



EYEsee

Vision for the World

<http://www.eyeseemission.org>

August 2008 Issue

BENEFICIARY NUMBER ONE!

EyeCare WeCare Foundation, Inc.

“Thank you for all that you are doing. You are really making a difference in the world. We are overwhelmed by your commitment and purpose. We look forward to working together,” says Dr. Jim Weyrich in an email to EYEsee. Dr. Jim is president and founder of EyeCare WeCare Foundation, Inc., a non-profit Christian international organization that does medical vision missions. Dr. Weyrich, his wife Ellen, and all those who volunteer for the missions take a mobile



Patients line up outside of the EyeCare WeCare mobile clinic.

clinic biannually to third world countries. They have taken numerous mission trips to the Philippines and they plan to expand their services to the rest of the country's

many islands. In the future, EyeCare WeCare hopes to reach out to the other Asian countries of Thailand, Singapore, China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, and Taiwan.

EyeCare WeCare has been incredibly successful in most of their missions. On this year's January trip to the island of Negros, Philippines, 1,538 received eyeglasses and 158 indigents received eye medication. Over the past three years, nearly 4,000 people living in poor rural areas have received vision care because of EyeCare WeCare's services. Beginning this year, EyeCare WeCare expanded its services for the first time to offer ophthalmic surgery. EyeCare WeCare makes available its help at no *(continued on page 3...)*

Castro Broad“casts” EYEsee Mission

Carolyn Jones, Diana Wells-English, Hannah Tibbetts, and Maeve Tibbetts as well as a few other pals were excitedly announcing at the last meeting that they had piqued the interest of a number of top 10 American Idol contestants at the American Idol Tour. After being given details on the EYEsee

Mission, the contestants had plenty of questions. It seems Jason Castro was the first of the Idols to give mention to the organization.

A package arrived at the EYEsee P.O. box on Wednesday, July 30 from Ms. Catherine Mims in California with a note that told of how she had heard of EYEsee from Jason Castro. This



The package from Ms. Mims

was truly thrilling news for all the EYEsee members.

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The Founding Members

EYEsee is run by a small but mighty crew of young, driven, and somewhat offbeat Juniors and Seniors of Saint Viator High School who feel compelled to make a difference in our world. These leaders were there from the very start, and each has known the hard work that has gone into developing EYEsee and the great moments that have come out of their experiences. They know that they do have the ability to ease the world's poverty, and they certainly plan to touch the lives of many by giving the gift of sight. *(Read the rest of their profiles at <http://www.eyeseemission.org>)*



Janice Guzon: Beneficiaries Leader

I wear both eyeglasses and contacts, and I suffer from deteriorating eyesight as a result of my Type 1 diabetes; that has really helped me understand how hard it is to suffer from poor vision. I began the EYEsee mission because I have always felt a call to make a difference in the world. Knowing my friends felt the very same drive, I gathered them together to build and grow EYEsee. I've learned many valuable things from being a part of this mission, but perhaps the most valuable lesson of all has been learning how the joint effort of a group of passionate individuals can really make an impact on our world.



Carolyn Jones: Campaigns Leader

I'm also known as CJ and I love life and laughing. I believe that helping other people is one of the most important things a person can do, and this is exactly the reason why I decided to join in the EYEsee mission. I am the only one of the founding members who doesn't wear eyeglasses or contacts, but I still understand how hard it is to live with poor eyesight because I know that my mom is almost blind without her own pair of eyeglasses. In my time as a leader and founding member of EYEsee I have learned the true value of responsibility.



Diana Wells-English: Operations Leader

I would describe myself as a very friendly, kind, and compassionate person. In the future I plan to be a doctor. I wear both glasses and contacts which has helped me relate to the mission, and as an EYEsee leader I have come out of this experience realizing how truly awesome it is to help other people.



Maeve Tibbetts: Web Leader

I'm EYEsee's funny, sarcastic, energetic, friendly, somewhat naive, and rather random leader, and I wear both glasses and contacts. Usually, I can be found showing my horse Guinness or having fun with my friends. When I'm not volunteering for EYEsee, I spend a large chunk of my existence playing guitar in the Saint James Peer Ministry Team's band. I'm learning a lot from my time as a leader of EYEsee, especially how to use HTML and how to take on great responsibility. Making a difference sure takes a lot of work!



Hannah Tibbetts: Support Services Leader

I am the spastic leader of EYEsee who also goes by the name Santi. I plan to attend Bennington University to pursue a career in filmmaking. As Support Services Leader and a Founding Member of EYEsee I have taken the opportunity not only to learn how to obtain and organize official documents, but also how to grow and run a foundation. Because I wear both glasses and contacts, I know the importance of the blessing of sight to an individual.



Beth Chin: Advertising & Print Leader

I play volleyball and occasional ping-pong, and am a member of the Saint Viator Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, and Pit Band. I'm hoping to attend DePaul or Loyola and major in advertising or photography. I wear both glasses and contacts so I definitely relate to the group's mission. My goal in life has always been to make the world a happier place to live, and through EYEsee I've found a way to make this possible. Through EYEsee, I've learned that there is a way I can give happiness to less fortunate people.

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(continued from page 1...) cost to all residents of these impoverished sites.

Dr. Weyrich was quick to respond to an invitation to partner with EYEsee. He mentioned that the number of eyeglasses they received this year was down and that EYEsee would be a great help to the foundation in resolving this issue.

Currently, the EYEsee team is working to raise money in order to provide EyeCare WeCare with a much-needed mini-bus. The mini-bus is intended to transport both volunteers and indigents to the medical mission clinics, and will cost approximately \$12,000.

Dr. Weyrich, in addition to offering the group a lensometer for verifying prescriptions of eyeglasses, has also brought up the prospect of taking the

EYEsee leaders and members along on EyeCare WeCare's overseas mission trips. In one of his emails he states, "I pray that each and every one of you will be able to join us

people, especially the young kids have their vision restored. In many cases it is the first time in their lives that they have seen clearly. I cannot describe it—it is a

forward to as a future opportunity.

Says Dr. Weyrich in a letter to Janice Guzon, "I am so impressed that you and your organization has been so ambitious in your goals and mission. The goals of your organization and the goals of our organization are the very same. To provide free eyeglasses to the indigent population in developing nations." Dr. Weyrich concludes, "When you look at each pair of eyeglasses that you collect, you should see a very emotional recipient. The entire process is done by volunteers who are working under the direction of God to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate around the world."

Learn more about EyeCare WeCare Foundation, Inc. at <http://www.eyecarewecare.org>



A little girl is all smiles after being measured and fitted with a pair of eyeglasses by EyeCare WeCare volunteers.

on a medical vision mission to the Philippines some day. I want you to receive the hugs and witness the uncontrolled tears of joy that come when

life-changing experience for many." This offer is an exciting possibility for all of EYEsee's members, and is a goal that the group is looking

EYEsee

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▶ Vision for the World

We're on the Web!

www.eyeseemission.org



3 Ways to Help Us:

1.) Donate your old and unused pair of eyeglasses

Send your eyeglasses in a padded envelope or box to:

P.O. Box 957384
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
United States

2.) Donate cash to our ongoing fundraiser "By the Bus Campaign"

Visit our website for more information about our efforts to raise money to help purchase a mini-bus for EyeCare WeCare Foundation, Inc. This mini-bus will be used to transport volunteers and indigents with physical disabilities to and from vision clinics.

3.) Donate your talents by becoming a volunteer

Contact Janice Guzon to sign up at:
Janice@eyeseemission.org

2008 Used Eyeglasses Collection Campaign

Be part of EYEsee's first collection drive for used eyeglasses and share the gift of sight. During the months of November 2008 to January 2009 we hope to build the largest collection of used eyeglasses for distribution to the needy in the poorer countries of the world. We're setting up drop off points in Arlington Heights, Mt. Prospect, Prospect Heights, Buffalo Grove, Palatine, Barrington, Inverness, Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg, and Elk Grove Village. Join us for our campaign kick-off on **Sunday, November 16, 2008.**

EYEsee on iGive.com

Would you like to help EYEsee in a big way? Buy something for yourself! Join iGive.com at www.iGive.com/eyesee. When you buy your everyday necessities at the iGive.com Mall, up to 26% of each purchase is donated to EYEsee, at no cost to you!

iGive.com is a free service, and their online mall features over 680 brand-name stores like Barnes & Noble, Staples, and Lands' End with super savings and deals every day, and free donations to EYEsee! Join www.iGive.com/eyesee, and shop for sight. We'll appreciate it!



A Worthy Cause

If you have a Facebook account, you are encouraged to be a part of the EYEsee Cause. The networking website Facebook allows users to show their support for a number of charitable organizations by

joining 'Causes'. A Cause is a system like a club where members can find out about a non-profit foundation's purpose and join or give monetary donations should they wish to support its mission. Thanks to Melanie Slawny, EYEsee is now one of these established Facebook Causes. Please show your support by joining, accepting an invitation, or recruiting others to join.



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