



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VisionSpring and IAPB Elevate Collective Effort to End Avoidable Sight Loss

- Ella Gudwin, VisionSpring, CEO joins IAPB Board.
- Global social enterprise, VisionSpring increase commitment to IAPB's collective effort to end avoidable sight loss.

10 January, 2024: The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) has welcomed Ella Gudwin, CEO of VisionSpring, to the IAPB Board. VisionSpring is a global social enterprise accelerating the use of eyeglasses in emerging and frontier markets.

This significant collaboration marks a milestone in the collective effort to end avoidable sight loss and improve access to glasses worldwide. With a shared vision of creating systemic change and improving the lives of over a billion people, VisionSpring aligns seamlessly with IAPB. This year VisionSpring has reaffirmed their commitment to the IAPB by upgrading their membership of the global alliance to a Band A Member.

Ella Gudwin is a distinguished veteran of international development, eye health, and the non-profit sector, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. With more than two decades of experience as a social entrepreneur and global health strategist, she has spearheaded initiatives that have corrected the vision of more than 10 million low-income adults and children.

Peter Holland, IAPB CEO, reflects on the strong history between the IAPB and VisionSpring, stating, "We have a rich history of collaboration. Our relationship has enjoyed many high points, including working together on the UN Resolution and bringing eye care to the halls of the United Nation on World Sight Days. This moment underscores our shared commitment to advancing eye health on a global stage. As we embark on this next chapter, I thank VisionSpring for their commitment. I truly believe our collective impact resonates, paving the way for greater things to come."

Babar Qureshi, IAPB Board President, said, "Ella's addition to the board is a testament to the strong partnership IAPB and VisionSpring have forged over the years. Her expertise and leadership will undoubtedly amplify IAPB's efforts to make eye care available, accessible and affordable to all. On behalf of IAPB, I welcome Ella to the Board."

Ella Gudwin commented, "Today marks a significant milestone in our shared pursuit of eye care for all. VisionSpring's commitment to providing eyeglasses as a catalyst for lifelong learning, safety, and well-being finds a formidable ally in IAPB. I am excited to contribute to the leadership of IAPB and look forward to a future where eye care is a universal right."

Learn more about IAPB Membership and how to become a member today.

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Interviews available upon request. Please contact:

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About IAPB

IAPB is the overarching alliance for the global eye health sector, with more than 200 organisations in over 100 countries working together for a world where everyone has universal access to eye care. IAPB believes in a world in which no one is needlessly visually impaired, where everyone has access to the best possible standard of eye health; and where those with irreparable sight loss achieve their full potential. Our key priorities are global advocacy, campaigning on a different level, connecting knowledge and strengthening the network.

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 earnings, 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 2023, VisionSpring corrected the vision of more than 11.8 million people living on less than \$4 per-day, unlocking more than \$2.5 billion in income earning potential. VisionSpring has received honors from the Skoll Foundation, Aspen Institute, World Bank, Duke University, and Tribeca Film Festival, among others. Our work has been covered by [BBC](#) | [The New York Times](#) | [The Economist](#) | [The Lancet](#) and more.

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