



EYEsee

Vision for the World

www.eyeseemission.org

Winter 2011 Issue

EYEsee Launches 2011 Campaign

Plans to extend collection efforts to new areas

EYEsee's 2011 Campaign kicks off beginning the weekend of January 22-23, at Queen of the Rosary Parish in Elk Grove. Saint Viator students will be leading the weekend drive, beginning the 5PM mass on Saturday, January 22. They will hand out EYEsee literature, receive eyeglass donations, and answer questions from parishioners about EYEsee's mission and work.

2011 Campaign will run through the weekend of June 4-5, at St. Theresa Parish in Palatine. St. Theresa also hosted EYEsee's collection drive in 2009, and the parish generously supported that year's collection campaign.

All eyeglasses collected from this year's campaign will supply medical missions to Haiti, Honduras, Philippines, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Uganda. Since its founding in 2008,

EYEsee has collected and recycled over 14,000 eyeglasses which have been distributed to the poor in the Third World countries. Many volunteers are needed to ensure that this year's campaign will be again a success.

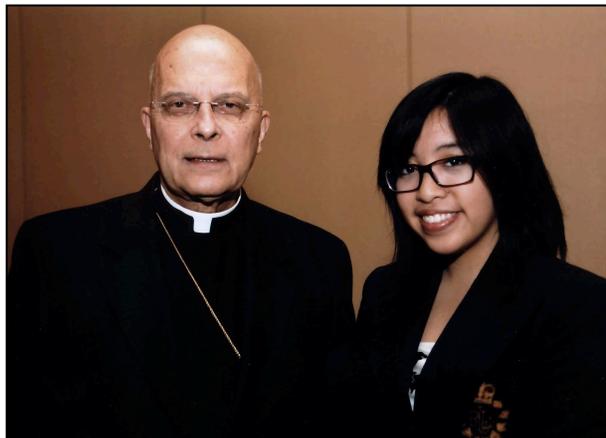
2011 Campaign marks a new phase in EYEsee's mission, and a new leadership team at St. Viator has been formed to implement EYEsee's many exciting plans. Chris Santucci coordinates

EYEsee activities at Saint Viator. This year, EYEsee expands its collection efforts to university and high school campus ministries, service groups, optical clinics, and private and public offices. Northwestern University and the University of Chicago campus ministries have signed up as hosting sites for the

More inside!



Cardinal George pledges to support EYEsee



Cardinal Francis George, Archbishop of Chicago recently commended EYEsee's work at the Chicago Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women 2010 Fall Assembly Luncheon. Janice Guzon was this year's awardee of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women's Scholarship, and she had the opportunity to share with the Cardinal EYEsee's mission and work. The Cardinal praised the organization for its work in providing sight to the needy, and pledged to support EYEsee in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

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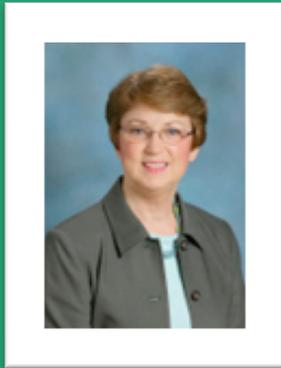
Contact Information:

Web: www.eyeseemission.org
Email: glasses@eyeseemission.org

Write us or donate eyeglasses to:

P.O. Box 957384
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
United States

EYEsee's Newest Board Advisor



Mrs. JoAnne Francis

Mrs. JoAnne Francis is currently the Director of Student Affairs at Saint Viator High School in Arlington Heights, Illinois. A native of Minnesota, she graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology and Secondary Education. She also holds a Masters in School Administration from Concordia University, River Forest, Illinois. JoAnne has been a high school educator for 34 years as classroom teacher, Athletic Director, Director of Recruiting, and Assistant Principal. She has been at Saint Viator High School for the past 11 years in her current position of directing the co-curricular program of Saint Viator, all student activities and events.

EYEsee's 2011 Leadership Team



Janice Guzon

President & Founder

I wear both eyeglasses and contacts, so I have an understanding of what it's like to live with impaired vision. I began the EYEsee mission because I've always felt the call to make a difference in the world. Knowing my friends felt the very same drive, I gathered them together to build and grow EYEsee.



Chris Santucci

Leader for Operations, Leader for Churches

By the simple donation of an outdated object such as old eyeglasses, a difference can be made in the daily life of another. As an individual I feel it is my duty to help others as there is no greater feeling than that of helping someone in need.



Grace Donnelly

Leader for Belize Mission

We often take for granted what we are given, whether it be food, shoes, clothes, or eyeglasses. We sometimes forget what a privilege it is to be given the resources we are given to become whom we choose to be. EYEsee has taught me that the world will not change unless people go out and work to change it.



Libby Donnelly

Leader for Campus Ministries

Over the years, I have learned of the importance of helping my fellow man. EYEsee offers a great opportunity to help those in need. The simple act of giving a pair of glasses can change someone's the future. Eyeglasses can provide the opportunity to excel in life. I am proud to be part of an organization that can affect people so profoundly.



Erica Weiszmann

Leader for Service Groups

As a wearer of both eyeglasses and contact lenses, I appreciate the precious gift of sight. Having been given an opportunity to have others experience this wonder is truly a blessing and a great opportunity. The impact of EYEsee is so inspiring and I am proud to say I am a part of it.



Maddie Ptacin

Leader for Private Offices

“People [in third world countries] can’t work because they can’t see, and they can’t buy glasses because they don’t work. It’s a horrible cycle.” I first heard this statement in my freshman year of high school and it has stayed with me since. I joined EYEsee because I saw it as a perfect opportunity to help others.



Evelina Wozniak

Leader for Government Offices

Helping those in need is the greatest gift you can give someone, especially when it comes to helping someone receive the blessing of vision. I feel it is my responsibility to assist those living with vision impairments all over the world. Knowing I can make a difference inspires me to continue my volunteer work with EYEsee.



Charles Derrick

Leader for Optical Clinics

By participating in the EYEsee organization I hope to involve others and gain a gradual participation in the community, which will improve the lives of others drastically across the globe. I personally believe it is important to collectively work together selflessly to make the biggest impact possible.



Miranda Gall

Leader for Elementary Schools

I feel that the mission of EYEsee will allow me to make a difference in the lives of others. I am glad that this opportunity has been given to me. I now realize the importance of the blessing of sight to an individual. I am hoping that through EYEsee I can help others to have this blessing.



Alexandra Glinos

Leader for Senior Centers

I am very excited to be a leader of the EYEsee program. I have been wearing contacts and/or eyeglasses for three years. It is a blessing to be able to share the gift of sight to less fortunate individuals.

EYEsee Launches 2011 Campaign (cont. from page 1)

2011 Campaign. A week-long collection drive is planned at Saint Viator on March 7-11.

EYEsee is inviting more area churches and senior homes to host this year’s campaign. Several of the invited churches are joining EYEsee’s campaign for the first time. As part of EYEsee’s efforts to engage elementary school students, St. Viator is again hosting a training workshop for these

students on February 9, 2011. Elementary schools that are looking to do service projects this year have been invited to this workshop.

EYEsee is also setting its sight to enabling volunteer students the opportunity to join an overseas medical mission to the poor during the summer. Janice Guzon, who is a freshman at the University of Chicago, is working on possible partnership opportunities

with the University of Chicago’s Pritzker School of Medicine to make this goal a reality. Grace Donnelly, a junior at St. Viator High School, is working with Janice on the many requirements of this program.

The theme that drives EYEsee’s 2011 Campaign was offered by Pam Blanchard, who led Apple Chapel’s medical mission trip this year to Uganda. In acknowledging EYEsee’s

eyeglasses donations to their mission, Pam Blanchard wrote, “Everyone deserves to be able to see as clearly as possible.”

Please consider supporting the 2011 Campaign. Recycled eyeglasses can make a difference in the lives of the poor in the Third World countries. If you are interested in joining EYEsee’s 2011 Campaign, please call (224) 622-7185 or email glasses@eyeseemission.org.

EYEsee supports 2010 medical mission to Uganda

The following is a letter from Pam Blanchard and the Good Shepherd's Fold team on their May 8-22, 2010 mission trip to the Good Shepherd's Fold Orphanage in Jinja, Uganda, East Africa. This medical mission was an outreach project by the Apples Chapel Christian Church in Gibsonville, North Carolina, and EYEsee supported it.

Dear Ms. Guzon and all the volunteers at EYEsee, I wanted to write and express appreciation for the glasses we received and were able to take on our trip to Uganda in May. It was a very successful trip. We had three doctors, one a pediatrician which blessed the orphanage dearly as she was able to provide checkups to the 98 children who reside there. We also had three nurses and three lay people. We arrived in Uganda 24 hours after we started our trip and were quite exhausted so the beds at our guest house were very welcomed. It is a three hour trip from the airport to Good Shepherd's Fold Orphanage and we arrived to a grand welcome of singing, dancing, and many hugs all around. It takes a couple days to sort thru all the supplies, pick up new medicine in Jinja Africa and to arrange the church into a clinic. We had four days of clinic, we started on Wednesday and



The Good Shepherd's Fold Team distributes eyeglasses at an orphanage in Uganda.

work 12 hours that day and the following Thursday and ten hours on Friday. Thankfully we had two days over the weekend to recover and to worship and share time with our missionary friends. Monday was our last day and when it was all said and done we had

treated almost 1,100 men, women and children. The glasses were a great success and desperately needed. We had purchased 50 different strength reading glasses and they were all gone within two days. The glasses your team donated were a little more complicated to hand out as we did not know the strengths of the glasses or the strength of the glasses each person needed. However the African people are very accommodating and appreciative of anything

they get so they patiently tried on glasses until they found a pair that worked. The enclosed pictures show a young woman who came last year and we did not have any glasses that worked for her so it was a blessing this year for her to be able to leave wearing glasses in which she could see off into the distance.

We take so much for granted in the United States. We cannot see so we make an appointment with the eye doctor and within a few weeks we have glasses and our life goes on. The sunglasses were also a very welcomed relief as we had many older people with cataracts and the sun is very strong there so they would often get headaches and eye pain. We handed out all the sunglasses within a few days. All the glasses were left in the clinic at GSF and the nurse there will continue to hand them out over the next few years.

The enclosed pictures show some of the people who received glasses, the church where we have our clinics and some of the people who came and were seen. I would have liked to have gotten more pictures of people with their glasses but as you can see it was quite busy and left little time for picture taking.

Again I and the team and all the people at GSF wish to express our thanks to your group for collecting and distributing the glasses. Everyone deserves to be able to see as clearly as possible.

*Sincerely,
Pam Blanchard and the GSF team*

EYEsee supports 2010 medical mission to Honduras

St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church in Jonesboro, GA, has a 'sister' relationship with Santa Ana Catholic Church in Campamento, Honduras. They have been conducting an annual medical mission to Santa Ana in the last 13 years. EYEsee was one of the three organizations that supported their 14th mission to Santa Ana parish this year. Below is an excerpt of the mission report by Willie Cowan of the Santa Ana Committee.

We distributed a little over 600 pairs of reading glasses during our visit.

These reading glasses were sized and handed directly by our pilgrims to people in remote and impoverished communities served by the Santa Ana parish—most Hondurans in this area are very poor. We obtained reading glasses from three charities: NW Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, New Eyes for the Needy, and EYEsee. An additional 150+ pairs of reading

glasses were donated by St. Philip's parishioners. We took these reading glasses with us every where we visited—villages, small towns, communities, 'spot in the road', as well



St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church holds their 2010 medical mission in the Honduras.

as a local senior's center. We would find a convenient spot and set up our reading glasses distribution point—sometimes inside a chapel or other building and sometimes outdoors. We used a modified hand-held chart, converted into

Spanish with numbers and symbols, to assess our 'patients' needs. Some of our pilgrims spoke Spanish and we were augmented by several Santa Ana church members. We formally set up shop thirteen times. As word got out, we also distributed reading glasses from our lodging area on the Santa Ana church property.

This was a grace filled experience for all—pilgrims and locals. We were amazed when we were welcomed and joined by the communities during the many different activities in which we participated. The language barrier was not a problem—smiles are understood in any language. Pilgrims enjoyed the beautiful people, gorgeous scenery, time spent with fellow pilgrims and the local community, as well as tours of the local community, surrounding towns and landmarks. We attended worship at the church and in community chapels, we told stories, and enjoyed the smiles and love of new brothers and sisters. We saw a lifestyle very different from our own, yet realized just how similar our lives really are—our fears and concerns, our hopes and dreams, and the importance of relationships. Being part of this visit was definitely a life-changing experience. To each of our reading glasses donors, thanks again for your support and may God bless you for your ministry and your generosity.