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## The Fred Hollows Foundation celebrates the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its founder's passing

**Detroit, MI** – The Fred Hollows Foundation celebrates the 25th anniversary of the passing of its founder. On February 10, 1993, Fred Hollows passed away at the age of 63 due to metastatic renal cancer where the disease had spread to his brain and lungs.

Born in New Zealand, Hollows moved to the United Kingdom to study ophthalmology. Upon receiving his degree, he then moved to Australia and opened his own eye clinic. Hollows' first major work began in rural Australia, where he took particular interest in the indigenous communities. Seeing the conditions in which Aboriginal people were living in, Hollows was determined to help those struggling with basic healthcare needs.

Despite being diagnosed with cancer in 1987, Hollows battled with the disease for six years. During this time, he visited developing countries, training healthcare professionals and providing essential resources in order to effectively tackle the eye health epidemic. Hollows also established factories that produce intraocular lenses used to treat cataracts, which dramatically decrease the cost of restoring sight. By producing these lenses locally, they became more accessible and affordable compared to producing them in Australia.

Fred believed that everyone had the right to affordable healthcare, no matter if they were rich or poor. Continuing his work, the foundation now operates in 25 countries around the world, training doctors, nurses and healthcare workers. The foundation also distributes medication and raises funds for much needed medical equipment and facilities to perform eye surgeries. With the support of the public so far, The Fred Hollows Foundation has restored sight to over two million people. To make a donation to this organization and continue the legacy of Hollows, visit:

<https://www.hollows.org/au/donate>.

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