



## What does it take to be a GoodVision Technician?



*Togar Tarr, GoodVision Technician in Liberia*

To become a GoodVision technician, you not only need dedication and commitment, you also need the ability to identify those who require glasses, even when the people themselves are unaware of the critical benefits of clear sight or the fact that affordable glasses do exist.

That's where GoodVision Technicians, or GVTs, come in. In Liberia, where access to vision care is extremely limited, GVTs have undergone professional training that makes them experts in the field. Leading optical outreach programs at schools, religious institutions, and community centers, they are able to identify those in need, provide vision screenings, and dispense affordable glasses to the people who need them most.

One such devoted technician is Togar G. Tarr, 28, who has been working as a GVT for over 18 months. After losing his parents as a child, the community took him in and helped him complete his schooling. Prior to becoming a GVT, he worked as a nurse's aide at Refuge Place International (RPI), GoodVision's partner organization in Liberia.

Togar has led dozens of outreach events. Along with a team of other technicians, he has organized events across Liberia, sometimes traveling to destinations on foot or by motorbike when roads are not passable by car.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Togar and his fellow GVTs have continued to provide vision care while ensuring patient safety. When outreach events were paused due to government-mandated travel restrictions and school closures, Togar continued to provide vision screenings to patients on-site at the Refuge Place clinic instead.

Togar enjoys his role as a GVT because he is able to impact the lives of schoolchildren and others in need of glasses in Liberia. He has seen how the GVT outreach teams are welcomed with open arms in the communities where they work. Togar is excited to continue working with GoodVision to provide critical services to improve the sight of his fellow citizens.

"Working with RPI has been my dream, because of where I come from and giving back to the same community is the greatest pride for me and to continue to become a full technician under GoodVision. People within my community called me born to suffer child but today I am grateful for the level where God has placed me and also grateful to RPI for everything and the GoodVision team for thinking about helping Liberians." - Togar Tarr

---

## Partner Spotlight: Refuge Place International



*Outreach in Liberia*

Reaching out to people in need of eye testing and corrective glasses to improve their vision requires substantial on-the-ground organizational infrastructure. GoodVision USA's Executive Director, Jennifer Hyde, met Dr. Mosoka Fallah in 2011 and reconnected with him after he had founded Refugee Place International (RPI) in Liberia. In 2019, they decided to coordinate GoodVision's efforts in this West African country with the RPI organization.

Dr. Fallah, an internationally renowned epidemiologist, founded RPI in 2014 with the mission to create conditions to enable improved health outcomes for impoverished communities throughout the country. The organization aims to create a replicable health care model for urban slums and poor rural communities with the goal of reducing the high maternal, neonatal, and child mortality rates and make quality healthcare accessible to all people. GoodVision USA and RPI work in partnership with the Ministry of Health in Liberia.

Thanks to the fruitful partnership between the organizations, GoodVision technicians were able to perform over 6400 eye exams in 2020, even during the Coronavirus pandemic.

To learn more about the vision and the history of the RPI and to learn about their current work, please visit: <http://www.refugeplaceinternational.org>

---

Please visit [www.GoodVisionUSA.org](http://www.GoodVisionUSA.org) to find out more.

Donate Now

---



*Mosoka Fallah*

## **Mosoka Fallah, Founder of Refugee Place International**

As a child, Mosoka Fallah was a promising student who loved books and learning. Yet from an early age, he squinted to see the lessons on the chalkboard. He sat in the front row, listening very carefully, relying on friends for help. By 11th grade, he couldn't make out the letters or numbers on the board.

Mosoka grew up in Liberia with 10 siblings and his parents faced a daily struggle to feed their family, let alone buy their son the glasses he needed. When Mosoka was 16, his parents sent him on a long journey to a place he'd never been before, to find a man he'd never met before. This man was his wealthy uncle, his parents explained, who lived in another country and would help Mosoka buy a pair of glasses. Mosoka walked alone for days and when eventually he found his uncle,

after getting lost numerous times, he discovered that this man was not wealthy at all. To the contrary, his uncle could scarcely bear another burden. Yet somehow he was able to scrape together enough money to buy Mosoka his first pair of glasses.

***And those glasses changed Mosoka's life.***

Mosoka went on to earn a Masters degree in public health from Harvard and a PhD in microbiology from the University of Kentucky. With those credentials, he could have launched a lucrative career. Instead, he chose a life of service and founded Refuge Place International (RPI), a nonprofit organization dedicated to lifting Liberian families out of poverty.

RPI now partners with GoodVision USA to screen Liberian children for vision problems. If a child needs glasses, a new pair is made and fitted right there on the spot, and they walk home that day with their first pair of glasses, free of charge.

Mosoka's story is proof that helping a child to see prevents them from dropping out of school. "Without glasses, none of my achievements would exist," Mosoka reflects. "I would have left school and given up." He believes that no family should ever be forced to choose between feeding their children or helping them to see better.

---

## GoodVision Volunteer Katherine Smith, Secretary, Board of Directors

Katherine joined GoodVision USA in 2018, as one of the founders of the organization. From the start, she was impressed by GoodVision's sustainable way of improving lives through delivering eye glasses to those most in need. She was first inspired to seek out a vision-based charity when she developed her own need for reading glasses. In 2019, she traveled to Africa and experienced first-hand the nonprofit's impact in Burkina Faso, where she learned how to manufacture glasses on-site with the GoodVision patented bending machine that produces wire frames to fit corrective lenses.

Katherine has held many key roles within the GoodVision USA organization to ensure the success of the organization.

At the end of 2020 she focused on the corporate name change from "One Dollar Glasses USA" to "GoodVision USA," in line with the renaming of the global organization.

Katherine has BA degrees in Computer Science and English Literature with experience in hospital information systems.



Her passions include traveling, cycling, hiking, and yoga. Volunteering with an organization beyond just giving a donation is the main reason she was motivated to join GoodVision USA and it continues to keep her engaged every day!

If you feel the same way as Katherine and would like to help people in need,

### **Join our Team!**

Volunteers are more than welcome. We need your help to raise awareness with a broader audience about the important work that GoodVision is doing in Liberia, Africa and around the world.

**[Contact us](#) and make a difference.**

---

Follow us on...



GoodVision USA, a 501(C)(3) public charity, EIN 83-1871284, 897 Washington St, PO Box 600121, Newtonville, Massachusetts 02460

[Unsubscribe](#) [Manage preferences](#)

Send free email today

