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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



### **VisionSpring provides the first-ever vision screening for monks in the Dalai Lama's community**

- His Holiness the Dalai Lama endorses VisionSpring's mission to provide affordable access to eyecare
- 681 members of the Dalai Lama's community were screened by VisionSpring to assess whether they needed eyeglasses

**20<sup>th</sup> July 2023** - VisionSpring has provided the first-ever vision screening for the Dalai Lama's community members. Taking place in June in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh India, VisionSpring screened the eyesight of 681 monks, artisans, and students in schools run by His Holiness. In total, 385 community members now have clear vision through VisionSpring eyeglasses.

Commenting on the work of VisionSpring, His Holiness the Dalai Lama said:

*"I know from personal experience how a pair of eyeglasses can change someone's life for the better. I am pleased to know about the good work being done by VisionSpring to correct the vision of underprivileged people, young and old, in Dharamshala recently and in other places as well."*

VisionSpring, India's Board of Directors and leadership team also had the honor of meeting His Holiness the Dalai Lama and receiving his blessings.

Talking about the visit, Anshu Taneja, Managing Director of VisionSpring, India added: *"We are grateful to His Holiness for this humbling opportunity and his support for our mission to make clear vision through eyeglasses accessible and affordable for all."*

*It was a huge privilege for our team to visit the Gyato, Kirti and Namgyal Buddhist monasteries and the Norbulingka art institute - where ancient Tibetan art is practised - to provide eyeglasses to His Holiness' community members, the first pair for most."*

According to the World Health Organisation, more than one billion people worldwide do not have the eyeglasses they need to see clearly and the endorsement from His Holiness shines a light on the importance of making affordable eye care accessible to all.

Eyeglasses are one of the most underutilized, low-cost, high-impact tools available to boost economic and social outcomes for individuals vulnerable to poverty. Studies show the transformative impact of improved access to eyecare - boosting productivity, improving educational outcomes, and enhancing general health and well-being, including by helping wearers stay engaged with holy texts.

## **Ends**

### **About VisionSpring**

Founded in 2001, VisionSpring is the social enterprise accelerating the use of eyeglasses in emerging and frontier markets. Our mission is to increase lifelong earning, learning, safety and well-being through eyeglasses for people vulnerable to poverty. We believe in the wonder of clear vision for everyone and envision a world in which all who need glasses will have them to see well and do well by 2050. As of 2022, VisionSpring corrected the vision of more than 10 million people living on less than \$4 per-day, unlocking more than \$2 billion in income earning potential. VisionSpring has received honours from the Skoll Foundation, Aspen Institute, World Bank, Duke University, and Tribeca Film Festival, among others. Their work has been covered by BBC | The New York Times | The Economist | The Lancet and more.

[www.visionspring.org](http://www.visionspring.org)