



# EYEsee

Vision for the World

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

Fall 2012 Issue

## 2012 Campaign Collects over 7,800 Eyeglasses

### Volunteers and Donors Help Expand Annual Campaign Reach

EYEsee's fourth annual campaign received major support from Chicago-area parishes, schools, campus ministries, public and private offices, optical clinics, private donors and a senior home. New businesses joined EYEsee's 2012 campaign, expanding this year's campaign across several states. The EYEsee Michigan Chapter again generously supported this year's campaign. The 2012 Campaign concluded with 7,864 eyeglasses collected.

#### Parishes

Peter Glinos, a Saint Viator senior, led the parish campaign. Twelve

parishes hosted weekend collection drives. Sixteen Saint Viator students assisted during the weekend drives.

The parishes included St. Alphonsus Liguori (Prospect Hts.), Our Lady of Hope (Rosemont), Church of the Holy Ghost (Wood Dale), St. Frances de Sales (Lake Zurich), St. Isidore (Bloomington), St. Anne (Barrington), St. Isaac Joques (Niles), St. Paul of the Cross (Park Ridge), St. Hubert (Hoffman Estates), St. Emily (Mt. Prospect), St. Thomas of Villanova (Palatine) St. Mary (Buffalo Grove) and St. John the

Evangelist (Streamwood). Together, these parishes donated 2,147 eyeglasses to the 2012 Campaign.

#### Schools & Campus Ministries

Lexi Glinos, a Saint Viator junior, served as EYEsee's leader for the school and campus ministry program. Collection drives were held at Calvert House (The University of Chicago),

Sheil Catholic Center (Northwestern University), Saint Viator High School and Regina Dominican High School (Wilmette). EYEsee also received donations from student clubs at St. James School (Arlington Hts.), St. Thomas of Villanova School (Palatine), St. Emily School (Mt. Prospect), St. Zachary School (Des Plaines), *(cont. on page 4...)*

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## The Poor in Cambodia, Haiti, Nigeria, and the Philippines Receive the 'Gift of Sight'

EYEsee supplied vision missions this year to countries in Asia, Pacific Islands, Caribbean and Africa. Details about those missions are also posted on [www.eyeseemission.org](http://www.eyeseemission.org).

#### Koh Kong, Cambodia

EYEsee supported the January 30-February 4, 2012 health mission to Cambodia by the Cambodian Health Professionals Association of America (CHPAA) with a donation of 2,000 eyeglasses. CHPAA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote health through service and education.

Each year CHPAA sends a team of health professionals for a two-week trip to Cambodia. Working with local organizations and hospitals, CHAPP volunteers attend to the needs of the people in that country whose health is challenged by poverty and poor access to health care. The CHPAA mission covered the Cambodian provinces of Koh Kong, Tatai and Takeo. A team of 80 volunteers, both from the U.S. and Cambodia, saw and treated a total of 6,263 patients during the 6-day mission. The demand for health services



Children thank EYEsee during the vision mission to Cambodia.

far exceeded expectations. Crowds of people seeking care would begin to arrive in the early morning hours, stretching for

several city blocks. Many of the patients that the volunteers cared for had never seen or could not afford to see a doctor.

Last year, CHPAA saw approximately 5,000 patients but it was only able to provide 300 eyeglasses due to their limited supply. EYEsee's support this year enabled CHPAA to give away thousands of the most sought-after eyeglasses during this mission

**Port Au Prince, Haiti**

EYEsee supported the May 12-19, 2012 health mission to Haiti by the Mission to the World (MTW) with a donation of 300 eyeglasses. Mission to the World is the international mission-sending organization of the Presbyterian Church in America. MTW sends up to two health missions to Haiti each year.



This year's team consisted of 15 volunteer physicians, nurses and non-medical staff. The team worked with the Reformation Hope ministries in the La Plaine section of Port Au Prince.

The clinic was set up in the church and the team saw patients for five days. In that time the team was able to treat 823 people. After seeing the doctor, patients were offered eyeglasses. Patients were seen by two team members who assessed visual acuity and fitted them with eyeglasses.

Many of the patients who were fitted for eyeglasses were overjoyed that they could then read their bibles and clearly see their grandchildren's faces.

**Achi, Enugu State, Nigeria**



EYEsee supported the May 18-28, 2012 health mission to Nigeria by the One World Health Care, Inc. (OWHI) with a donation of 250 eyeglasses. Dr. Kanayo E. Ubesie, M.D., president of OWHI, led this year's mission to Achi, Enugu State.

OWHI provided medical triage and treatment to indigents in 12 local communities. A team of 25 volunteers assisted during the mission, seeing and treating 6,500 patients during the 10-day mission. An experienced optometrist examined patients and distributed the eyeglasses free of charge

**Laguna Province, Philippines**

EYEsee supported the May 28-June 3, 2012 mission to Laguna Province in the Philippines by EyeCare WeCare Foundation, Inc. with a donation of 1,360 eyeglasses. Dr. Jim Weyrich, founder & president of the foundation, led the 6-day mission.



Dr. Weyrich's U.S. team was assisted by 27 local volunteers who travelled over 50 hours aboard a ferryboat to get to the

mission venue. The team served 2,609 patients, an average of 434 patients per day. The team also performed 38 cataract surgeries and dispensed their highest prescription ever to five people with extremely poor vision. Many who came were also treated for eye infections. Most indigents needing eyeglasses, including those with large vision corrections, had never in their life owned a pair of eyeglasses. For so many, it was a life changing experience.

**Apayao Province, Philippines**

EYEsee supported the May-June 2012 vision mission to Apayao Province in the Philippines by the Agkakabsat International Movement (AIM) EyeCare WeCare Foundation, Inc. with a donation of 2,375 eyeglasses. Naida Raugh, AIM founder, received the eyeglasses from EYEsee. AIM is a non-profit organization that supports developmental community services. Apayao is the



fourth poorest province in the Philippines, where owning a pair of eyeglasses is out of reach to so many in need of them due to extreme poverty.

The vision mission was conducted for five consecutive weekends during the whole month of May and early June. The mission was a joint project by AIM with the provincial rural health units and the

provincial hospital, which identified and notified seniors 65 years old and older as recipients of the eyeglasses. More than 1,200 seniors received much-needed eyeglasses during this mission.

**Seeing Clearly Program in the Philippines**

Physicians for Peace is an international humanitarian non-profit medical education that provide medical education and care to their worldwide missions in 50 countries. Physicians for Peace addresses the overwhelming needs for vision care in underserved areas. Through its Seeing Clearly Program, Physicians for Peace works with local teams to restore the eyesight of patients. In the Philippines, where patients have limited access to healthcare providers and resources like prescription glasses, it deploys teams to remote areas year-round. These teams provide comprehensive eye exams, conduct eye surgeries and provide free prescription eyeglasses. EYEsee donated 2,295 eyeglasses to support this year's Seeing Clearly Program in the Philippines.

EYEsee also supported vision missions this year to the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Uganda, Congo and Togo (West Africa). The stories from those missions will appear in the next issue of EYEsee Newsletter.



# Highlights from the 2012 Campaign



**St. Mary Parish**



**Northwestern University**



**Church Creek Sunrise Senior Living**



**St. Emily Parish**



**St. Hubert Parish**



**St. Paul of the Cross Parish**



**St. Thomas of Villanova Parish**



**St. Isaac Jogues Parish**



**St. Anne Parish**



**St. Isidore Parish**



**St. Francis de Sales Parish**



**Church of the Holy Ghost**



**Our Lady of Hope Parish**



**St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish**



**Arlington Heights Memorial Library**



**Classic Sunglasses**

## 2012 Campaign Collects over 7,800 Eyeglasses (cont.)

(cont. from page 1...)

Frassati Catholic Academy (Wauconda) and Hoover Math & Science Academy (Schaumburg). The Auburn University Women's Basketball Team (Auburn, Alabama) led by Arnika Edwards again supported the 2012 Campaign. Together, these schools and campus ministries donated 824 eyeglasses.

As EYEsee's lead for chapter development, Lexi travelled to Wichita Collegiate High School last April where she gave a presentation on EYEsee's work and mission to the faculty, staff and students of the high school.

### Public Offices

Rachel Rapala, a Saint Viator junior, led the public offices program. Six public offices again welcomed EYEsee's 2012 Campaign. They included the Villages of Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg, Itasca and Elk Grove. They were joined by the Arlington Heights Memorial Library and the Elk Grove Public Library. These public offices invited the general public to drop off their donations of eyeglasses in the EYEsee collection box, which was prominently displayed within their main lobbies. EYEsee received 849 eyeglasses from these public offices.

### Private Offices

EYEsee reached another milestone this year with the signing up of several businesses to the 2012 Campaign. The Hartford B-Green Team and the Hartford Service Center of Bombardier, led by Karen

Perham-Lippman and Vicki Helton, sponsored an eyeglasses recycling effort as a cooperative project among their different locations. Bombardier is the only manufacturer in the world of both planes and trains. For two weeks in March, Bombardier employees at Hartford, Fort Lauderdale, Dallas, Macon, Tucson, West Virginia, Wichita, Bridgeport, and Windsor Locks hosted network-wide eyeglass donation drives. Bombardier's efforts added 1,090 eyeglasses to the 2012 Campaign.

The Asian Professionals for Excellence (APEX) led by Sue Young at Standard & Poor's and the McGraw-Hill's Diversity & Inclusion Team held collection drives in their New York offices last April. They collected 544 eyeglasses for the 2012 Campaign.

Bonnie Wong, President of Asian Women in Business (AWIB), requested the association's membership to support EYEsee's 2012 campaign by dropping off eyeglasses donations at AWIB's New York office. AWIB is a non-profit organization which assists Asian women in business. EYEsee received 101 eyeglasses from AWIB.

Three area businesses also supported EYEsee's 2012 Campaign. They included CBRE Asset Services (Schaumburg), Atrium Corporate Center (Rolling Meadows), and Classic Sunglasses (Barrington). Classic Sunglasses is once again EYEsee's top donor

to this year's campaign, with 1,250 sunglasses donated to EYEsee. Tom Longeway, President of Classic Sunglasses is a big supporter of EYEsee. Collectively, the private office campaign netted 3,072 eyeglasses.

### Optical Clinics

Paul Lewis, a Saint Viator junior, led EYEsee's optical clinics collection program. EYEsee aims to partner with optical clinics to support overseas vision missions. Paul added five new private practices to EYEsee's network of optical clinics. They included Northwest Ophthalmology (Arlington Hts.), Northwest Eye Clinic (Des Plaines), Global Optical (Hoffman Estates), Sullivan Ostoich Eye Center (Hoffman Estates) and Illinois Eye Center (Schaumburg).

Dr. Cereesa Longest of Suburban Associates in Ophthalmology again welcomed this year's campaign at their Elk Grove and Hoffman Estates clinics. Dr. Mildred Olivier of Midwest Glaucoma Center and an alumnus of Sacred Heart High School again supported the 2012 Campaign. Together, these optical clinics added 546 eyeglasses.

### Senior Homes

Kristen Yi, a junior at Saint Viator High School, led a Saturday collection drive at Church Creek Sunrise Senior Living (Arlington Heights). Holly Campa, Community Life Director, again welcomed EYEsee volunteers at their center. This drive collected 85 eyeglasses.

### Michigan Chapter

EYEsee Chapter at the First Lutheran Church in Gladstone, Michigan, is EYEsee's Upper Peninsula branch. Youth members collected eyeglasses in their congregation and other area congregations in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Northeast Wisconsin. Cooper Koski, Shelby Martinucci, Charlotte Strom, Matt Swanson and Emma Bouche actively lead this ministry. The Michigan Chapter delivered 248 eyeglasses for the 2012 Campaign.

### Private Donors

Fifteen private donors mailed their donation of eyeglasses to EYEsee or dropped them off at Saint Viator High School. EYEsee received 92 eyeglasses from these donors.

EYEsee acknowledges the support that its chapters, sponsors, volunteers, and donors provided during the 2012 campaign. Details of the 2012 Campaign are posted on EYEsee's web site:

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

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