

# Mountain Villagers to Sea Gypsies

## Centralia Lion's mission to Thailand reaches high & low

Dr. Joe Dolezal of the Centralia, Washington Lions Club and his son Tony sent greetings to the NWLERC staff and volunteers from his remote location in Thailand.



With his son Tony and 17 others Dr. Dolezal First traveled to the northern mountainous region bordering on Laos to

deliver the gift of better vision.

In two days 800 villagers endured five hours each to process through from entering with poor vision to exiting with prescription glasses that promise the potential of greater freedom and economic opportunity to adults, and better learning abilities for the school children. Dr. Dolezal said, "Until you

provide these services, and I hope that many of you will, you cannot understand how much a simple gift of used eye-wear can make to some individuals lives. One of the weavers just sat there looking at her hands in disbelief that she could see her fingerprints!" Even with a five hour process the village



recipients maintained their patience and their smiles.

Following the mountain clinic the team traveled to the lower extreme of Thailand to provide their humanitarian services to the Sea



Gypsies on the southern coastline along the Gulf of Thailand.

Used eyeglasses donated by citizens within Multiple District 19 of Lions Clubs International through Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center in Lacey, Washington were key to the success of this and other missions throughout the world. More



importantly, those donors and the volunteers workers at NWLERC and on the missions can take pride in the knowledge that so many lives are now richer and filled with a new hope for the future.

Dr. Dolezal expressed his thanks for all of the hard work of all Lions involved in playing such an important role in making this happen.