



EYEsee

Vision for the World

<http://www.eyeseemission.org>

Winter 2010 Issue

## The 2010 Collection Campaign Kicks Off! EYEsee Expands Collection Efforts This Year

EYEsee kicked off its 2010 used eyeglasses collection campaign on January 25 at Saint Viator High School. This year's campaign marks EYEsee's second annual collection efforts. EYEsee hopes to double its collection this year.

The two-week collection drive at Saint Viator gives a glimpse into EYEsee's plans for the 2010 collection campaign.

In addition to area churches and senior homes, EYEsee is expanding this year's campaign to include boy scout projects, elementary schools, offices and optical stores.

Weekend drives will be

held from January 30 until June 13. Sixteen area churches in the northwest and western suburbs have signed up to host EYEsee's campaign this year.

Proceeds from this year's campaign will benefit the poor in Haiti, Honduras, Venezuela, Philippines, Marshall Islands and Micronesia. EYEsee is also supporting two medical missions this year to the African countries of Uganda and Kenya.

Volunteers are needed to help during this year's campaign. Volunteers can sign up at Saint Viator's Campus Ministry or online at:

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

January 25-February 12  
Saint Viator High School  
Arlington Heights

January 30-31  
Our Lady of Ransom Parish  
Niles

February 13-14  
Church of the Holy Ghost Parish  
Wood Dale

February 20-21  
Holy Family Parish  
Inverness

February 27-28  
Our Lady of Hope Parish  
Rosemont

March 6  
The Garlands of Barrington  
Barrington

March 6-7  
St. Hubert Parish  
Hoffman Estates

March 13-14  
St. Frances de Sales Parish  
Lake Zurich

March 20-21  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
Palatine

April 10-11  
St. Isidore Parish  
Bloomington

April 17-18  
St. Zachary Parish  
Des Plaines

April 24-25  
St. Marcelline Parish  
Schaumburg

May 1-2  
St. John the Evangelist  
Parish  
Streamwood

May 1-2  
St. Mary Parish  
Buffalo Grove

May 22-23  
St. Ansgar Parish  
Hanover Park

May 29-30  
St. Colette Parish  
Rolling Meadows

June 5-6  
St. Julian Eymard Parish  
Elk Grove

June 12-13  
St. Paul of the Cross  
Park Ridge

### EYEsee Holds Workshop for Area Schools

EYEsee held a planning workshop for student leaders of area schools in the northwest suburbs at Saint Viator High School on January 25. As a new initiative by EYEsee this year, the workshop kicked off EYEsee's 2010 Annual Used Eyeglasses Campaign at Saint Viator. The idea for this workshop was inspired by student leaders from various elementary schools who wanted to support EYEsee's mission and work.

Mrs. JoAnne Francis, Director of Student Affairs at Saint Viator, paved the way for this program to be started at Saint Viator after presenting the idea to elementary (continued on page 2)

### EYEsee Supports Missions to Haiti and Uganda

A significant portion of this year's collection will go to the people of Haiti to support the ongoing humanitarian relief efforts in that country. Through ongoing partnership with Physicians for Peace, EYEsee hopes to reach out to those desperately needing eyeglasses in Haiti.

EYEsee is partnering with Apples Christian Church of Gibsonville, Carolina, to reach out to the poor in the African country of Uganda. This church conducts an annual mission to Uganda. EYEsee is supporting their May 8-22 mission. Their letter request to EYEsee is printed on page 3.

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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

## 2010 EYEsee Campaign Leaders

### Campaign Manager, Schools



**Janice Guzon** is a senior at Saint Viator High School. She leads EYEsee's efforts to engage elementary schools in EYEsee's mission and work. Janice is the founder and President of EYEsee.

### Campaign Manager, Churches



**Maeve Tibbetts** is a senior at Saint Viator High School. She leads weekend collection drives at area churches and senior homes east of Saint Viator. She is a founding member of EYEsee.

### Campaign Manager, Churches



**Chris Santucci** is a sophomore at Saint Viator High School. He leads weekend collection drives at area churches and senior homes west of Saint Viator. He played a lead role during last year's campaign.

### Campaign Manager, Offices



**Hannah Tibbetts** is a senior at Saint Viator High School. She leads EYEsee's efforts to get private and public offices involved with the current campaign. She is a founding member of EYEsee.

## EYEsee Holds Workshop for Area Schools (cont.)



school principals during her November meeting and receiving their positive response.

Student leaders from five elementary schools and a high school, along with their teachers and parents, attended the two-hour workshop. EYEsee founder Janice Guzon led the presentation on EYEsee's mission, organization, partners and activities. Founding member Hannah Tibbetts produced a video for

this workshop that gave participants the 'experience' of medical missions to some of the poorest areas of the world and where EYEsee is making a real difference in the lives of the poor. Mr. Tom Nall, EYEsee moderator, offered the framework of EYEsee's mission and work. Participants received EYEsee's playbook on how to run a successful eyeglasses collection drive at the end of the workshop.

EYEsee acknowledges the participation of the following schools: St. James Elementary School, St. Emily Elementary School, St. Zachary Elementary School, St. Thomas of Villanova Elementary School, Our Lady of Wayside Elementary School and Stevenson High School.

## Why Recycle Old Eyeglasses

### Worldwide Vision Problem

**138 Million**  
Africa, Asia, Latin America



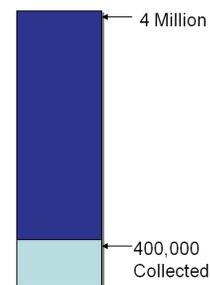
For a family of 4 or more who makes \$4.00/day:

- An eye exam = 1 month salary
- A bottle of eye medication = 1 week of family's food
- A pair of eyeglasses = 1 year salary

**15 Million**  
U.S.A.

- More than 4 Million pairs of eyeglasses are thrown away every year in the U.S.
- While other service organizations have well established collection programs, over 90% of all used eyeglasses in the U.S. remains uncollected.

### Discarded Eyeglasses in North America



Recycled eyeglasses can help millions experience corrected vision!

## Report: Medical Mission to Philippines (January 2010)

Dr. Jim Weyrich, Founder and President of EyeCare WeCare Foundation, Inc., reports on their January 11-20 mission to the remote village of Calumangan, Negros Occidental Island, Philippines. The foundation's 'Clinic on Wheels' reaches patients in rural Philippines.

*"In December 2009, the foundation received a grant from Transitions Health Sight for Life Fund. Heavy duty springs and a stiffer suspension was added to the bus along with new brakes. By bringing the clinic to the remotest Barangays, the people who benefited the most were those who never had a pair of eyeglasses. A total of 1,769 rural poor underserved people benefited from this mission. Among them, 133 people re-*

*ceived free eye medications and 74 people were referred for cataract and pterygium surgery. There were 10 different venues during this*



People lining up in front of EyeCare WeCare's 'Clinic on Wheels' for free eye exam and eyeglasses from Dr. Weyrich.

*medical vision mission all over Negros Occidental, ranging from Silay City, Bago City to the Town of Villadolid. The foundation*

*has now provided 11,088 people with free eyeglasses since its first vision mission in 2005.*

*One of the thousands of patients named Helen Tambahillo had a neighbor helped her to the venue at*

*Purok Riverside, Barangay Tabunan, Bago City. She has been blind all of her life. On January 11, her life changed when she arrived at the big blue bus of hope. She was found to be a (minus) 18.50 diopter myope. That means, without correction, she is over nine times legally blind. When the doctor put a pair of trial lenses on her, she did not want to give them back. She was assured that she didn't want the trial frames and lenses, and that she has to have her own. When she received her new glasses and her vision was restored, all she could do was to cry. She cried for over 2 hours, she had all the volunteers, all of the indigents in line and even our bus driver crying like babies. (continued on page 4)*

## EYEssee Set to Support Mission to Uganda

The following is a letter from Pam Blandchard and Sheri Jones of Apples Chapel Christian Church in Gibsonville, North Carolina. Each year a team of healthcare professional and lay people from this church conducts a medical mission in Uganda. This year they have scheduled their medical mission in May, and EYEssee is supporting their mission. Photos of last year's mission are on page 4.

Dear Janice,

*The mission trip last year was coordinated through Christ Community Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. It was a medical mission trip and consisted of 12 people. We had 5 nurses, a pharmacist and some lay people. We provided 6 days of medical clinics treating various medical conditions such as malaria, arthritis, childhood ear infections, HIV, syphilis, pneumonia and tooth abscess. We sent 3 babies to the hospital the first day and know that these children would have died had it not been for our clinic. We saw 300 people the first day and close to 1,000 in the 6 days we had clinic. The orphanage we worked at was Good Shepherd's Fold in Jinja, Uganda.*

*Last year we were able to take about 30 glasses that were donated to us from a local Food Lion. They were magnifier reading glasses and were given out within the first 2 days. The one story that stands out in my mind the most is an older gentleman that came in with the chief complaint that he couldn't read his Bible. We were able to give him a pair of the reader glasses and he was excited to be able to read his Bible again. Unfortunately there were many we had to send away still unable to see or read as we ran out of glasses. We had a few older glasses donated by church members but these were not useful. I had to turn away a young mother about 24 years old who was obviously near-sighted as she could not see far away when tested but we had no means to provide her with any glasses. These people walk several miles from their villages to come to these clinics and we want to be able to provide as much help as possible while we are there.*

*We would greatly appreciate any help you can provide us.*

*Sincerely,  
Pam Blandchard, RN and Sheri Jones, RN  
Congregational Nurses  
Apples Chapel Christian Church*

For additional info about Apples Chapel Christian Church, contact (336) 656-9853 or mail 7345 HWY 61 N, Gibsonville, NC 27249.

# EYEsee

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► Vision for the World

We're on the Web!  
[www.eyeseemission.org](http://www.eyeseemission.org)



## 2010 Eyeglasses Collection Campaign

Be part of EYEsee's second annual collection drive for used eyeglasses and share the gift of sight. During the months of January to June 2010 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, Niles, Wood Dale, Inverness, Rosemont, Barrington, Des Plaines, Hoffman Estates, Lake Zurich, Palatine, Bloomingdale, Schaumburg, Streamwood, Hanover Park, Buffalo Grove and Elk Grove.

### Medical Mission to Uganda (cont.)



Patrons waiting to be treated.



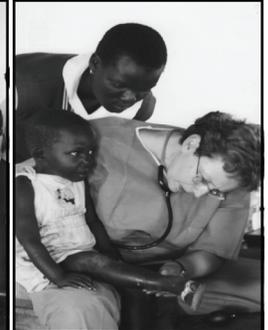
Dispensing medicines at pharmacy window.



Family waiting to receive treatment.



Giving Tylenol to baby with fever.



Little girl with infected leg.

### Report: Medical Mission to Philippines (cont.)

To watch and listen to her description on what she was seeing, you would have had to have been there to capture the entire moment.

During the very last day of the mission, near the very end of the line, was a very pretty high school senior that never had a pair of glasses, and she was found to be a (minus) 7.00 myope. This means that what a normal person sees at 700 feet, she has to get up to 20 feet to see. Her vision problem was not as bad as Helen had, but the pair of eyeglasses she received is going to make a huge

impact on her life and her future as well.

These are just two of the 1,769 people who by themselves were worth of all the efforts of entire medical eye mission. There are another 1,767 stories that we cannot one by one tell anymore. These are people who cannot even afford the transportation expense to see an eye doctor, let alone pay for the eye examination and certainly for frames and lenses. There were many medications given and some would have cost upwards of \$100 per bottle. That would

be over two months of wages for a family of five or more.

Over 200 bottles of eye medication were dispensed to people with eye infections, glaucoma, eye allergies and eye inflammations. There were 83 people who were referred for cataract surgeries which will be done later by our partner "Resources for the Blind, Inc."

The nine days of clinic were long and grueling, but you hear no complaints from any of the Filipino volunteers. Most of them have accompanied the foundation on all of

its missions. They know how to unpack the bus, set up for registration, pre-testing and dispensing of the eyeglasses. They have witnessed the gratitude of the recipients of the free eye services.

I really want to thank EYEsee for your donation last year that enabled us to get new tires for the bus and also the eyeglasses that you collected. We welcome all the recycled glasses that you want to send. It is our lifeline. We value our partnership with your organization. May God bless each and every one of you."