

Acts of kindness

All across the country, every day, good people perform acts of kindness for strangers. Only rarely do they receive recognition for their selfless work. In our ongoing series, The ENQUIRER will put the spotlight on those who care enough to make life better for those around them.

JANICE GUZON has nice clothes, a laptop computer, an iPhone and just about everything else a teenage girl could want – so she certainly never considered her eyeglasses a luxury item.

But while surfing the Internet two years ago, she learned that people in Third World countries rarely wore glasses because of the cost.

So the enterprising teen decided to do something about it.

Janice, who lives in Hoffman Estates, Ill., began collecting used eyeglasses to send to people in impoverished countries. Amazingly, she's already collected more than 8,000 pairs!

AND THE SPUNKY TEEN'S EFFORTS

have not gone unnoticed. Janice has been named the top high school volunteer in the state of Illinois by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program that honors young volunteers.

"Thanks to Janice, 8,000 people now have the gift of sight," Scott Peterson, the executive director of the awards program, told The ENQUIRER.

Janice explained what prompted

her to embark on her mission. "All my life, everything has been provided for me, whereas people in Third World countries have to struggle for just their basic needs, even something as simple as a pair of eyeglasses," she told The ENQUIRER.

"It can cost people in some Third World countries as much as a year's salary to get a pair of glasses.

"I thought, 'I can't imagine my

parents having to decide whether to put food on the table or get me a pair of glasses.'"

Janice set up her own charity, called EYEsee, and has enlisted the help of 50 of her school friends to collect glasses. Instead of hanging out at the mall on weekends, the kids are setting up shop at local churches and senior citizen centers so people can drop off their old glasses.

Janice has partnered with other charitable groups such as Physicians for Peace and EyeCare WeCare to distribute the glasses she and her friends collect.

"They're able to match the glasses to the right person," she said.

Janice, who hopes to go into missionary work after college, says she's gotten videos back of people

VISION OF A BETTER WORLD

Bighearted teen gives gift of sight



Janice Guzon has already collected more than 8,000 pairs of glasses



The enterprising teen enlists volunteers to support her cause

Tell us about a **KIND PERSON**

If you know of someone who deserves to be honored for acts of kindness, please let us know by e-mailing us at: letters@nationalenquirer.com. Or write to us at: Acts of Kindness, National Enquirer, 1000 American Media Way, Boca Raton, FL 33464-1000. We'll pay you \$250 if we use your submission.

in Third World countries being given with the glasses she's collected. "People actually cry when we get them because it means so much to them," she said. "It makes me so fulfilled." You can find out more about Janice's charity by visiting her website – www.eyeseeemission.org. by PHILIP S. tips@nationalenquirer.com