



EYEsee

Vision for the World

<http://www.eyeseemission.org>

December/January 2009 Issue

EYEsee Rolls out 2009 Campaign

Schedule of Collection Drive

January 5-13

Saint Viator High School

January 17-18

St. Raymond de Penafort
Mt. Prospect

January 25

Plum Grove of Palatine
Palatine

January 31/February 1

St. Alphonsus Liguori
Prospect Heights

February 7-8

St. Hubert Parish
Hoffman Estates

February 14-15

Queen of the Rosary Parish
Elk Grove Village

February 21-25

St. Thomas of Villanova
Palatine

February 28/March 1

St. Marcelline Parish
Schaumburg

March 7

Garlands of Barrington
Barrington

March 7-8

Church of the Holy Spirit
Schaumburg

March 14-15

Holy Family Parish
Inverness

March 28-29

Immanuel Lutheran Parish
Palatine

April 18-19

St. Anne Parish
Barrington

St. Thomas Beckett Parish
Mt. Prospect

St. James Parish
Arlington Heights

Prospect High School
Mt. Prospect

Many Volunteers Needed

EYEsee rolls out its first used eyeglasses collection drive with a week of kick-off activities at Saint Viator High School beginning January 5 through 13, 2009. EYEsee aims to build the largest collection of used glasses in the northwest suburbs during the months of January to April 2009.

Twelve area-churches, two senior homes, and one school system have signed up to host EYEsee's first-ever collection drive. EYEsee is still waiting for confirmation from other locations that have expressed interest in hosting EYEsee's drive this year.

Many volunteers are needed during EYEsee's site events. Volunteers will help with site set-up, answer questions from the public, hand out EYEsee literature and receive eyeglasses donations.

Because volunteer work during this drive will benefit the poor who are beneficiaries of this year's drive, volunteers can earn credits towards service to the poor and marginalized.

Volunteers can sign up during the kick-off activities at Saint Viator High School or online.

To check out the latest EYEsee events, visit www.eyeseemission.org.

St. Paul Lutheran Donates Eyeglasses



Shortly after sending out EYEsee's mailings for used eyeglasses, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Mt. Prospect under the

leadership of Senior Pastor Marc Janice Guzon and Diana Schwichtenberg quickly responded to the appeal with a large donation of used eyeglasses. It turned out that St. Paul Lutheran had earlier in the year collected used eyeglasses which they were storing in church, and the parish council was happy to offer the

eyeglasses to EYEsee. Wells-English traveled to St. Paul Lutheran in December to receive the donation from Kathy Moran, church secretary.



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EYEsee's Mission & Vision

EYEsee was founded by a group of juniors and seniors from Saint Viator High School in the summer of 2008. Undeterred by their lack of financial resources, they decided to reach out to the world's poor in order to alleviate some of their poverty. EYEsee is committed to helping the world's poor experience corrected vision with recycled eyeglasses.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."
—Winston Churchill

Partners' Update



EyeCare WeCare Foundation, Inc.

Dr. Jim and Mrs. Ellen Weyrich left for the Philippines in the third week of December for their bi-annual medical vision mission beginning the last week of December and lasting through mid January 2009. Before leaving the U.S., Dr. Weyrich wrote to EYEsee, "We look forward to the day that you and others can join us on one of our future medical vision missions. That way you will be able to witness for yourself the joy people express when they see for the very first time in their lives. Pray for that the mission will be able to restore vision to the maximum amount of people. I do know that all of you will be traveling with us on this mission. We promise to keep you updated."



PHYSICIANS for PEACE
BUILDING PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIPS THROUGH MEDICINE

Physicians for Peace

Physicians for Peace currently provides two eyeglasses programs benefiting indigent patients in the Philippines. The first is the creation of a permanent eyeglass distribution center, housed at Philippines General Hospital operated by the University of the Philippines. The second program initiated by Physicians for Peace is operated by the College of Optometry at Cebu Doctor's College. Here, as part of their training, optometry students determine the strength of the donated eyeglasses so that they can be used in outreach clinics. These clinics then distribute the eyeglasses to patients who are incapable of traveling to the city of Cebu.

Donors' Update

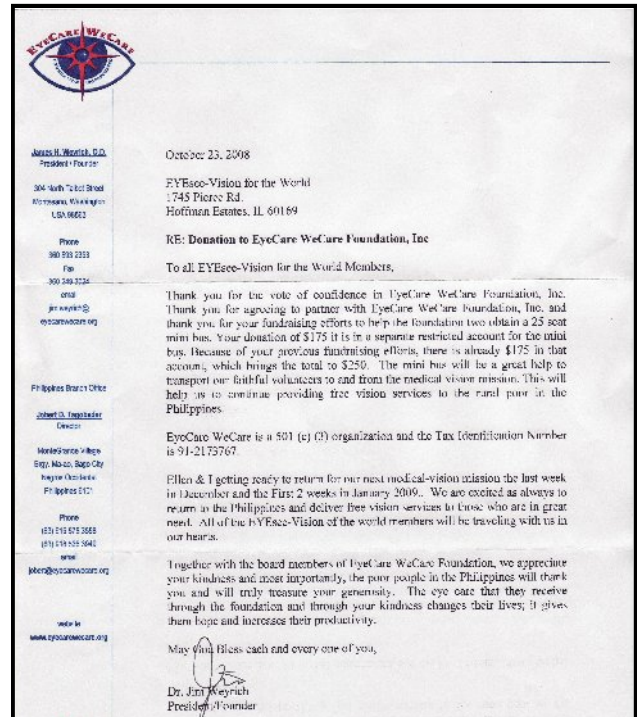
Oblate Sisters of St. Benedict Donate Eyeglasses to EYEsee



After receiving a copy of EYEsee's Newsletter, Mother Helen Kallus, Superior of the Oblates Sisters of St. Benedict contacted EYEsee to donate over 50 pairs of eyeglasses that their religious order had collected from the residents of the Villa of St. Benedict in Lisle. Shown on the picture are L-R: Sr. Rose Okruhlik, Mother Helen Kallus, Sr. Rosaria Lima, Sr. Martha Kallus, and Sr. Margaret Williams.

183 Million
People in Africa,
Asia, and Latin
American Cannot
Afford the Cost of a
Simple Pair of
Eyeglasses

4 Million
Pairs of Eyeglasses
are Thrown Away
Each Year in
North America



Campaign Planning: A Narrative

EYEsee's planning for the 2009 campaign began with invitations to nursing homes, churches, and schools in the northwest suburbs to host weekend collection drives during the months of January to April. Within one week EYEsee received a response from St. Paul Lutheran Church. They eagerly donated two boxes of eyeglasses, an event closely followed by a call from Mary Jo Polark at St. Raymond Parish. They were tremendously supportive of EYEsee's mission, and even requested Saint Viator High School president Fr. Robert M. Egan to preside at Mass on the weekend of the collection.

EYEsee members followed up the invitations with phone calls. Maeve Tibbetts can attest to the difficulty of the task. Says Maeve, "It was much like being eaten alive by piranhas, except less painful."

After hours spent making phone calls, EYEsee members had locked the approval of only one church and no nursing homes, and had left numerous voicemails. However, the following week brought responses from five churches and a senior home.

Maeve said of her follow-up calls, "Now I can leave a successful voicemail. But seriously, you just can't get this kind of experience anywhere else, and I'm so thankful I did this."

After two more rounds of follow-up calls, EYEsee received positive responses

from six more churches.

The responses from contacts were encouraging. Sue Geegan, Director of Service, Justice & Peace at Holy Family Parish wrote, "I hope to collect more glasses than you all can carry!"

"I applaud your efforts and admire that you would take on such a big undertaking."

—Clem Aseron, Director of Liturgy, St. Anne Parish

"I hope to collect more glasses than you all can carry!"

—Sue Geegan, Director of Service, Justice & Peace Holy Family Parish

Clem Aseron, Director of Liturgy at St. Anne Parish praised members on their mission. "I am pleased to learn of your leadership in gathering eyeglasses to be distributed to those who have few resources," he said. "I applaud your efforts and admire that you would take on such a big undertaking."

Marion Hornung, Director of Youth Ministry at St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish expressed her wonder at the progress of the young members of EYEsee and was thrilled to take up eyeglasses collection for EYEsee as a

service for her youth ministry program.

Rachel Conrad enlisted the help of her friends at Prospect High School to do follow-up calls during their lunch hours. On their first try, they were able to guarantee dates for two high

schools. yet responded to the invitations. They began at Arlington Heights and worked their way towards Barrington and Hoffman Estates. They traveled miles in the rain and met with administrators and parish staff members.

They each shared stories about their different routes. "Those Mapquest directions were crazy!" cried Beth Chin after a foggy, six-hour drive."

Still, they admitted to enjoying their lengthy journeys. Said Hannah Tibbetts about their time, "We pretty much had to work in pouring rain, but it was so much fun to run around and talk about our mission."

Within one day, EYEsee received more responses. An answer from Paula Irving of Garlands of Barrington told of how excited the Garlands were to be working with EYEsee.

EYEsee members who took part in this long process of gathering host locations can say that this was a valuable opportunity. Administrators at churches, schools, and senior homes voiced their support and amazement at the persistence of the members and all that they had accomplished within six months. They have been able to hone abilities needed to succeed in the real world through letter writing, phone interviews, and face-to-face meetings. EYEsee members dedicated vacations, weekends, and after school hours to ensuring the success of the campaign.

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

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 used 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

2009 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 January to April 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.

EYEsee T-shirts Now Spiritwear

Mrs. JoAnn Francis, Director of Student Affairs at Saint Viator High School, approved the EYEsee t-shirts as spiritwear.

The shirts are available in nine colors (Sapphire, Tangerine, Azalea, Kiwi, Iris, Daisy, Violet, Cedar, and Kelly Green) and come in sizes small to extra large. On the front of the shirts is a cartoon globe with eyeglasses

which was designed by EYEsee artist Beth Chin. The globe represents EYEsee's efforts to alleviate poverty around the world through a recycling of used eyeglasses. On the back of each t-shirt are the words "Saint Viator High School".

Each shirt is \$15 and. Shirts can be purchased by emailing a request to glasses@eyeseemission.org.



L to R from top: Black, Azalea, Violet, Kelly Green, Iris, Daisy, Tangerine, Sapphire, Kiwi, Cedar

All proceeds go towards the purchase of a passenger van that will be used during future medical missions in the Philippines by our partner, EyeCare WeCare Foundation, Inc. The van will help both volunteers and physically handicapped indigents reach remote vision clinics. Please support EYEsee by purchasing a t-shirt and sporting it on spiritwear days.