to liberate millions of people worldwide from the scourge of preventable blindness.

The many local organizations and individual donors ORBIS Macau would like to thank for making the fundraiser so successful:

Co-organizers:
Banco Weng Hang, S.A., Macau Tower Convention & Entertainment Centre, AFA Macau

Partner of Hope:
Koi Kei Bakery

Partner of Light:
Ho Chun Kei Construction & Investment Co. Ltd.

Partner of Sight:
Original Technology Ltd.

Partners of Heart:
Shun Tak – China Travel Ship Management Limited, Dr. Chan Un Chan, Mocha Clubs, CAM-Macau International Airport Co. Ltd., Companhia de Electricidade de Macau – CEM, Hello-jobs.com

Media Partners:
Macau Business, TiM

Other supporting organizations:
Bruno Design, EvolutionHR, Ms Jennifer Wong, My Gallery Macau, Polytrade Paper, SummerGate Fine Wines, Mr Wong Siu Keong and friends, King Power Duty Free (Macau) Co Ltd, Macao Youth Artistic Ability Volunteer Association, Margaret’s Cafe e Nata, Foto Nice

The fun officially kicked off that afternoon with game booth-themed eyecare education about our volunteers and their work. Visitors were also encouraged to feel what it must be like to be sightless during the day’s undisputed highlight – Macau’s first-ever outdoor “Dinner Without Walls”.

As a long-term partner since the 2006 establishment of our Macau office, Banco Weng Hang, S.A. teamed up with AFA Macau and 16 local artists to create 30 charity credit cards to mark our 30th anniversary. To make purchasers’ transactions even more meaningful by further helping the visually impaired, the bank will donate fully 0.3% of spending on each new card to ORBIS. All funds raised will subsequently be used to train doctors and restore sufferers’ sight in unimaginably poor countries. The credit card campaign was officially launched during July 28th’s Charity Day.
Action for Sight 2012

Every year, the World Health Organization (WHO) joins together with over a hundred eye care institutions, including ORBIS and proclaims the second Thursday in October as World Sight Day (WSD). To encourage everyone to take better care of their eyes and raise awareness of the plight facing the needlessly blind, WSD 2012 saw ORBIS once again initiate an “Action for Sight” campaign. Themed “Look Cool, Stay Healthy” this year’s program urged everyone in Macau to protect their eyes against the damaging effects of UV radiation. According to WHO, around 18,000,000 of the world’s 30,000,000 blind people have been robbed of their sight by cataracts – some 5% of them through UV exposure. Wearing sunglasses, a wide-brimmed hat or using an umbrella are all excellent ways to minimize the risk of cataracts happening to you.

As educating youngsters about eye health remains central to our mission, the inauguration of this year’s Action for Sight initiatives took place at the Sacred Heart Canossian College English Section on October 11th. With over 100 students turning out in support, the day was a great success. Many participants sampled the terrible hardships facing the blind by trying to eat lunch blindfolded. Still more understanding was brought about by various interactive games and informative on-site exhibition panels.

Several long-term ORBIS partners underlined their support for WSD by serving as Action for Sight Corporate Ambassadors and appointing volunteers to help out at the event. Among them were Banco Weng Hang, S.A., Bank of China Macau Branch, Canon Hongkong Co. Ltd. (Macau Branch), CTM, Galaxy Entertainment Group, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Mocha Clubs and Sands China Ltd. Other supporting entities included CEM, Macau Coca-Cola Beverage Co. Ltd. and Bruno Design. We were also honored to have Kiang Wu Hospital Ophthalmologist Dr. Frank Lai, share insights into common eye problems and ways attendees could protect their eyes. Please also join us in thanking the 8,300 donors who signed up to support WSD 2012 for helping to raise MOP930,000. Our sincere thanks must also go to 2012’s top fundraising organizations:

Top Fundraising Organizations:
Champion Bank of China (Macau Branch) employees
1st Runner-up Wynn Macau & employees
2nd Runner-up Escola de Sagrada Familia
3rd Runner-up Sands China Limited
4th Runner-up Galaxy Entertainment Group

Mid-Autumn Fundraiser

Held each August and September, our Mid-Autumn charity sale is a much-loved highlight of our annual fundraising calendar. This year’s event received the usual strong support from Kee Wah Bakery and saw well-known Hong Kong illustrator, Maggie Lau, use one of her iconic cartoon characters to decorate our moon cake for a second straight year.

A September 23, 2012 street fundraiser hosted by ORBIS volunteers – one of them just seven years old – also proved to be hugely popular. We sincerely thank everyone for their support!

Like to help out as a volunteer at future fundraisers? Then please call 2830 0787 or visit www.orbis.org.mo to obtain a Registration Form.
Heartfelt thanks

Eco-friendly CNY Red Pocket Charity Sale

Those joining us in celebrating the start of CNY 2012 included Polytrade Paper, Canon Hong Kong Co. Ltd., Wide Ocean Printing and Livraria Ngai Chi Hin plus 9 leading graphic designers from Macau and Hong Kong. The artists subsequently used their skills to create a set of 16 unique red pockets for our “ORBIS Eco-red Pocket Charity Sale” from November 24th, 2011, to January 20th, 2012. The invited designers from Macau include James Chu, Jeffrey Leong, Jessica Chan, Chan Soi Leong and Hong Chong Ip, those from Hong Kong include Eric Chan, Bernard Leung, Ken Lo and Prudence Mak.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the generous sponsors and many donors who helped make this event such a success by raising some MOP880,000 for our work in Nepal.

Like Original, like ORBIS

This April saw Original Technology organized a “Like Original and Restore Sight” campaign on Facebook during which they donated MOP10 to ORBIS for every “Like” vote they received. They also gave clients purchasing specific products an ORBIS raffle ticket. Our heartfelt thanks for a campaign that succeeded in raising some MOP38,200 for our sight saving work across the Third World.

Sacred Heart Cannosian College “Walk For A Cause”

Sacred Heart Cannosian College (English Section) hosted its annual “Walks For A Cause” event on February 25th, 2012. ORBIS was honored to be a 2012 beneficiary of this most meaningful activity. The event proved very popular with over 2,000 guests, students, parents and teachers joining the two-hour walkathon and raising around MOP 40,000 to help our volunteers spread brightness to unimaginably poor countries. Our warm thanks to everyone who either walked or sponsored a walker on the day!

IFT students show their creativity and kindness

Students at the Institute of Tourism Studies (IFT) always do their utmost to create educational projects that benefit Macau people. On April 27th this year a group of third year Event Management students demonstrated their love of the local community by organizing a series of charitable events themed “Love Never Dies.” The highlight of the campaign came with a “Love Experience - Blind Dinner” at IFT Educational Restaurant where some 90 guests experienced the challenges facing the blind by eating dinner blindfolded. Their efforts helped raise MOP19,080 to help us restore and save sight worldwide.

On May 12th and 13th another group of fourth year Event Management students organized a billboard charity fundraiser for ORBIS at Prince Billiard Saloon. In all, 66 participants came along to see guest player Rocky Lane from New Zealand show why he’s regarded as such a master of table trickery. The MOP54,015 the event raised for our work came from not only tickets but also cash prizes donated by the three winning teams. ORBIS sincerely thanks everyone at IFT for helping raise funds and awareness across Macau by making charity central to their events.

Galaxy Macau donates in celebrations

To mark its first anniversary, Galaxy Macau organized a “Golden Night at the Opera - Charity Screening in 3D” on May 19th, 2012, at UA Cinema. Guests of honor at the charity fundraiser included leading socialites and representatives of local associations as well as various Galaxy Entertainment Group executives. Everyone subsequently enjoyed a thoroughly engaging evening watching the highly acclaimed “Carmen in 3D.” As sole beneficiary at the event, ORBIS thanks the organizers and attendees for raising over MOP10,000 to help patients in need.

Also, this September saw Galaxy Macau host its second Mid-Autumn lantern design competition and generously donate MOP5 to ORBIS each time someone voted for their favorite lantern on Facebook. Please join us in thanking the Galaxy Macau for raising MOP42,800 for our sight-saving efforts.

Thanks to Koi Kei Bakery for its kindness

Koi Kei Bakery is legendary for not only its scrumptious almond cookies and egg rolls, but also its compassion for the less fortunate. This year, the bakery has succeeded in raising around MOP200,000 to help needlessly blind people to see again!

From Nebraska with love

ORBIS would like to thank USDA and Angliss Macau Food Service Limited for helping raise some MOP10,000 via a raffle ticket and charity sale during their September Imported Nebraska Beef Dinner.

I Cheng Nga Choi Chinese Opera Charity Night

I Cheng Nga Choi’s recent charity opera show at Wing Lok Cinema marked the second time Macau’s Chinese Opera Association has supported the preventably blind. Held on October 6th, 2012, the show was a major success raising some MOP7,802 to help train eye care professionals in developing countries.

CEM 2013 calendar charity sale

As part of its 40th anniversary celebration, CEM held a student drawing competition this September. The 12 winning drawings can be seen in a 2013 desktop calendar which went on sale on behalf of ORBIS at CEM’s Energy Fun Fair on October 14th, 2012. If you also want to purchase a calendar, please contact us at 2830 0787.

Bank of China Eye Care Carnival

Bank of China Macau Branch and its staff have long been committed to supporting our volunteers’ work in poorer countries. To mark its centennial and our 30th anniversary, the Bank hosted a carnival for its staff, their families and over 100 senior citizens on October 27th, 2012. In addition to stressing the importance of eye health and ways to prevent blindness, the carnival succeeded in raising MOP200,000 on behalf of our Action for Sight 2012 campaign.
Dry Eye Syndrome
What is Dry Eye Syndrome?

Tears are produced by the lacrimal gland and are secreted to maintain the eye in a physiological state. When tear secretion is inadequate or distributed unevenly on the ocular surface to maintain adequate lubrication, dry eye syndrome will occur.

The function of tears
The function of tears include 1) lubricating the cornea of the eye, 2) maintaining the optics of the eye, 3) oxygenating the cornea, 4) flushing debris and foreign bodies and 5) protecting the cornea against bacteria or virus through antibodies.

Components of tears
The tear film is composed of three layers:
- The outermost oily layer is synthesized by oil glands near the eyelashes. The oil layer prevents the evaporation of tears from the cornea.
- The middle aqueous layer is secreted from the lacrimal gland and is the main component of the tear film.
- The inner mucous layer which is secreted by the conjunctiva enables an even distribution of tears on the cornea.

The symptoms of Dry Eye Syndrome
When the tear secretion is inadequate or unevenly distributed, the eyes may feel gritty. A foreign body or burning sensation may also be present. In severe cases, one may feel blurry vision.

The causes of Dry Eye Syndrome
Tear production will reduce as one ages. Post menopausal women may also complain of dry eyes due to the decreased hormonal circulation. Some patients with Sjogren's disease may also concurrently suffer from dry mouth and autoimmune diseases including rheumatoid arthritis. Prolonged usage of contact lenses, blepharitis and conjunctivitis may also cause dry eyes.

Diagnosis
An ophthalmologist can determine whether one suffers from dry eyes from slit lamp examination and commonly by a test known as Schirmer's test.

Treatment
The treatment of dry eyes includes the use of artificial lubricating eye drops or ointments. To prevent the evaporation of tears, protective or bandage contact lenses may also be used. During winter, the ambient humidity can be increased by the use of humidifiers. Punctal plugs can also be used by an ophthalmologist to occlude the drainage of tears.

Disclaimer: The content of this article is for reference only and does not serve diagnostic or treatment purposes nor does it serve as any recommendation towards the use of particular eye treatment products.
Macau first semi-postal stamps: ORBIS - 30 Years of Saving Sight

As 2012 marked the 30th anniversary of our first ever sight-saving mission, we were honored when the Macau Post Office announced it would issue the Macau’s first ever ORBIS-themed semi-postal stamps! Highlighting our “30 Years of Saving Sight” message, the stamps have played a major role in raising public awareness of the global blindness problem, the hardship suffered by the visually impaired and the importance of healthy sight.

In addition to a set of usable stamps, the special edition includes a sheetlet, a first day cover and an informative brochure. Each stamp shows not only its postal value but also the amount of money its purchaser and Macau Post are donating to ORBIS whenever a letter is sent.

The special issue is available for sale between October 9th, 2012 until April 8th, 2013 or while stocks last. If you support our work on behalf of the world’s needlessly blind or just love stamps, this is one collection you won’t want to miss!

ORBIS 30th Anniversary Charity Credit Card

As a long-term partner of ORBIS Macau, Banco Weng Hang, S.A. recently joined hands with AFA Macau and 16 leading local artists to design 30 charity credit cards to mark our 30th anniversary. While each artist was inspired by a different theme, they were all united by the desire to express their compassion for blind people and their shared love of beauty and life. To make purchasers’ transactions more meaningful by further helping the visually impaired, Banco Weng Hang will donate fully 0.3% of all transactions from each card to ORBIS. Like to help us train doctors and restore sufferers’ sight in unimaginably poor countries each time you visit the shops or go out for a meal? Then please visit Banco Weng Hang’s website www.whmac.com/orbis30 to learn more about the artists and pick your favorite design!

ORBIS sincerely thanks Banco Weng Hang, S.A., AFA Macau and each participating artist for their support! The artists include Ms Alice Kok, Ms Bianca Lei, Ms Carol Kwok, Mr Coke Wong, Ka Long, Mr Fortes Pakeong Sequeira, Mr James Chu, Mr Kent Jeong, Mr Lai Ieng, Mr Lai Sio Kit, MO-Design’s Mr Chao Sio Leong and Mr Hung Chun Ip, Mr Nick Tai, Ms Peng Yun, Ms Sally Loi, Mr Tong Chong and Mr Ung Vai Meng.

New donation channels for BOC customers

Bank of China (BOC) customer? You can now help bring hope in sight by donating via both BOC Online and Mobile Banking. Like to see how user-friendly the new services are? Then simply log onto your BOC account and transfer your donation direct to ORBIS today!

Raffle 2013 – Preview

Christmas, New Year and our 2013 annual raffle fundraiser are all coming up soon! The key visual inspiration and theme for our 2013 raffle will be an illustration of a lovely girl by Ms Prudence Mak, Creative Director of Chocolate Rain. Would your company would like to show its compassion for the less fortunate by supporting the campaign and donating prizes or gift vouchers? Then please contact us on 2830 0787.