

Old Glasses Give New Life

Eyeglass recycling is one of the Lions' most popular activities. Although the program was officially adopted by the association in 1994, Lions have been collecting glasses for more than 80 years.

Refractive errors can be easily corrected with eyeglasses, yet millions in developing nations lack access to basic eye care services. Lions have recognized the urgent need for corrective lenses and continue to lend their support to the Lions Recycle for Sight Program.



Lions Recycle for Sight

Starting an eyeglass collection in your community can be an easy and rewarding activity that will raise your club's visibility and provide your fellow Lions with a great deal of satisfaction in serving others.

- Many businesses will allow donation boxes or permit club members to hold eyeglass donation drives at their entrances. Schools, libraries, places of worship and city administrative centers are also suggested drop-off points. Optometrists or ophthalmologists are also likely to assist your recycling efforts by placing collection boxes in their offices.
- A number of ready to use [eyeglass recycling PR materials](#) that can be sent to radio stations and television stations are available to promote your eyeglass collection.
- After collecting the glasses, send them to one of the 17 regional [Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers](#).
- Once your club's "Recycle For Sight" eyeglasses collection effort is complete, take a moment to fill out the [Recycle for Sight Collection Totals Form](#).

Lions Club Collection Locations Needed

If you would like to include a listing of your eyeglass collection locations on your club's page in the [Club Locator](#), please complete the [Lions Recycle For Sight Club Participation Form](#).

Lions and Walmart: USA Eyeglass Collection

Lions Clubs International is pleased to announce that it has entered into a collaborative agreement with Walmart to collect used eyeglasses from the public at Walmart stores and Sam's Clubs with vision centers throughout the United States. Please visit the [Promote Eyeglass Collection Locations](#) page for more information.

For More Information

To learn more about Lions eyeglass recycling programs, please [contact us](#).

There are several public relations resources available to help promote your club's eyeglass recycling efforts:

- [Sample Letter to the Editor](#)
- [Sample News Release](#)
- [Sample PSA](#)
- [Public Relations Department PSAs](#)

Sample Letter to the Editor

(Instructions: type double-spaced on club letterhead and fill in appropriate club information)

(FILL IN DATE)

The (INSERT YOUR CLUB NAME HERE) Lions Club would like to thank the community for supporting our Lions Recycle for Sight used eyeglasses collection program. Throughout the month of May, we collected more than 3,000 pairs of unwanted eyeglasses and sunglasses for those in need in developing countries.

The donated specs have been sent to our regional eyeglass recycling center where they will be cleaned, sorted by prescription and prepared for distribution by Lions and other groups.

By taking the time to give us your glasses, you have helped to improve the life of someone in need. In most developing nations, eye care is either unaffordable or inaccessible. And for many, poor eyesight that is left uncorrected can lead to unemployment for adults and a child's inability to attend school.

The (INSERT YOUR CLUB NAME HERE) would also like to express our appreciation to the (INSERT THE NAMES OF THE PLACES THAT YOU HAVE COLLECTION BOXES AT HERE) for contributing to the project's success by serving as convenient drop-off centers.

People who did not get the chance to donate their glasses but would still like to, or those interested in learning more about other (INSERT YOUR CLUB NAME HERE) Lions Club activities, can call (INSERT NAME OF YOUR CLUB PRESIDENT OR OTHER CLUB MEMBER TO CONTACT) at (555) 555-5555. Thanks again for sharing our vision of helping others to see.

Sincerely,

(INSERT YOUR CLUB PRESIDENT NAME HERE)

(INSERT YOUR CLUB NAME HERE)

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Sample News Release

(Instructions: type double-spaced on club letterhead and fill in the appropriate club information)

Contact:

(INSERT YOUR CLUB PRESIDENT OR CONTACT PERSON HERE)

(555) 555-5555

For Immediate Release

(INSERT YOUR TOWN) LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT

(INSERT YOUR TOWN HERE), April 15-As Spring cleaning season gets underway, the (INSERT YOUR CLUB NAME HERE) Lions Club is asking people to look through drawers and closets for old, unwanted eyeglasses and donate them to the Lions Recycle for Sight program.

During the month of May, the (INSERT YOUR CLUB NAME HERE) Lions Club will be collecting used prescription eyeglasses and sunglasses as part of a unique recycling program throughout the United States and Canada. The glasses will be distributed to those in need in developing countries where eye care is often unaffordable and inaccessible.

"We need everyone to donate their old glasses," said (INSERT YOUR CLUB PRESIDENT NAME HERE,) (INSERT YOUR CLUB NAME HERE) Lions Club president. "In most developing countries, an eye exam can cost as much as one month's wages, and a single eye doctor may serve a community of hundreds of thousands of people."

The glasses will be shipped to one of ten Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers where they will be cleaned, categorized by prescription and prepared for distribution by Lions and other groups. According to the World Health Organization, the eyesight of approximately one-fourth of the world's population can be improved through the use of a corrective lens.

To donate used eyeglasses, place them in specially marked Lions Recycle for Sight collection bin(s) located in (INSERT NAMES OF PLACES WHERE YOUR CLUB HAS COLLECTION BOXES.)

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Sample PSA

(Instructions: type double spaced on club letterhead and fill in appropriate club information.)

Radio Public Service Announcement
30 Seconds

NOW THAT SPRING CLEANING SEASON IS HERE, HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT TO DO WITH THE OLD PRESCRIPTION EYEGLASSES AND SUNGLASSES THAT YOU HAVE STASHED IN YOUR DRAWER? IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WEAR THEM, YOU COULD GIVE THE GLASSES TO THE (INSERT YOUR CLUB NAME HERE) LIONS CLUB FOR THEIR LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT PROGRAM. THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF MAY, THE (INSERT YOUR CLUB NAME HERE) LIONS CLUB IS COLLECTING UNWANTED EYE WEAR FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THOSE IN NEED IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WHERE THE PEOPLE OFTEN CANNOT AFFORD THE EYE CARE THEY NEED, AND CLEAR VISION IS MERELY A DREAM. YOUR OLD EYEGLASSES CAN HELP TURN SOMEONE'S DREAM INTO A REALITY. TO DONATE YOUR GLASSES, SIMPLY DROP THEM OFF AT COLLECTION LOCATIONS INCLUDING (INSERT YOUR LOCAL COLLECTION AREAS HERE), OR CONTACT THE (INSERT YOUR CLUB NAME HERE) LIONS CLUB AT (555) 555-5555.

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Public Relations Department PSAs

The Public Relations Department also offers Lions Recycle For Sight public service announcements (PSAs). There are two television spots and several radio PSAs available free of charge (English only). To order, contact the Public Relations Department at (630) 571-5466, ext. 363 or by e-mail at rfs@lionsclubs.org.

How to Pack Collected Eyeglasses

When Donating Eyeglasses:

- **Please send both plastic and metal frames.** Remove loose and broken lenses or damaged lenses and frames. Rather than store glasses for a long time, send as soon as possible to one of the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers. Time, extreme temperature and weather conditions cause damage to frames and lenses, often rendering them useless.

- **Pack collected eyeglasses in a sturdy corrugated cardboard box.** Layer rows of eyeglasses with tissue paper, newspaper or styrofoam. (Please avoid using shredded packing materials or styrofoam "peanuts.")
- **Seal box with strapping tape.**
- **Be sure label is legible and include your return address.**
- Used eyeglasses are of no commercial value; therefore, choose the least expensive means of shipping to the recycling centers (usually third or fourth class mail.) Label the box, "No commercial value."
- **Please notify the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center before sending large shipments of eyeglasses.**

View a list of [items accepted for donation](#).

Requesting Eyeglasses for Mission Use

When requesting quantities of recycled eyeglasses from a [Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center](#) for mission use, the requestor is responsible for:

- Assuring Lions Clubs International that the eyeglasses will be dispensed free of charge to needy people
- Providing shipping instructions
- Arranging customs clearance
- Paying for the cost of shipping the eyeglasses
- Publicizing Lions involvement in provision of the glasses
- Reporting to the providing center the number of people served and the number fitted with glasses

Note: please allow minimum of eight weeks' lead time when ordering eyeglasses.

Sending Eyeglasses to Developing Countries

It is advised to ship eyeglasses only to Lions, doctors or places of worship. Otherwise, there may be a risk of the eyeglasses being sold for profit.

Lions: Promote Your Eyeglass Collection Locations

A list of community eyeglass collection locations has been added to the “Find A Club” section of our Web site to assist the public in finding the drop-off location nearest to them. We encourage you to submit your club's community eyeglass collection locations to headquarters to promote and strengthen your recycling efforts. These community collections have a direct impact on the strength and success of the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Program.

- Please complete and submit the Lions Recycle for Sight [club participation form](#) to include your club's locations on the association's Web site.
- Remember to post these locations on your club's Web site, too.

Lions and Walmart: USA Eyeglass Collection

Lions Clubs International is pleased to announce that it has entered into a collaborative agreement with Walmart to collect used eyeglasses from the public at Walmart and Sam's Club stores throughout the United States.



Co-branded eyeglass collection boxes, bearing both the LCI and Walmart logos, will be available in the 2,500 Walmart stores, and 500 Sam's Clubs, with vision centers, commencing January-February, 2010. These new boxes will replace existing Lions collection boxes currently in place at the specified stores with vision centers. For Walmart stores and Sam's Clubs without vision centers, existing Lions eyeglass collections will continue at the discretion of the store manager.

Walmart will ship the collected eyeglasses to their distribution centers, where they will then be delivered to the nearest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers for sorting, cleaning and processing.

Usable glasses will be available for Lions and other optical missions to developing nations, where the glasses will be dispensed to children and adults free of charge.

Based upon their proximity to the Walmart distribution centers, the following Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers will be receiving eyeglasses collected from the public at Walmart stores:

- Indiana Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, Upland, IN
- Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation of MD 21, Phoenix, AZ
- Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, Midland, TX
- New Jersey Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, Inc., West Trenton, NJ
- Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center of Northern Virginia, Arlington, VA

For More Information

To learn more about eyeglass recycling program, please contact the [Health and Children's Services Department](#).