



OPTOMETRY GIVING SIGHT

world sight day  
challenge

# TRAINING OPTOMETRISTS TO BE THE DIFFERENCE

## AN OGS SUCCESS STORY



Van Anh is one of the excellent optometry students trained at the Bachelor of Optometry program at Hanoi Medical University (HMU). When she graduated in 2019, although she had opportunities to work at hospitals or eye clinics, Van Anh decided to become a Teaching Assistant (TA) for the Optometry Sub-Department of HMU because she loves teaching. Her main responsibility is to assist in teaching theory and practice to optometry students, working at academic vision centers, and participating in screening vision programs.



### TEACHING FUTURE TEACHERS

Van Anh has worked at the Optometry Sub-Department for three years and loves her job very much. She has matured, becoming a classroom assistant for optometry students, arranging teaching timetables for the optometry program, and training new TAs. Those graduates teach theory and guiding practice to third- and fourth-year students at the Academic Vision Centers (AVCs).

"Becoming a lecturer is my dream, as I like explaining to friends and others. I enjoy teaching and sharing with students the basic knowledge that a student of optometry needs to know. Through teaching, I can discuss more with students about the difficulties they are facing in the learning process, and they can learn from my own experiences," said Van Anh.



### SEEING HAPPY CHILDREN

In addition to being a classroom TA, Van Anh also spends a lot of time working at the AVCs, especially at the Pediatric Refractive Error Training Center (PRETC), which is funded in part by Optometry Giving Sight and money raised during the World Sight Day Challenge. She enjoys working with children and conducting eye health examinations. She is very patient and listens carefully, explaining and communicating with them. In the face of concerns and questions from the children and their parents, Van Anh always gently consults and carefully explains all points. "I find that working with children makes me feel more useful, as I can help them improve their eyesight and know how to take care of their eyes. I find what I do is very practical and meaningful to them, helping them to see more clearly and be happier. Seeing them happy makes me feel happy, too."



### ALWAYS FINDING A WAY

During the stress of the Covid-19 epidemic, Van Anh faced many difficulties and challenges in teaching and practicing at PRETC. The rapid spread of Covid-19 in Vietnam meant HMU had to close its Academic Vision Centers and optometry students had to study online and not practice at clinics. This situation made teaching and learning more difficult due to the overwhelming amount of work that the teachers had to handle for online courses. Along with other lecturers, Van Anh had to work harder and spend additional time creating clinical cases, providing images and videos to describe the eye examination process to help students get the best out of the online courses.

"Although this cannot completely replace actual practice, it can help students learn, practice, and improve their practical skills. We create every opportunity so that students can still study and we strive to help them complete specialized subjects in the curriculum while complying with our Government's epidemic prevention regulations," Van Anh said, sharing the challenges she has encountered while teaching during the global pandemic.



### ANSWERING THE CHALLENGE

Through the World Sight Day Challenge, OGS is able to fund sustainable initiatives like the Optometry program at HMU—and to give the gift of sight through people like Van Anh and a new generation of eye care professionals.

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