



# EYEsee

Vision for the World

<http://www.eyeseemission.org>

Spring 2009 Issue

## EYEsee's 2009 Used Eyeglasses Collection Drive Reaches Homestretch

Seventeen weeks into its campaign, EYEsee's 2009 used eyeglasses collection drive reaches its final phase with just St. Theresa Parish in Palatine remaining to complete during the weekend of May 23-24, 2009.

EYEsee's initial campaign, which kicked off at Saint Viator High School during the week of January 5-13, 2009, spanned 15 area churches and three senior homes. EYEsee collected 5,000 used eyeglasses during this year's drive.

Many individual and anonymous donors also mailed or dropped off their used eyeglasses donations at Saint Viator High School. These donations added to those garnered during the weekend collections.

The assortment of eyeglasses collected during this year's drive will be



Volunteer Becca Moynihan and founder Janice Guzon stand with EYEsee advisor and Saint Viator High School President, Fr. Robert M. Egan, C.S.V.

for men, women, and children as well as sunglasses.

All eyeglasses collected during this year's drive will be given to the poor in Haiti, the Philippines, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the West Bank, Venezuela, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

EYEsee is working closely with the following international humanitarian organizations to ensure that the collected eyeglasses reach those that need them: Eye Care We Care Foundation, Inc., Physicians for Peace, Canvasback Missions Inc., and Caribbean Evangelical Mission.

Many Saint Viator High School students volunteered during the various weekend events. These students engaged the public by handing out EYEsee flyers and answering questions about EYEsee and world poverty. Collectively, they logged over 300 service hours. *(continued on page 4...)*

## Chicago Tribune, Daily Herald Feature EYEsee

While in the middle of this year's eyeglasses collection drive, EYEsee caught the attention of both the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Daily Herald*. Janice Guzon, EYEsee founder, was interviewed by correspondents from the two Chicago newspapers on how EYEsee got started, its mission, its partners, and its ongoing collection drive.

EYEsee's feature articles appeared in the March 30, 2009 issue of the *Daily*

*Herald* and in the April 1, 2009 issue of the *Chicago Tribune*.

The *Chicago Tribune* feature article "No End in Sight for this Project," tells how in the summer of 2008, Janice Guzon recruited Beth Chin and the twin sisters Maeve and Hannah Tibbetts to organize an international health mission to provide used eyeglasses to Third World countries as a way to fight world poverty. With Saint Viator High School volunteers and marketing

campaigns, EYEsee began weekend collection drives at area churches and senior homes in January.

Nora Cay Ryan, Saint Viator High School Marketing Director, was quoted in the article as saying that "this group had taken this Christian Service project and just completely made it their own." She stated that "no one has done anything to this scale." EYEsee's partner relief agencies were also interviewed for the article. *(continued on page 4...)*

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# EYEsee Volunteers in Action



St. James Parish



Holy Family Parish



St. Raymond Parish



Church of the Holy Spirit



St. Hubert Parish





**St. Thomas Becket Parish**



**St. Anne Parish**



**The Garlands of Barrington**



**St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish**



**Plum Grove Senior Home**



**St. Emily Parish**



**St. Thomas of Villanova**



**Queen of the Rosary Parish**



**St. Marcelline Parish**



**Addolorata Villa**



**Saint Viator High School**



**Immanuel Lutheran Church**

# EYEsee

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

Phone: (847) 809-4979  
E-mail: [glasses@eyeseemission.org](mailto:glasses@eyeseemission.org)  
[www.eyeseemission.org](http://www.eyeseemission.org)

## Chicago Tribune & Daily Herald Feature EYEsee's Mission (cont.)

Jacque Spence, co-founder of Canvasback Missions in California, and Ron Sconyers, head of the Physicians for Peace in Virginia, commended EYEsee's efforts. Both relief agencies are looking forward to receiving glasses from EYEsee to distribute.

In "St. Viator Student Sees her Mission Clearly," the *Daily Herald* describes how EYEsee's efforts will benefit the poor in Haiti, the Philippines, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the West

Bank, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. It invited the general public to help by donating their used glasses during EYEsee's scheduled collection drives. Father Robert M. Egan, Saint Viator President, was quoted as saying, "That is a wonderful example of our St. Viator students reaching out to the wider world to bring Gospel values to the service and ministry they embraced."

To see the full text of these two feature articles, please visit: [www.eyeseemission.org](http://www.eyeseemission.org).

## Used Eyeglasses Collection Drive Reaches Homestretch (cont.)

EYEsee specially thanks Mr. Tom Nall who actively assisted during parish collection drives.

Saint Viator High School and EYEsee received significant publicity as a result of the collection drive. EYEsee was featured by both the *Chicago Tribune* in its April 1, 2009 issue and the *Daily Herald* in its March 30, 2009 issue (see related article in this issue).

Physicians for Peace, an EYEsee partner, prominently featured EYEsee on its website.

EYEsee's advertising materials appeared in parish Sunday bulletins during three consecutive weekends prior to the actual drive.

Pulpit announcements were read two consecutive weekends prior to the actual drive at the parishes. Priest homilies during parish masses and worship services cited EYEsee's efforts as a model of Christian service.

EYEsee won the 2009 Governor's Green Youth Award (Honorable Mention).

EYEsee's cause inspired other

groups to run their own collection on behalf of EYEsee. Eileen Barnik, a religious education teacher at Grove Avenue School, led her class for a week of collection in their school. The school principal sent out an email to the school families and printed an article on their collection drive in the school's weekly newsletter. The school recognized the students with a 'Good Sam I Am' awards.

EYEsee congratulates Samantha Tabert, Taylor Barnett, Sierra Coyne, Alex Grosch, Jeffrey Korus, Kelsey Barnick, and Joey

Plizga.

Irene Chervenak of Resurrection Medical Center in Chicago conducted a collection on behalf of EYEsee during their Lab Week celebration on April 19-25, 2009. She dropped off over 30 used eyeglasses at Saint Viator High School.

Kathleen Sullivan volunteered to lead a collection drive on behalf of EYEsee at St. Mary in Woodstock, Illinois, for their K-8 school during the months of April and May. (Written by Janice Guzon.)

## EYEsee Offers Summer Program for Service Hours

EYEsee is working with Ms. Betsy Fons, Director of Campus Ministry at Saint Viator High School, to offer a summer program that will enable Saint Viator students to spend part of their summer completing the required 25 hours of Christian service this year. This program will give students a head start with this requirement for graduation. The service hours from this program will qualify as service to the poor and the marginalized.

The summer program will entail testing of eyeglasses collected during the current drive using an automatic lensometer. The work will be done at the clinic of Dr. David Tabak in downtown Barrington on Wednesday mornings between the hours of 8:30 and 11:30.

Dr. Tabak and his wife, Mrs. Kathy Tabak, are making available their clinic on Wednesday mornings to EYEsee to help with its mission of providing recycled eyeglasses to the poor in Third World countries. In addition, Dr. Tabak and his staff will provide EYEsee volunteers training on how to test eyeglasses.

This program will be a good opportunity for those who are looking for on-the-job training this summer.

This summer program will run in June and July on a first-come, first-serve basis because the program can only accept a limited number of volunteers.

If you are interested in signing up for this summer program, please see Campus Ministry.

## EYEsee Volunteers & Sponsors

EYEsee gratefully acknowledges the following Saint Viator High School students who assisted during EYEsee's 2009 used eyeglasses collection drive:

Anthony Alfaro, Jamie Blenner, Christina Brinkman, Zac Bublitz, Clare Burke, Beth Chin, Rachel Cote, Anthony DeSilvestro, Colleen Dhamer, Grace Donnelly, Libby Donnelly, Joe Dougherty, Alexandra Flasch, Debbie Foong, Sarah Heunisch, Claire Hulsebosch, Carolyn Jones, Megan Kozicki, Christina Michalopoulos, Rebecca Moynihan, Olivia Nuelle, Laura Paprocki, Amanda Presslak, Maddie Ptacin, Callie Romanesko, Joey Rusch, Chris Santucci, Melanie Slawny, Anne Slusher, Stan Sroka, Lucy Szelzynski, Hannah Tibbetts, Maeve Tibbetts, Erica Weiszmann, and Diana Wells-English.

EYEsee gratefully acknowledges the following individuals who facilitated and championed EYEsee's 2009 used eyeglasses collection drive at their location:

Mary Jo Polark ( St. Raymond Penafort), Alyce Gilarski (St. Alphonsus Liguori), Pat Aschom (St. Hubert), Mary Gasero (Queen of the Rosary), Marilyn Korney (St. Thomas of Villanova), Barb LaMantia (St. Marcelline), Paula Irving (The Garlands of Barrington), Brother Tom Minta (Church of the Holy Spirit), Sue Geegan (Holy Family), Liz Czajkowski (St. James Parish), Lisa Kaminski (Immanuel Lutheran Church), Gregg Belgard (St. Emily), Clem Aseron and Paul Kalmes (St. Anne), Barbara Rusin (St. Thomas Becket), Sharon Brand (Addolorata Villa), and Gail McCusker (St. Theresa).