

Massachusetts Lions District 33S

Eyeglass Recycling Report for 2011

This has been a banner year for the Eye Glass Recycling Committee. Overall, since we sent recycled eyeglasses to Sri Lanka in 2008 until the end of 2011 year, we have delivered over 132,000 pairs of eyeglasses to humanitarian organizations traveling to different parts of the world in the hope of providing the gift of sight to those in need. Our eyeglasses have provided the gift of sight to those in need in Asia, Africa, Latin America and South America. This is an achievement that all members of District 33-S should be proud of because it took all of us, working together, to make it happen!!! Below is a chart that notes our 2011 activities and a report of our efforts.

Country	Organization	Amount of Eyeglasses
Dominican Republic	Gardner Lions Club	400
Dominican Republic	New England College of Optometry	500
El Salvador	Friends of Asaprosar	3550
Ghana	BU Medical School	500
Haiti	African Methodist Episcopal Church	300
Haiti	Society of Haitian Ophthalmologists	1650
Honduras	Fellowship of Christian Optometrists	2500
Honduras	Mission Honduras	270
Honduras	St John Baptist Church -Westport, MA- Olancho Aid Honduras	450
Honduras	Missions for Humanity	650
Honduras	Mission Honduras	500
Mexico	Shoulder to Shoulder	1350
Nicaragua	Shoulder to Shoulder	1400
One Sight	Optical Village	9130
Tanzania	Missions for Humanity	975
	TOTAL	23,925

We have already begun our recycling efforts for 2012. In January, to date we have delivered 3300 eyeglasses for missions to India (Bottles for India – Chennai India) – 450; Mexico (Shoulder to Shoulder) – 1300; and Nicaragua (Shoulder to Shoulder) – 1300 and Honduras (St Johns Baptists Church- Westport, MA and Olancho Aid Honduras – 250). In addition, we have commitments for about 3500 to be delivered this spring – Belize – est 1000, Ghana – 250, Honduras – 1300 and Tanzania – 1300.

Haiti relief efforts this year considerably down from last year which was over 8600 pairs. The support for Haiti this year was done by District 33S and supported with District 33S donations.

While Haiti is not the latest major tragedy, their needs are still great. Our glasses contributed to the Haitian Ophthalmology Society and Port Au Prince Lions Club conducting eyeglass clinics in 5 locations - Christ Roi, Cuti plus Mardi, Delmas, Citi Militaire and Fontamara. It is our hope to continue eyeglass recycling support for the people of Haiti in the coming year.

Supporting our efforts have been District 33Y who has provided us with glasses ready for shipment when we have been in need of specific types of glasses and District 33A who has been an invaluable resource in providing us eyeglasses for recycling from their various collection efforts.

Also supporting our efforts has been the Barnstable County Sheriff's Office that has been reading about 500 pairs of eyeglasses each week. During the year, we were also supported by the Bristol County Prison and the Plymouth County Prison. Together, these prisons read about 2500 glasses each month. Assistance in reading has also been rendered by the Bridgewater Community Lions Club.

We also wish to thank all the clubs that supplied eyeglasses and a special thank you to PDG George and Joan Hart and the South Attleboro Lions Club for washing thousands of glasses. Cooperative Productions and the Wrentham State School are also washing glasses on a weekly basis. A special thanks also to goes to Lion Sharon Brown and Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston for being our equipment technical support to the prisons.

HELP IS NEEDED TO SUSTAIN OUR RECYCLING EFFORTS. Specifically, we are in dire need of assistance in washing glasses, making trips to the prisons to deliver and then moving the read glasses to our storage areas. In addition, we are also seeking the names and contact information for humanitarian organizations. We will contact these organizations to discuss their including eye glass clinics in their specific mission area. We then work with the organization, to address eyeglass needs and work with them regarding shipping and customs and duties arrangements.

If you wish to help the committee, money or eyeglass donations would be appreciated and are needed. All **Money Donations** may be sent to CST Beverly Dillon, 30 Partridge Trail Rd, Bridgewater, MA 02324. Make your checks payable to the District 33-S Eyeglass Recycling Committee.

Eye Glass Donations may be made by contacting the Chair, Ed Olney, 508-823-0836 - grampaon@yahoo.com; PDG Joe Rizzo - 781-826-3618 – joseph.rizzo.jr@gmail.com ; PDG George Hart 508-378-0151 - george_hart@comcast.net to pickup or drop off eyeglasses. Finally, we are also accepting hearing aids that we send to the District 33-S Hearing Foundation.

The Eyeglass Recycling Committee: Ed Olney, Joe Rizzo, George Hart, Bob Mullen, Robin Piccini, Russ Latham, Al Michunas, Nate Helgerson, Wayne Vandal and Ray Hebert