



EYEsee

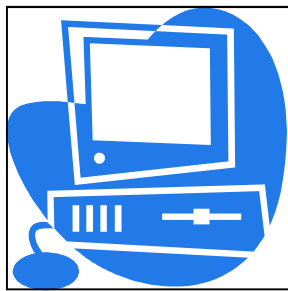
Vision for the World

Venture Into World Wide Web A Success!

It is hard to believe that after a group of high school students kicked off EYEsee just one month ago, the group has already finished constructing an informational website on their mission. Eyeseemission.org was launched on July 9, 2008, only three weeks after the first meeting.

“Oh my gosh, that’s awesome!” was Carolyn Jones’ initial reaction after seeing the printed screenshots of the site. At the top right corner of the website’s banner lies the EYEsee logo, which was birthed from the creative ideas formulated

at the second meeting and polished by the group’s artist and Advertising Team Leader, Beth Chin.



Visit eyeseemission.org today!

The website has proven itself incredibly useful for informing beneficiaries and other individuals who express interest in the EYEsee mission.

But aside from keeping EYEsee in the public eye, the website also acts as an excellent means of reaching out to EYEsee’s own members as it includes special features such as the Updates page, a blog for keeping members posted on what occurred during meetings they may have missed; and an Events page with a calendar and a list of dates scheduled for main meetings.

On July 15, Maeve Tibbetts eagerly and readily accepted the Web Team Leader position. The Web Team’s responsibility is to ensure that the eyeseemission.org stays updated and advertised throughout the

world wide web.

Yet another addition to the team’s list of jobs is the task of administrating another exciting feature of the website: free individual e-mails for each founding member. This is a new development that comes as a pleasant surprise to many in the group.

During meetings when the website and its many highlights are discussed, the thrill in the eyes of EYEsee’s members is apparent, and it is clear that each person hopes that the website will be developed to its greatest extent.

A Booth At The American Idol Tour?

Four of EYEsee’s founding members will be going on the American Idol tour this Saturday, July 19 and the idea of promoting EYEsee at the concert was suggested. The members decided to go ahead with this proposed plan.

These founding members will be giving out EYEsee press releases

and brochures at their own booth. Additionally, they will speak with American Idol officials to pursue the prospect of having the organization featured on Idol Gives Back, an American Idol program promoting non-profit foundations across the country.

“This could give us a lot of exposure,” says

Hannah Tibbetts. And she is right. Advertising at this tour alone could attract nationwide attention as tourists from around the United States fly in to attend this American Idol event.

Interested in finding out the result of our advertising? Come to our next meeting. See page 4 for more information.

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EYEsee's Mission & Vision

EYEsee's goal is simple but sure. The members of EYEsee want to help end world poverty by collecting used eyeglasses and donating them to those in need. Meanwhile, their vision is to build a foundation that will continue to grow and to thrive and to have a life-changing effect on lives of the poor even after they graduate from high school.

We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we
give.

-- Winston Churchill

Our Story

We are a group of young idealists who have gathered together with an ardent desire to alleviate the world's poverty. We come from various high schools in the Northwestern Illinois-area and have both juniors and seniors in our group. We are students and not gainfully employed, but despite our situations we believe that our limitations should not keep us from reaching out to those living in poverty. EYEsee is the product of that conviction.

EYEsee's mission is to assist in improving the vision of the needy in poorer countries of the world, a goal we achieve by recycling used eyeglasses from the U.S. public. We then distribute these recycled eyeglasses to the disadvantaged in poorer areas via overseas religious missions and qualified charitable organizations. EYEsee's vision is to evolve our recycled eyeglasses collec-

"In many third world countries eye care is either unaffordable or inaccessible."

tions from local neighborhood efforts into national collection drives and gradually achieve worldwide distribution of recycled eyeglasses to as many poor countries in the world as we can.

Refractive errors can easily be corrected with eyeglasses, but in many third world countries eye care is either unaffordable or inaccessible. In those countries an eye exam can cost as much as one month's salary while the cost of eyeglasses can be the equivalent of a year's salary. Many people in poorer countries who have vision problems go about their daily lives visually impaired in varying degrees for the simple reason that eye care and eyeglasses are beyond

their means. For these people, food; shelter; medicine and clothing take up all their meager financial resources and eyeglasses are simply held for a time when will they have extra income.

The gift of sight our eyeglasses can provide will perhaps allow a mother to finally see the faces of her children clearly, a senior citizen to read his Bible again, a woman to finally break from the vicious cycle of domestic violence through self-sufficiency, an unemployed man to find a job, or a child to finally excel in school.

Fundraiser Raffle at Lutheran Home in Arlington Heights

The EYEsee team is working to organize a raffle at the Arlington Heights Lutheran Home for the Aged as a fundraiser. The raffle is scheduled to occur sometime in the third week of August. EYEsee's members hope to raise enough funds to cover the expenses of the website, print media, and the shipping of eyeglasses.

Some of the raffle prizes may even

include signed Black Hawks jerseys. A woman who works with the Black Hawks hockey team offered to see if she could provide us with signed jerseys to raffle off.



Head of Carmelite Missions Blesses EYEsee Efforts

The following is an excerpt of a letter sent by Father John Malley, O. Carm, Director of Carmelite Missions.

Dear Janice and your companions at EYEsee,

Warm greetings and prayers from our Carmelite Mission office, and tomorrow on July 16 we will be celebrating our special Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, so **I will be remembering you in my Mass and praying for all of you and your projects to alleviate some of the world's poverty.**

Thanks for your letter that shared with me about your EYEsee organization, and I want to congratulate you on your trust and confidence that you can and will make a difference among some of the poor people in our society and world. You obviously have done a lot of "homework" to get all the information that you have put together about discarded eyeglasses and the need for help in underdeveloped countries to improve the vision of so many people.

Even though I have been visiting our Carmelite Missions in about 25 countries for many years, Janice, I have never focused specifically on the issue of eyes and vision. I am not sure what would be the needs of the parishioners of Father Kevin in Jose Galvez, nor of the 1700 students in Nuestro Salvador School, but **I would be happy in the next weeks to be in touch with him and see if there would be a need in Peru.** Hopefully, then, I could stay in touch with you and your friends at St. Viator's, and let you know if Fr. Kevin would be interested in receiving your gracious help.

I will be out of my office on vacation for the next few weeks, Janice, but I will try to stay in touch as you and your friends get more information about the use of recycled glasses and their potential use. Thanks for getting in touch with us here at Carmelite Missions, even though St. Viator and Carmel High School in Mundelein can occasionally be rivals! **God's blessings on your inspiring project, and much peace and love.**

Sincerely in Jesus and our Blessed Mother,

Fr. John Malley, O.Carm.

Membership Levels and Benefits

Membership levels were developed for the EYEsee team, with benefits for each of the three levels.

The first level—the founding members—are those whom by July 31 will have met two requirements: joining between the June to July '08 period and leading a functional team. While being a founding member requires much more commitment than does a regular member, the title also

comes with many more advantages. Despite being expected to consistently attend meetings, he or she will have the benefit of a say in all key decisions, will appear in all publicity materials (brochures, ads, newspaper articles, etc.), will be given a profile on the EYEsee website, and will receive a personal e-mail address.

A regular member is any person who attends team meet-

ings and main meetings. Though they do not have a vote in major decisions, they can enjoy the experience of helping build and raise a foundation on a lesser level, while still learning important project management skills.

Finally, a volunteer assists in the collection of eyeglasses; and like regular and founding members, receives service hours or credits.

“They can enjoy the experience of helping build and raise a foundation...”

EYEsee

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► Vision for the World

We're on the Web!

www.eyeseemission.org



Come to the Next EYEsee Meeting

Thursday, July 24, 2008
9:30-11:30 A.M.
at the
Arlington Heights Library

See you there!

What's Next?

Make sure to make it to our next meeting to find out more about these new and exciting developments!

- Find out about the results of our advertising at the American Idol Tour. See which American Idol contestants voiced their support and promised to promote us.
 - Hear the story behind our first donation.
 - See how we're doing with our plans for fundraising.
 - Help review our expanding list of potential beneficiaries.
- Be there as leaders present the totally creative, unconventional, and imaginative plans that they've created for their teams.
- Get updates as our group grows rapidly from a small team to a non-profit organization.