



Recycle for Sight

Winter/Spring 2008

Ann Arbor Host Lions Club
P.O. Box 3440, Ann Arbor, MI 48106
www.annarborlions.org

RECYCLING PARTNERS

Ann Arbor Senior Center
Belleville Vision Center
Breneman Optical
Curves, Plymouth Mall
Dobbs Opticians, Inc.

Dr. Gary M. Moss
Dr. Paul C. Uslan
First United Methodist
Church
Hershey's Ice Cream
Huron Ophthalmology

Kellogg Optical Shop
National City Bank
Dr. R. Kennedy/
Perspective Eyecare
Reinhart Realtors
St. Joseph Mercy Hospital

Stadium Opticians
SVS Vision
Taubman Medical Library
Washtenaw County Library
for the Blind and Visually
Impaired
Washtenaw Medical Supply

Together We Make a World of Difference

*By Lions Jeanne Snyder and Lisa Langley, Eyeglass
Recycling Committee, Ann Arbor (Host) Lions Club*

Did you know that the eyesight of more than one-fourth of the world's population could be improved with corrective lenses? Tragically, in many countries, eyeglasses may not be affordable or accessible.

Thankfully, Lions Clubs throughout the world have joined with local businesses and organizations like yours to help make eyeglasses available for people in need. Last year, Lions Clubs collected nearly 30 million pairs of glasses for distribution in over 87 developing countries. In the Ann Arbor collection area alone, more than 30,000 pairs of glasses were collected in the past two years.

On behalf of the millions who have benefited from the Recycle for Sight Eyeglass Program since its inception in 1994, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation for your willingness to participate in this worthwhile program. Together we really do make a difference!

Beyond the Box: The Process for Recycling Eyeglasses in Michigan

At regular intervals, volunteers from Ann Arbor (Host) Lions Club visit the 20 drop-off locations in the Ann Arbor/Belleville area to collect donations of eyeglasses and hearing aids. The glasses are then sorted to discard cases and broken frames with missing lenses.

After sorting, the glasses are boxed and delivered to the Lions clubhouse in Michigan Center near Jackson, which acts as a central sorting and storage center for other participating Lions clubs in the region.

Next, all the boxes are gathered and taken to Ionia State Prison where inmates sort and clean the glasses before they are read by a machine to determine their strength.

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*Did you know
we also collect
hearing aids
for recycling?*



*By age 40,
as many as
90% of
adults need
glasses in
order to
read.*

Any questions, suggestions, or concerns about eyeglass recycling can be directed to Lion Jeanne Snyder 734-994-6629

The donated glasses are then put into labeled bags and entered into a database. The prison inmates who work on the glasses are well trained, and have worked in the eyeglass program for many years. An added benefit to the program is the sense of self-worth that the inmate's gain as they contribute to the community.

Groups who need glasses for missions to developing countries can request prepared eyeglasses. The number of glasses needed for a mission may range from 4,000-10,000 pairs.

Over the years, glasses from the Ann Arbor area have provided corrected vision to people in such countries as Latvia, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Volunteers going on the 1 to 2 week long missions pay their own way. In our next newsletter, we will feature an interview with one of the volunteers who went to Latvia to deliver the eyeglasses that you helped collect!

A Few Words about the Ann Arbor (Host) Lions Club

Adapted from an article written by Lion Dan Reynolds

The Ann Arbor (Host) Lions Club was founded at the outset of the Great Depression and has been serving the needs of the blind and visually impaired for over 78 years.

Through its support of organizations like the Michigan Eye-Bank, Leader Dogs for the Blind, the Washtenaw County Library for the Blind and numerous others, the Ann Arbor (Host) Lions Club has been a stalwart advocate of those in our community with vision impairments. Not long before the club was formed, Helen Keller, whose own story of triumph over blindness is world-renowned, made a landmark speech at the 1925 Lions International Convention. She implored Lions to take up the fight against vision impairments: "I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?"

Today, the Ann Arbor (Host) Lions continue to serve as Knights of the Blind. In addition to our work with eye and vision-related charities, we also raise funds and volunteer in support of such local charitable organizations as the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Motor Meals, Dawn Farm and the Boy and Girl Scouts of America.

To learn how you can become a member of our club, please call our President, Lion Jackie Stickney, at (734) 449-8849.