



# EYEsee

Vision for the World

[www.eyeseemission.org](http://www.eyeseemission.org)

Fall 2011 Issue

## EYEsee Concludes 2011 Campaign

### Expanded Collection Drive Netted Over 8,700 Eyeglasses

Operating upon the theme that 'Everyone deserves the right to see clearly,' EYEsee rolled out '2011 Campaign'—its third annual used eyeglasses collection drive in the Chicago-area—on January 22, 2011 with the initial weekend collection drive led by Saint Viator students at Queen of the Rosary Parish in Elk Grove Village. The '2011 Campaign' netted over 8,700 eyeglasses and achieved its goal of expanding into new collection areas this year. It also garnered media publicity, including the *Daily Herald* (April 11, 2011 and April 20, 2011 issues).

Fifteen churches hosted EYEsee's weekend collection drives between January 22 and June 5, 2011. They are Queen of the Rosary (Elk Grove), St. Matthew (Schaumburg), St. Edna

(Arlington Hts.), Holy Family (Inverness), Mary Seat of Wisdom (Park Ridge), St. Anne (Barrington), St. Raymond de Penafort (Mt. Prospect), Immanuel Lutheran (Palatine), St. Thomas of Villanova (Palatine), St. Isaac Joques (Niles), Church of the Holy Spirit (Schaumburg), St. Peter the Apostle (Itasca), St. James (Arlington Hts.), St. Thomas Becket (Mt. Prospect) and Prince of Peace (Palatine). Thirty-three St. Viator High School students led these weekend collection drives, collectively logging over 330 service hours.

Six senior homes opened their doors to EYEsee by



Janice Guzon with Thomas Longeway, President of Classic Sunglasses and Jeannine Balmer, Operations Manager. Classic Sunglasses is EYEsee's largest donor for 2011.

**More  
inside!**



### Table of Contents

The People Behind the 2011 Campaign..... pg. 2  
 Campaign Highlights ..... pg. 2  
 Uganda & Congo Mission... pg. 4

## EYEsee Plans Expansion into Chapters in 2011-2012

### The University of Chicago Campus Ministry to Provide Mentoring Resources

EYEsee plans to replicate its effort around the country through the establishment of nationwide high school and elementary school chapters. A chapter is a student-led branch of EYEsee with its own leadership team and clearly defined roles within the chapter. Those roles flow from EYEsee's mission of 'contributing towards

improving the vision of the needy in poorer countries, and in so doing alleviate some of the poverties in the world.'

The leadership team will manage their chapter, with assistance from EYEsee leadership. The chapter's main project is organizing the used eyeglasses collection drives in their communities in conjunction with EYEsee's

annual collection campaign. The chapter may choose to participate in EYEsee's other health mission projects.

Students who wish to form a school chapter will receive a chapter start-up kit. They will also be assigned a chapter development team of students from The University of Chicago who will work closely with the

students in setting up their chapter and in managing their projects. EYEsee has a partnership with The University of Chicago Calvert House to provide mentoring resources to chapters. If you are interested in creating a chapter, contact Janice Guzon by email [janice@eyeseemission.org](mailto:janice@eyeseemission.org) or by phone (773) 771-2797.

## EYEsee Concludes 2011 Campaign (continued)

hosting Saturday collection drives for their residents. They are The Garlands (Barrington), Church Creek Sunrise (Arlington Hts.), The Park at Golf Mill (Niles), Heritage of Des Plaines (Des Plaines), Schaumburg Sunrise (Schaumburg) and Victory Centre (Bartlett). Six St. Viator High School students led these Saturday collection drives, collectively logging more than 40 hours.

Campus Minister Beth Knobbe helped EYEsee run its second annual collection drive at Northwestern University's Sheil Catholic Center on May 22, 2011. EYEsee also ran its first annual collection drive at The

University of Chicago Calvert House with the help of Campus Minister Liz Weigel on April 3, 2011. Four Saint Viator High School students led both drives.

This year's campaign expanded into public and private offices, which was a significant milestone for EYEsee. The following villages hosted month-long collection drives: Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg, Palatine, Itasca and Elk Grove. Arlington Heights Memorial Library combined EYEsee's month-long collection drive with its green program.

AT&T signed up for EYEsee's campaign this year and is presently winding down their

collection drive in the Chicago-area as of press time. Classic Sunglasses in Barrington is EYEsee's largest donor this year with 1,250 sunglasses donated to the campaign.

EYEsee also received eyeglasses donations from out-of-state donors, namely, East Alabama Medical Center (Alabama), University of the Pacific (California) and Auburn University Athletic Department (Alabama).

Mitch Morton, an Eagle Scout from Buffalo High School, collected 1,057 eyeglasses for EYEsee for his Eagle Award project.

Two optical clinics have continued their support to EYEsee's efforts with donations to this year's

campaigns. They are Suburban Associates in Ophthalmology Diseases & Surgery of the Eye (Arlington Hts.) and Midwest Glaucoma Center (Hoffman Estates). The University of Chicago Medical Center also donated to this year's campaign.

Other service groups that have donated to EYEsee's campaign this year are the Women's Club of Arlington Heights and the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women. Many private individuals have mailed their donations of eyeglasses to EYEsee or dropped them off at Saint Viator High School.

## The People Behind the Campaign

EYEsee is the work of many hands, and EYEsee's youth leaders and volunteers this year displayed extraordinary commitment to EYEsee's mission in the number of institutions they signed onto '2011 Campaign' and in their total service hours logged. Three of these youth leaders deserve special recognition for their exceptional contributions to EYEsee.



**Chris Santucci (Saint Viator High School, Class of 2012)**—Chris has been the driving force behind EYEsee's program for churches. This year, Chris led EYEsee's 2011 collection drive for parishes and also served as the EYEsee Leader for Operations at Saint Viator. He recruited and trained volunteers for the parish drives, led these drives, and interacted with parishioners to inform them of EYEsee's mission and work. Chris even created a database to track members and collection volunteer information. Chris logged over 90 service hours this year alone, and more than 186 service hours for the last three years.



**Evelina Wozniak (Saint Viator High School, Class of 2012)**. Evelina served as EYEsee Leader for Public Offices for '2011 Campaign.' Through her persistent hard work, she took EYEsee to new areas by successfully signing up the Villages of Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg, Palatine, Itasca and Elk Grove to host EYEsee's month-long collection drives in the village offices. She also worked with the Arlington Heights Memorial Library to include EYEsee's collection drive to their green campaign. As a result of Evelina's efforts, EYEsee's '2011 Campaign' received significant media coverage on village newsletters, websites and community boards, as well as library advertisements.



**Alexandra Glinos (Saint Viator High School, Class of 2014)**. Lexi served as EYEsee Leader for Senior Homes for the '2011 Campaign.' Serving on this role, she displayed strong initiative in signing up four large senior homes and then leading the Saturday collection drives at these senior homes, recruiting and training volunteers and informing the administrators and residents of EYEsee's mission and work. Her efforts at these senior homes were very well received.

# Highlights from the 2011 Campaign



**Queen of the Rosary  
Parish**



**St. Matthew Parish**



**Holy Family Parish**



**St. Thomas of  
Villanova Parish**



**Church Creek Senior  
Center**



**St. James Parish**



**Schaumburg Sunrise  
Senior Center**



**Northwestern University  
Sheil Center**



**St. Anne Parish**



**Victory Center**



**St. Raymond de  
Penafort Center**



**Golf Mill Park**

# EYEsee Supports 2011 Health Mission to Uganda and Congo

The following is a letter from Jeanne Ratzloff, PeopleWeaver President on their May 2011 mission trip to the Kyangwali Refugee Settlement in Uganda and Bunagana in the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

Dear Ms. Guzon ,

In May 2011 EYEsee donated 100 pairs of eyeglasses to PeopleWeaver to distribute to the people living at the Kyangwali Refugee Settlement. PeopleWeaver is a non-profit organization established to provide economic assistance, such as microcredit loans, to impoverished women in developing countries. Currently, our efforts are focused on the women refugees living in the Kyangwali Refugee Settlement in Uganda.

We traveled to Uganda in May. The eyeglasses distribution was a huge success. We scheduled the distribution to take place after our annual microcredit meeting. The meeting is attended by the

women who have received loans, women who hope to receive loans, project leaders, community members and community leaders.

While the focus of our distribution was the microcredit women, we had enough glasses to also give to the people in the communities who needed them. Many people knew the magnification number they needed. For those who didn't, we gave printed material and they tried on glasses until they found the best magnification for their eyes. The majority of people needed magnification of 1.25 to 2.25.

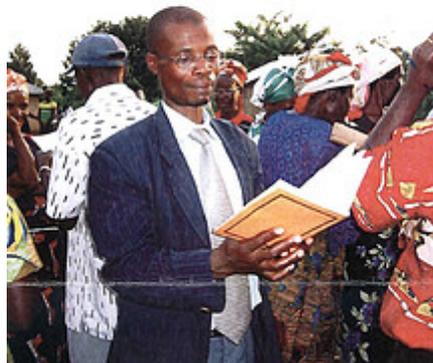
For the first time, we traveled to Bunagana in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to explore the possibility of giving microcredit loans there. This is the area many of the Kyangwali refugees we work with are from. We took about 20 pairs of glasses to Bunagana. We did not announce we had the glasses, but after giving a pair to one person, the word spread quickly and people started showing up at our door each morning and

throughout the day. We were told people were coming days after we left.

There was a man in his 90s who tried on several pairs of glasses. After he chose the best pair for his eyes, he asked for one of our plastic bags and carefully put his glasses in it for safekeeping. I'm sure the glasses will be used for the rest of his life and, after his death, will be saved for someone else. After all the glasses had been distributed, the next morning a man came to where we were staying. When we told him we didn't have any more glasses, he said he had walked miles. I was alarmed when he dropped to his knees pleading for glasses!

The overwhelming response to the availability of eyeglasses was a surprise to us. In the past when we've traveled to Uganda, we've taken a variety of needed items—such as birthing kits, vitamins, anti-parasite medication, Crocs, etc. Of all the things we've taken it's obvious eyeglasses are desperately needed, greatly appreciated and one of the best uses of our limited baggage space.

Jeanne Ratzloff, PeopleWeaver President



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