In February 2017, the Moran global outreach team traveled to the remote village of Chome, Tanzania for their first outreach medical eye camp (OMEC) in the area. By the end of the week, the team restored vision to 120 locals, completed over 1,000 vision screenings, and trained two local ophthalmologists by delivering 20+ hours of hands-on surgical training. The Moran team established an on-the-ground network in the region that will help them better understand the needs for eye care in Chome and the surrounding villages.

**Site:** Chome, Tanzania.  
**Partners:** Frank Sandi, MD, University of Dodoma College of Health; Kilimanjaro Center for Community Ophthalmology; My Father’s Mission; Seventh-day Adventist Church; World Wide Trekking.  
**Medical Team:** 5 surgeons: Craig Chaya, Loren Seery, Jason Leng, Susan MacDonald, Michael Seward; 1 optometrist: Dix Pettey; 3 O.R. scrub technicians: Holly Kersich, Kylie Wack, Jill Davis; 2 RNs: Lisa Williamson, Brittnee Zacherson; 1 PA: Lorie Hutchison; 5 clinical workers: Dana Dillon, Danielle Princiotta, Mariessa Maughan, Elizabeth Rogers, Lori McCoy.  
**Moran Staff, Volunteers & Donors:** Tommy Girdwood, Reid Lancaster, Dana Mulick, Justin Nabity, Margaret Rose, Michael Schoenfeld, Austin Williamson, Beau Williamson.  
**Sponsors:** David W. Bernolfo, Christine & Fred Fairclough, David Kelby Johnson Memorial Foundation, Physician Advisors, Alcon, SEE International, Oertli Switzerland, Micro Medical Devices, Epsilon USA, MST, Dubs Scrubs.  
**Skills Transfer:** Tanzanian ophthalmologists, Frank Sandi and Japhet Bright Boniface, received over 20 hours of hands-on surgical training.  
**Patient Impact:** 120 sight-restoring surgeries and over 1,000 vision screenings.

**Moran’s expanding reach**

In early 2016, Moran’s Global Outreach Division expanded its reach into Tanzania, focusing on providing eye care and sight-restoring surgeries in the country’s capital city of Dodoma. The 2016 mission was such a success that they returned to Dodoma again in February 2017. Moran physician, Craig Chaya, then traveled to Tanzania to lead the team farther north to the small village of Chome, located near the Kilimanjaro region, for their first mission in that remote area.

While Tanzania is rich in natural resources, it is also one of the fiscally poorest countries in the world. With limited financial resources, many of the country’s inhabitants are unable to obtain critically needed medical care, including treatment for vision loss. Out of a population of over 52 million, half a million suffer from blindness. Many are unable to work or care for themselves or their families, much less see the beautiful land that surrounds them. With a simple cataract surgery, many of Tanzania’s blind could have their vision, and their lives, restored.
Inaugural Chome mission
Chaya kicked off the team’s work in Chome with a site visit in 2016. During this visit, he conducted a needs assessment for eye care in the region. He quickly discovered the overwhelming need for care and began planning an OMEC for early 2017.

Moran’s February 2017 OMEC marked its first large-scale mission in the region. The crew of over 25, including physicians, clinicians and volunteers, first traveled to the remote villages of Same and Makanya to screen patients for cataract surgery. Reaching these extremely remote areas presented unique and challenging travel obstacles for both the Moran team and their patients.

While the pre-screening team easily identified many patients in need of eye surgery, they also had to develop a plan to transport the patients to Chome for medical care. With limited infrastructure and poorly maintained dirt roads, the terrain surrounding Chome is extremely difficult to navigate. Traveling just a few miles can take hours. With help from World Wide Trekking and My Father’s Mission, the team was able to move over 100 patients to Chome to receive free vision care.

Hands-on training for locals
The Moran team traveled to Chome with two local Tanzanian ophthalmologists: Frank Sandi and Japhet Bright Boniface. During this mission, they each received over 20 hours of hands-on surgical training from Moran surgeons. Sandi, who will soon oversee a newly developed ophthalmology residency program in Dodoma, also joined the Moran team for their OMEC in Dodoma at the Benjamin Mkapa Ultramodern Hospital in early February 2017. Boniface is the only eye care provider in the Kilimanjaro region. Although he is able to provide much needed eye care for locals, many villagers are unable to

Discovering family faces
Moran volunteer, Dana Dillon, met Bebe and her daughter during the team’s pre-screening trip in the remote village of Same. Bebe, blind from dense cataracts, had been living in darkness for decades and was unable to care for herself. Bebe’s daughter brought her to Chome for free sight-restoring cataract surgery. After her surgery, Dana found Bebe’s daughter and brought her to Bebe. Dana pointed to the daughter and said, “binti,”—Swahili for daughter. Bebe looked at the woman and adamantly shook her head “no.” When the daughter spoke, Bebe jumped out of her chair and gasped loudly enough for the entire room to hear. She had been blind for so long that she did not recognize her own daughter. Overjoyed with Bebe’s newly restored vision, the two women embraced and cried tears of joy.

A joyous patient with newly-restored vision no longer needs his walking stick.

The Moran team teaching and training local ophthalmologists in the field.