



A Publication of the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center
"Changing Lives. One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time"

JULY 2011

Hello, Lions of the World.

Meet NWLERC!

Special International Convention Issue

Seattle, Washington USA July 4-8, 2011

PZC Jeannie Phillips
President

PZC John Kirry
Immediate Past President and Focus Founder/Editor

Patricia Baron
VP-Operations

ZC Bill Miller
VP-Outreach / Satellite Coordinator

Jacqueline Pratt
Secretary

Lyell Clark
Treasurer/Procurement Website

Ed Kane
Public Relations Website

Don Hayden
Website

Pat Bucknell
Facilities Manager

PZC Bob Pinson
Founder/Mission Coordinator

Cliff Brandsma
Lead Site Manager

Jean Cook
Mission Coordinator

Michael Petty
Quality Assurance/ Training

Iris Young
Volunteer Coordinator

What do you get when you mix a challenge and a dream?
You get the **Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center.**

Founder, Past President and current Director Dr Bob Pinson (retired Optometrist and a Lacey Sunrise Lion) brought to fruition our NWLERC in 2004.

Our mission is to provide, at no cost to the recipient, quality assured eyeglasses which will be provided by missions going to developing countries.

Our goal is "To change lives, one pair of eyeglasses at a time" thus far we have made that possible to over 13,500 people in need.

Our NWLERC has a Board of Directors, Executive Committee as well as several



PZC Jeannie Phillips,
President, NWLERC



Chaired positions. We are a total volunteer program using both Lions and Community help. We are also a 501 (c)(3) Foundation.

Our volunteers sort, wash, neutralize and perform quality assurance on each pair of glasses that will be distributed to mission requests that have met our application process.

Those clubs outside our immediate facility can set up collection points where they sort (some wash) glasses before sending them to the NWLERC for further processing. At this point we have 13 facilities consisting of over 90 clubs that have signed on to support us. If possible, we will provide shipping to them.

Please see the article on Homeless Events: it's new to our operations.

Some of our staff has gone on a mission; this provided the last piece of the puzzle, seeing the glasses being placed on the recipient. "An awesome experience" is the resounding statement. It also rededicates their commitment to our program. I personally have been on a mission and will attest to this fact.

Our volunteers do the entire process of mission ready glasses. In other words we do it all; nothing leaves our facility that hasn't gone through our process.

We are extremely proud of our reputation; requests for our glasses come from all over the USA. Our commitment to providing a quality product is well known.

Our founder, Dr. Bob, set standards in the founding of our NWLERC, today we continue to hold steadfast to his conviction of providing this kind of service.

We hope you enjoy your visit with us. Our facility is open for you to tour. Directions are found on our web-site www.lionsnwlerc.org or we have them available at our booth #2400 Washington Convention and Trade Center.

The welfare of each is bound up in the welfare of all.
Until we meet again,

Jeannie Phillips/NWLERC President

Mission #119 Profile: Honduras, June 2011

A Mission Sponsored by St Phillip Benizi Catholic Church, Jonesboro , Georgia

The Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center provided 700 pairs of reading glasses to this mission to Santa Ana Parish, Campamento, Honduras. Here's a direct report from the church team who provided distribution services:

“We distributed a little over 650 pair of reading glasses during this visit. Most of these reading glasses were sized and handed directly by our pilgrims to people in remote and impoverished communities served by the Santa Ana parish - most Hondurans in this area are very poor. We took reading glasses with us every where we visited - vil-lages, small towns, communities, “a spot in the road”, as well as, a local senior’s cen-ter. We would find a convenient spot and set up our reading glasses distribution point – sometimes inside a chapel or other building and sometimes outdoors. We used a modified hand-held chart, converted into Spanish with numbers and symbols, to as-sess our “patients” needs. Some of our pilgrims spoke Spanish and we were aug-mented by several Santa Ana church members. We formally and informally set up shop around twenty times. As word got out, we also distributed reading glasses from our lodging area on the Santa Ana church property.”

“Thanks, NWLERC, for your support and may God bless you for your ministry and your generosity.”



Changing Lives, One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time.

126 Missions, 114,601 Lives Changed

A Short History of the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center

Dr Bob Pinson, Founder, NWLERC

The Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center was established as an officially recognized Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center in 2004 under the sponsorship of Lions District 19C. The Founding officers were Lions Bob Pinson President, Terry Wright, Vice President, Roberta Pinson Secretary, Gary Feldtman Treasurer and Brian Thompson, Operations Director.

The first location of the NWLERC was 4715 Lacey Blvd in Lacey, Washington and in 2005, moved to a renovated surplus Fire Station located at 9013 Mullen Rd, Olympia, Washington where it is presently located .

The first mission supported by the NWLERC, was sponsored by the Korean Presbyterian Church of Mill Creek, Washington with 1148 pairs of recycled glasses to Honduras.

In 2005, The NWLERC became recognized as fully sponsored Foundation of Lions Multiple District 19.

The NWLERC is 501c3 Foundation as recognized by the IRS and the State of Washington and is governed by its Executive Committee and Board of Directors.



**PZC Dr. Bob Pinson
Founder, NWLERC**

Homeless Outreach

PDG Jim Labelle, Homeless Event Coordinator

The Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (NWLERC) mission statement states in part *“to provide free distribution of glasses to people in need”*. The NWLERC has provided thousands of glasses to missions traveling to developing countries; we also participate in a program to provide reading glasses and plain sunglasses to homeless persons in the greater Western Washington area.

The NWLERC participates in four “Homeless Connections” a year. These events are held in Tacoma, Bremerton, Seattle and Everett Washington. We work in conjunction with;

- Volunteer Optometric Services Humanity who perform eye exams;
 - Lens Crafters who provide new glasses;
 - NWLERC volunteer’s register people and provide Acuity testing.
- We process about 260 persons per event during the time allowed.



Dr Bob Pinson and President Jeannie Phillips assist with glaucoma testing at the Snohomish County Homeless Connect

Recycling Program is a Winner!

John Kirry, Immediate Past President, NWLERC

Since taking over as our Recycling Coordinator in 2008, Olympia Mid-Day Lion Pat Baron has been on a crusade to keep the landfills free of discarded eyeglasses.

And she has succeeded.—big time.

Responding to the most common complaint from volunteers “Why do we throw so many pairs of eyeglasses in the landfill,?” Pat went to work finding a recycler who would use virtually every reusable component of the eyeglasses . She found ReSpecs, a California company that advertises in the Lion magazine.

Within months, she had changed the course of NWLERC into an organization that throws away only the “coffee cups and candy wrappers” of the volunteers.

She was so successful that her work caught the attention of the Washington State Recycling Association and in 2009 NWLERC was named the Recycler of the Year-Non Profit.! Pat traveled with Jeannie Phillips to Yakima to receive the award on behalf of NWLERC.

Top date, we have recycled over 471,000 pairs of eyeglasses that were previously going into the landfill. This is a huge accomplishment in the evolution of our foundation, and we are very proud of Pat and her dedicated work.

So when you send us all your broken and seemingly unusable glasses, we truly have a use for them—Pat Baron has seen to that!



Pat Baron
VP-Operations
Recycling Queen



“The Blue Rock”
NWLERC was named Washington State
Recycler of the Year for 2009.

Quality Assurance

Michael Petty, Director Quality Assurance

The Quality Assurance (QA) function at NWLERC is a key function in the outstanding reputation that NWLERC enjoys. It is this function that provides the oversight to the quality of glasses that are distributed on missions throughout the world. The QA process begins at the first stop, sorting glasses received from outside sources into what is usable and what is to be recycled. The QA process continues throughout all processing steps to the final step of review by the QA team. Our goal is to provide the best quality glasses possible for those in other countries who are fortunate to receive glasses from NWLERC.

This stringent QA process has helped to maintain the highest quality of product sent out on missions during the year. Feed back from mission coordinators is that our glasses are second to none, and the response from those receiving the glasses is evident in their smiles and many thanks.



Michael Petty
Director, Quality Assurance

Satellite Operations

ZC Bill Miller, VP-Outreach



ZC Bill Miller
VP-Outreach



A satellite is formed when a nucleus club steps forward and agrees to be the focal point for operations. Surrounding clubs then provide collected eyeglasses, volunteers and, where agreed, financial resources to help with operational costs and shipping etc.

When processed, the eyeglasses are sent to NWLERC in Lacey WA. When received by NWLERC, the individual eyeglass prescriptions are determined using our Lensometers, and the eyeglasses are bagged, labeled and boxed to await shipment to a mission.

Our satellite program is building nicely, 13 are now official (representing over 90 clubs) covering most of MD-19. We are currently working with the tri-cities and Lewiston ID.

Community Outreach-The VOICE Program

PDG Jim LaBelle, Coordinator

During the school year of 2010 – 2011, two high school seniors volunteered at our recycling center to earn Community Service hours toward their graduation. These students were trained to operate our lensometers and were quick to learn how to read glasses and to pick out any flaws in the lens or frames. They did good work.

For the past two school years the LERC has been involved with “special needs” high school students attending the V.O.I.C.E., Vocation Opportunity for Independent Community Employment program. These students have completed high school and are eligible to go into the V.O.I.C.E. program until they reach 21 years of age. We have 2 or 3 students for total of four hours a week. We teach them how to inspect glasses for flaws, scratched lens, missing nose pieces etc or packing un-useable glasses for recycling. We have learned that any change in their work routine takes time and patience. What may seem like easy tasks for most of us are tasks that take time and patience for them to learn a new skill.



*PDG Jim LaBelle
V.O.I.C.E. Coordinator*

Community Volunteers



*Jean Cook
NWLERC Mission Coordinator
Community Volunteer*

Many of the volunteers at the LERC are not members of Lions Clubs. They are people who understand the importance of the project and want to participate in it. They are people who appreciate the dedication of the Lions who are trying to make the world a better place. Some want to spend their limited time doing "hands on" work where they can see the results. Some have special skills such as professional eye care experience. All are welcome at the LERC.

Five years ago, I looked for a volunteer opportunity that was different from anything I had previously known. Recycling eyeglasses was the answer to my search. I learn new skills and work with wonderful people. It is a joy to serve as lensometer technician and mission coordinator at the LERC.

Military Assistance Programs

Dr Bob Pinson, Colonel, US Army , Ret



In 2009 our friends at the Longview Satellite worked to make a new kind of mission happen for NWLERC. Kerby Kee and his hard working crew initiated contact with a USAF optometrist in Afghanistan who wanted some eyeglasses for a civil assistance mission. He asked NWLERC to provide glasses as a way to reach out to the war-torn civilian community.

We happily provided glasses as requested, but then the officer assigned to the facility reached the end of his tour and program continuity was in doubt. Fortunately, a new staff officer optometrist was assigned to the task in Afghanistan, and we were thrilled to find out that he was equally committed to the work of providing eyeglasses for local civilians.

So, at their request, we shipped them 600 more pairs of eyeglasses, this time with more specific parameter requirements and using more stringent packing, organizing and shipping criteria. Mission Coordinator Jean Cook and I worked directly with the mission requestors to fill the order to our usual high standards.

In return, we got a few mementos from the USAF officer. He sent a nice certificate of appreciation, a unit challenge coin and a US flag that had been flown over Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

In total, we have now filled orders for four humanitarian missions in Afghanistan.

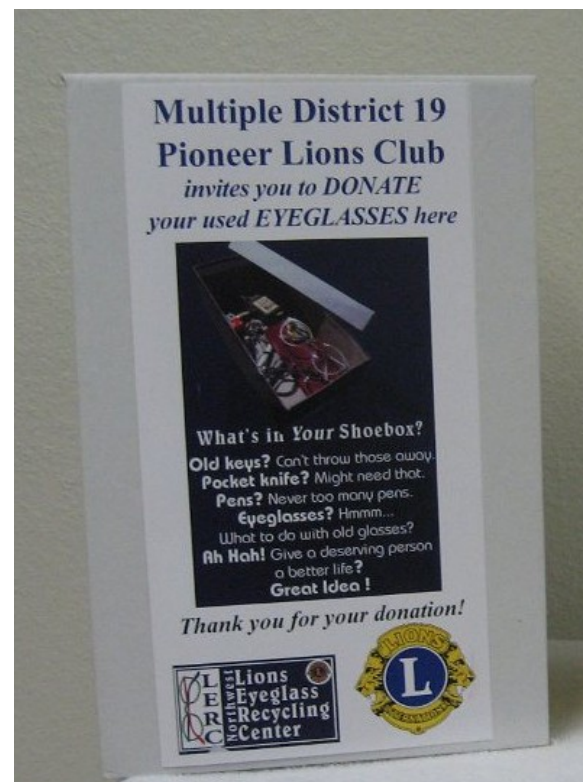
Designer Eyeglass/Hearing Aid Boxes Available

PZC Kerby Kee, District G director, NWLERC

The Longview/Kelso Earlybird Lions club would like to partner with clubs throughout MD-19 to obtain well-designed, low-cost collection boxes for eyeglasses and hearing aids. They have designed a set of boxes that showcase clubs and their collecting efforts, making the public more aware of our recycling programs. The boxes depict where and to whom our eyeglasses go.

The “designer” boxes have a smaller footprint so they take up less space, but they are highly visible and grab your attention. One label highlights the NWLERC program and could also be created to highlight the CLERC program. It is designed for glasses, and the other is designed for hearing aids. These labels are made to order with your club name, phone number and website on the label. The box supplier sells in lots of 1000 and the labels and boxes are being sold at cost.

Total cost per box with label is \$4.00 plus shipping, with a minimum of ten units. The LCI Boxes cost \$6.00 each plus shipping, so this is a good deal. If you are interested in partnering with the Longview/Kelso Earlybirds, please contact KerbyKee@msn.com. They need pre orders of 1000 boxes to make the purchase.



Our Facility

Pat Bucknell, Facilities Director

During the past 1.5 years the LERC facility has seen a great face lift. The facility was completely painted, including the storage trailer, and pump house. Before the paint job was done the front of the building was rebuilt using material remove from the old carport that was in bad shape. Then using some of the same material a porch roof was built over the main entrance.

The overall grounds around the facility was cleaned up of over-grown vegetation, garbage was removed, ant nests where removed, and a firm was hired by our landlord to remove moles from site.

Internal improvements include better lighting, a ceiling fan and the long-awaited inclusion of our new commercial dishwasher for washing glasses. This dishwasher is able to wash a load of glasses in under ten minutes, as opposed to the 40 minutes it has taken with our regular duty machines.

This increased volume allows us to keep a steady flow of glasses to our lensometer operators and more control of mission output.

At this time LERC is working with District 3 of the Fire Department to see about buying the land and the facility. A drawing of the facility has been completed showing property corners, septic location, and other points of interest.

We are very proud of the work our volunteers have done to keep our NWLERC center a clean, functional and inviting place to work.



Pat Bucknell
Facilities Director





NWLERC Stars
July , 2011



Jean Durant

Berta Fender

Lacey Sunrise Lions Club

Lacey Sunrise Lions club

Each month we select one or two individuals to be our NWLERC "Stars" and we are very pleased to include Jean and Berta as our Stars of the Month for July! Both are new Lions and each has clocked over 50 hours of volunteer work at NWLERC in the last four months!

***Thanks & Congratulations to Jean & Berta for
Your Dedication and Hard Work
Serving those in need!***

