



EYEsee

Vision for the World

<http://www.eyeseemission.org>

Fall 2009 Issue

EYEsee Concludes 2009 Collection Drive

More than 7,000 eyeglasses collected from this year's drive

2009 marks EYEsee's first used eyeglasses collection campaign. Leading the roll-out of this year's campaign in January, Janice Guzon—EYEsee founder—said that her organization is aspiring to build the largest collection of used eyeglasses in the northwest suburbs for distribution to the needy in the Third World countries.

EYEsee signed up 19 hosting sites in Arlington Heights, Mt. Prospect, Prospect Heights, Hoffman Estates, Elk Grove Village, Palatine, Schaumburg, Barrington, Inverness, Wheeling and Woodstock for this year's campaign.

Saint Viator High School served as EYEsee's base



Chris Santucci, Joey Rusch, Christina Brinkman, Maddie Ptacin, Carolyn Jones, Laura Paprocki and Janice Guzon during EYEsee's used eyeglasses collection drive at St. Theresa Parish in Palatine.

during the campaign. Father Robert M. Egan, C.S.V., Saint Viator High School President, fully supported EYEsee's

campaign along with Mrs. Eileen Manno, Saint Viator High School Principal; Mrs. JoAnne Francis, Director of Student Affairs; and Ms.

Betsy Fons, Director of Campus Ministry. Father Egan, C.S.V., Father Corey Brost, C.S.V. and Mr. Tom Nall serve on EYEsee's Board of Advisors.

EYEsee's campaign spanned 17 weeks, beginning January 5, 2009 and ending May 24, 2009. A week-long drive at Saint Viator starting January 5, 2009 kicked off the campaign. This was followed by weekend collection drives at 15 area churches and three senior homes. St. Mary's School, a K-8 school in Woodstock, Illinois, ran a full-month collection drive on behalf of EYEsee.

Many Saint Viator students gave up their weekends to help EYEsee during its *(continued on page 3...)*

EYEsee Holds Summer Program in Downtown Barrington

Even after the end of the 2009 campaign, EYEsee's work wasn't finished! The used eyeglasses needed to be tested so EYEsee offered a summer program for students interested in spending part of their summer doing service work. Through Campus Ministry, Saint Viator students volunteered their time and talents to test used eyeglasses from this year's collection campaign.

Janice Guzon, EYEsee founder, arranged with Dr. Tabak, an EYEsee Board Advisor, to hold the summer program in his downtown Barrington clinic (232 E. Main Street). His optometric practice specializes in contact lenses and primary eye care, including treatment of eye injuries, diseases of the eye and co-management of refractive surgery.

Dr. Tabak is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry.

Dr. Tabak generously opened his clinic on Wednesday mornings during the months of June and July as a free service to EYEsee.

Under Dr. Tabak's supervision, 11 Saint Viator students tested over 1,200

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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

EYEsee Ships Recycled Eyeglasses to Partner Humanitarian Missions

During the summer months, EYEsee shipped the recycled eyeglasses collected during this year's campaign to its international humanitarian partners. The eyeglasses will be distributed to the poor during medical missions to the Third World countries this year.



EyeCare WeCare Foundation, Inc. received over 2,500 recycled eyeglasses from EYEsee, which the foundation will use to supply their medical vision missions to the poor in the Philippines. EYEsee shipped two large container boxes directly to EyeCare WeCare Foundation's mission outpost in the island of Negros Occidental.

In thanking EYEsee founder Janice Guzon, Dr. Weyrich remarked, "...EYEsee has been a great inspiration to all of us in our organization. To think that

these are all high school students who have worked hours and hours to make a difference in helping others in developing nations. We have told the story of their commitment to the individuals, organizations, and media in America and the Philippines. This has often brought tears."

Physicians for Peace has worldwide missions in 50 countries and EYEsee supports their 'Seeing Clearly' program for the indigents in Haiti, the Philippines, the West Bank and Honduras. EYEsee shipped over 2,500 recycled eyeglasses to Physicians for Peace's headquarters in Virginia.

In acknowledging EYEsee's donation, Brigadier General Ron Sconyers, President and Chief Executive Officer, remarked that EYEsee's recycled eyeglasses "...will enable many people to see clearly for the first time; it means that some people will be able to get jobs and support their families, a child will be able to attend school, and a mother will be able to read to her children. This simple act of charity will impact many lives for years to come."

Caribbean Evangelical Missions is EYEsee's partner on medical missions to the impoverished neighborhoods of the Caribbean countries. Husband and wife team Dr. Doug and Wona Miniati leads summer medical missions to the Caribbean countries. EYEsee shipped over 100 recycled eyeglasses to the Caribbean Evangelical Missions' office in San Francisco in time for their June medical mission.

In acknowledging EYEsee's donation, Wona Miniati stated, "We are overwhelmed by the generosity of the supporters at Saint Viator High School as well as EYEsee, to make this venture possible. We know for certain that many people will be blessed to receive these eyeglasses."

The Rugari Parish in the Democratic Republic of Congo is the beneficiary of 500 recycled eyeglasses. Jackie Griffin who served for 15 months as ground representative for St. Anne Parish in Barrington received EYEsee's donations. She agreed to coordinate the shipment of the eyeglasses with **Caritas Goma** by way of Rwanda to ensure that the eyeglasses arrived safely and

securely because of the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Congo.

In acknowledging EYEsee's donation, Ms. Griffin commented that "eyeglasses are a big need in developing countries and Congo is no exception. I am excited to know we can use such a program to help our friends back there. I can't tell you how many people asked me for eyeglasses while I was there."



Canvasback Missions, Inc. is EYEsee's partner on medical vision missions to the poor in the remote Pacific Islands. Because Canvasback Missions will only receive tested eyeglasses, EYEsee's donation of 1,000 recycled eyeglasses could not be shipped in time for their summer mission, but will instead be distributed later this year.

EYEsee Holds Summer Program in Downtown Barrington (cont.)

(continued from page 1...) Dr. Tabak provided the student volunteers with training on how to use automatic lensometers and record prescription readings. Lensometers check for the sphere, cylinder and axis of lens. Individual prescription sheets were then inserted in individual plastic bags that each holds a pair of recycled eyeglasses. Having the right prescription with the recycled eyeglasses ensure

that the right eyeglasses are dispensed to the poor during medical missions.

The following Saint Viator students logged in a total of 92 service hours during this summer program: Brian Cyganek, Ann Farrell, Janice Guzon, Julia MacKendrick, Callie Romanesko, Connor Romanesko, Chris Santucci, Taylor Skala, Hannah Tibbetts and Maevie Tibbetts.

Chris Santucci and Taylor Skala measure eyeglasses with an automatic lensometer.



Chris Santucci and Taylor Skala measure eyeglasses with an automatic lensometer.

Mission Report: EyeCare WeCare Foundation, Inc.

The following is a report by Dr. Jim Weyrich, Founder and President of EyeCare WeCare Foundation, Inc. to EYEsee on the results of their June 8-14, 2009 medical mission to the Philippines:

“All medical missions are a story in themselves. This medical mission was no exception. We started way back in January to get sponsoring organizations and venues on Cebu Island. It took until mid March to get a commitment from the South Mandaue Rotary Club to participate in helping host this mission. Rotary International, which has helped in the past with medical missions by giving us a volunteer service grant, informed us that because of the financial crisis, they were eliminating the program.

“In mid May the bus mechanic informed me that the tires of our mobile clinic were way bad to make the trip. The brakes needed to be replaced, the transmission needed work and the air conditioning was not working. I was informed that we needed to order parts for the transmission from Japan. Mitsubishi could not give

us a time for the transmission parts so I made the decision to cancel the trip to Cebu, wait until the bus was up and running, then try to find some venues near our province that we have never

a wonderful Christian organization. They are a perfect fit. I gave them all cataract supplies that I have procured from Alcon Labs, and they were delighted. They, in return, will do 39 cataract surgeries that I diag-

bad that we couldn't drive the bus at all. We got the tires and put them on by that afternoon. The bus was now ready to go.

“We started our medical missions on the 8th, 9th, 11th, 13th and 14th. We still ended providing graded eyeglasses to 1,131 indigents. We gave out over 150 bottles of medications, and as I stated have 39 patients with cataracts that will get surgeries free.

“The miracle is that none of these people were supposed to even be seen. I didn't know that we were going to be there. I thought that we would be in Cebu. We had so many inspirational stories that it would take many pages to do it justice. All I know that this was definitely GOD'S MISSION. Just look at all the pieces of the puzzles that just didn't fit. Then when the missions began, they flowed very smoothly and over and over there were people that were really aided with their new glasses.

“You had been an integral part in this mission. Thank you members of EYEsee, thank you Saint Viator High School, and thank you Father Egan.”



EyeCare WeCare's mobile clinic arrives by ferry to a remote Philippine island.

been to and conduct the missions to salvage the trip.

“I arrived in the Philippines on June 1. We were not able to start our medical mission because we were still waiting on parts for the bus, so I took the opportunity to stay over a couple of days and meet with our new partner ‘Resources for the Blind.’ What

nosed with dense cataracts from this medical mission.

“I flew to the Bacolod on June 4th. We received the bus parts on the 5th. The mechanics had already replaced the brakes. The transmission was fixed on the morning of the 6th. We then had to buy the tires in Bacolod and bring them to our barangay because the tires were so

EYEsee Concludes 2009 Used Eyeglasses Collection Campaign (cont.)

(continued from page 1...) campaign. They manned EYEsee's display table, passed out brochures, answered questions from the public and received eyeglasses donations. Over 400 service hours were logged during this campaign, which Campus Ministry credited as service to the poor and marginalized.

EYEsee's campaign also received many private and anonymous donors who either dropped off their eyeglasses donations at Saint Viator or mailed them directly to the school. These donors were prodded into action after reading the press publicity on EYEsee's campaign that

appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Daily Herald* in April. Many Saint Viator alumni also responded to this campaign.

Saint Viator and EYEsee received significant publicity during the campaign. Physicians for Peace featured EYEsee's collection drive on their web blog and again on the summer issue of their *NEWS PEACE* newsletter. EYEsee's publicity materials appeared on parishes' Sunday bulletins for four consecutive weekends and pulpit announcements were made during each worship service. Saint Viator students' example of Christian service to the poor was cited in priests' homilies.

St. Anne Parish in Barrington

invited EYEsee to help with their mission in the Rugari Parish in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Holy Family Parish in Inverness set up a permanent drop off box in their Social Justice Room on behalf of EYEsee. They also offered EYEsee a space on their Sunday bulletin each quarter.

At the conclusion of the 17-week period, EYEsee's collection campaign netted over 7,000 eyeglasses. They consisted of single lens, bifocals, children's eyeglasses, sunglasses, cut lenses, clip-ons and usable frames.

The success of this year's campaign was also made possible by many individuals from the hosting sites who championed EYEsee's cause. They coordinated

the collection drive in their location, warmly welcomed EYEsee members and handled arrangements to ensure the success of EYEsee's collection drive. These sponsors also acted as spokespersons for EYEsee before, during and after the collection drive in their local communities. EYEsee acknowledges with deep gratitude their valuable support.

In his congratulatory letter to Janice Guzon, Father Egan expressed his pleasure that EYEsee has been so successful and continues to grow. Through EYEsee, Saint Viator students are able to put their faith into action in serving the needy.

EYEsee

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► Vision for the World

We're on the Web!
www.eyeseemission.org

'Cash for Clunkers' Offer

Here's a great offer on your next pair of eyeglasses: receive a coupon for \$75 off a new pair of single vision glasses/prescription sunglasses or \$100 a new pair of bifocal glasses/sunglasses and a charitable receipt from EYEsee when you bring in your old 'clunkers' (eyeglasses). The below coupon is redeemable only at the clinic of David J. Tabak, O.D., 232 E. Main Street, Barrington, IL 60010. For additional info, please call (847) 382-2010 or email 232@aol.com.

Cash for Clunkers

Thank you for donating your old eyeglasses to EYEsee!



\$75.00/\$100.00

This coupon is good for \$75.00 off a new pair of single vision prescription glasses or sunglasses or \$100.00 off bifocal glasses or sunglasses when you donate a pair of old glasses to EYEsee.*

2009-2010 Used Eyeglasses Collection Campaign

During the months of November 2009 through May 2010 EYEsee will be conducting its second annual used eyeglasses collection drive in the northwest suburbs. In addition to area churches, EYEsee is expanding its campaign to include elementary schools, high school campus ministries, corporate offices, libraries, public offices and optical stores. Be part of EYEsee's mission to help the world's poor experience corrected vision with recycled eyeglasses. Become an EYEsee leader or member. To sign up, contact Janice Guzon or visit www.eyeseemission.org.

Acknowledgement Letters from EYEsee's Partners

Physicians for Peace
20th Anniversary 1989-2009
PHYSICIANS FOR PEACE

June 18, 2009

Rev. Robert M. Egan, C.S.V.
President
Saint Vinox High School
1213 E. Oakton Street
Arlington Heights, IL 60001-5099

Dear Rev. Egan,

Physicians for Peace would like to commend Janice Guzon and EYEsee for their efforts to collect used eyeglasses in order to help improve the vision of the needy in poorer countries of the world. This hard work is much appreciated. The eyeglasses that were collected will be shipped to the Philippines in support of our "Seeing Clearly" program, and will enable many people to see clearly. For the first time, it means that some people will be able to get jobs and support their families, a child will be able to attend school, and a mother will be able to read to her children. This simple act of charity will impact many lives for years to come.

Physicians for Peace is a not-profit, private voluntary organization providing medical education in developing countries while simultaneously treating needy patients for the past 20 years. Throughout this period, an estimated 100,000 children and adults have received treatment or training through our medical programs during more than 500 trips to 50 countries.

It is because of donors and volunteers like Janice Guzon and EYEsee that our mission continues to be successful. I understand that Saint Vinox High School has provided EYEsee with institutional support that made it possible for them to run collection drives in many places and recruit many student volunteers. We sincerely hope that this most noble effort may inspire other students in your school to join EYEsee during the next cycle of their collection project.

Sincerely,
/s/
Brigadier General Rm Scaryears (USAF, Ret.)
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Janice Guzon, Founder, EYEsee

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SUPPORTING PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIPS THROUGH MEDICINE

EyeCare WeCare

May 14, 2009

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Dear Father Egan,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing members of your school, representing EYEsee, to participate in the fundraising and recycled eyeglasses events at Saint Vinox High School. The proceeds and eyeglasses were donated to EyeCare WeCare Foundation, Inc. The foundation will use the donations to fund and supply medical vision missions for the rural poor in the Philippines. The foundation is a 100% volunteer organization with no paid administrators, staff or board members. All of the donations go towards getting supplies to the remote islands (over 7,000) and providing free eye examinations, eyeglasses, medications and eye surgeries for the indigent.

EYEsee which is led by its founder Janice Guzon, has been a great inspiration to all of us in our organization. To think that these are all high school students who have worked hours and hours to make a difference in helping others in developing nations. We have told the story of their commitment to individuals, organizations, and media in America and the Philippines. This has often brought tears. We are also blessed with over 10% of our volunteers in the Philippines being high school students as well.

I also want to thank you for your willingness to serve on the advisory council for EYEsee and give direction to these students. We pray that the organization will continue to grow and not be phased out when the current membership graduates.

We are proud to be a partner with EYEsee and we look forward to having its members volunteer with us on a future medical vision mission. We give (40%) all of the glory for those indigent that benefit from services provided by EyeCare WeCare Foundation and its partners.

We are conducting another medical vision mission the first two weeks of June and the recycled eyeglasses that were collected and shipped to the Philippines should arrive during the time we are there.

*Thank you again for your help and support to EyeCare WeCare Foundation.

Sincerely,
/s/
Janice Guzon
President EYEsee

cc: Janice Guzon
President EYEsee