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Focus

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

SUMMER 2019

EDITOR: JERRY ENGEBO

Construction Update

July 27

I had hoped to have pictures and a glowing report on the LERC warehouse by now. As it stands as of today they have spent yesterday and today burning a year's worth of weeds from the gravel and are spreading a new level of gravel. Their plan for this next week (July 29) is to drill the holes for the poles, then wait for the county to inspect. Then they set the poles in concrete and wait



several days before the wood framing can be done. Then more inspections!!

I will send pictures as I can show progress. I would not expect to use the building until mid September.

Remember folks the structure is funded but not the floor treatment, landscaping, electrical, and heating/cooling. I extend my personal thanks to Kerby Kee and his group for obtaining the shelving.

Bob Wright
VP Construction and Maintenance

Donate Used Eyeglasses Here



Help Change Lives!!
Donate all your used
eyeglasses in Wenatchee.

Bring used eyeglasses
to Wenatchee for our
service project.



What's in your shoe box?

Old keys? Can't throw those away.

Pocket Knife? Might need that.

Pens? Never too many pens.

Eyeglasses? Hmm ... What to do with old glasses?

Ah Hah! Give a deserving person a better life?

NWLERC

9013 Mullen Rd. SE Olympia WA 98513



Centralia Lions Step Up

Led by hard charging Lion Bill Scholl. The Centralia Lions are acting to make our 350,000 eyeglasses mission ready.

On one of his frequent visits to deliver glasses Lion Bill became aware of our situation. Over 300,000 glasses to be processed and our mission ready inventory being low. He realized we need volunteers and started campaigning.

He is spreading the word in his community and to all the Lions Clubs in his Zone. More than just talking, the Centralia Lions are on site volunteering a day a month. The 3rd Saturday the last several months, members of Centralia Lions have donated a few hours and contributed to our mission.

They have chosen to continue and will be there one day a month. Lion Bill Chappell is their Site Manager and I know all of us concerned appreciate their contribution.

We have many individuals volunteer from various clubs outside our immediate area but few clubs.

I am asking (pleading?) every club within a 30 minute or so drive from our facility to consider contributing a few hours a month. It is a good club activity, relaxed, fun, not physically demanding, and the coffee is on us!

Give us a try. Pick a day that works for your group and we will work with you.

Our staff will work with you and if it works out, we train a Site Manager and you are on your own.

Please contact us for a tour *and you will be recruited.*

Don Schmidt

VP Operations



The Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center is a registered charity with the Amazon Smiles program.

Amazon Prime members can select a charity to receive a donation with each purchase. There is no cost to the consumer, Amazon donates a small percentage of each purchase to your selected charity.

Your Northwest LERC will use these funds to support building and equipping the new building.

Please consider supporting NWLERC in this program and ask family and friends to participate.



NW LIONS EYEGLASS RECYCLING CENTER

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday.....9:00AM-12:PM

Tuesday..... 11:00AM.- 2:00PM

Wednesday.....9:00AM-12:00PM

4th Wednesday.....6:00PM- 9:00PM

Olympia West

Thursday.....9:00AM-12:00PM

3rd Thursday..... 12:00PM- 3:00PM

Olympia Host

Other days by special arrangement

360-923-2075

WWW.LIONSNWLERC.ORG

Mission Shipments April - July 2019

Tanzania -- 438 pair, 150+ cases, Coast to Coast Missions

Dominican Republic -- 240 pair, 300 suns, 50+ cases, Global Health Outreach

Nigeria -- 684 pair, 130+ cases, Kalahari National Assoc. USA

Malawi -- 710 pair, 140+ cases, Sedona Oak Creek Lions USA

Marshall Islands -- 684 pair, Canvasback Missions/PCLI

USA – Seattle -- 87 pair, 25+ cases, Puget Sound Christian Center

Bolivia -- 684 pair, 300 suns, Eastside Church/PCLI

Antigua -- 1441 pair, 425 suns, VOSH/Great Shape! iCARE

Bolivia -- 558 Suns & clip-ons, Eastside Church/PCLI

Jamaica -- 784 pair, 637 suns, 250+ cases, Great Shape Inc. iCARE/VOSH

Antigua -- 1016 pair, 425 suns, 250+cases, Great Shape Inc. iCARE/VOSH

Bolivia -- 1048 pair, ETTA Project - Tacoma

Antigua -- 300 pair, 90+ cases, Great Shape Inc. iCARE/VOSH

USA -- 175 Plano Frames, Union Gospel Mission - Olympia

USA -- 3 pair (readers only) Timberland Library - Olympia

USA -- Justa Cntr., Phoenix, AZ (homeless veterans and seniors) 100 suns, Puyallup Valley Lions

Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center: Mission Report

- **Name of Organization:** Sedona Oak Creek Canyon Lions Club (Dr. Serge Wright and Randy Crewse - Lions Coordinators for Malawi, Nicaragua and Honduras missions) and Verde Valley School (Caroline Diehl - VVS Global Goals Program Director and leader of the Malawi Mission)
- **Location/Country of Mission:** Zomba Central Hospital in Zomba, Malawi
- **Mission Dates:** June 2nd to 27th, 2019 was our full mission. The Free Eyeglass Clinics were held on June 7,8, and 9th, 2019.
- **Total number of individuals served during mission?** 4000
- **Total number of individuals fitted with eyeglasses?** 3600
- **Number of Lions Club members on mission?** 2
- **Did you have any unused eyeglasses?** Yes. If yes, what is the disposition of the unused glasses? Only 23 pairs of glasses from NWLERC were not distributed. We had another 500 pairs of glasses from other sources that were not distributed during the clinics but these (and the 23 from NWLERC) will continue to be dispensed for free by the Zomba eye doctors as patients come in without fees for glasses over the next couple of months.
- **Comments/Suggestions:** Keep up the incredible work that you do! You were able to get us much needed glasses very quickly and they are packaged for safe transport. We couldn't ask for a better partner for this mission work. Your support each year is invaluable. Since 2002, when we began this project, over 21,100 Malawians have received free glasses. We could never have done this without amazing partners like you.

Submitted by:

Caroline Diehl

Date: July 2, 2019



Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center: Mission Report

- **Name of Organization:** Global Health Outreach
- **Location/Country of Mission:** Betays in the Sugar Cane fields of the Dominican Republic
- **Mission Dates:** June 15-23, 2019
- **Total number of individuals served during mission:** 1172 total patients (around 200 for eye care)
- **Total number of individuals fitted with eyeglasses:** 158 (also all 300 pairs of sunglasses from you were distributed)
- **Number of Lions Club members on mission:** none
- **Did you have any unused eyeglasses?** Yes
- **If yes, what is the disposition of the unused eyeglasses?** The unused prescription eyeglasses were left with the Oasis Church in Santo Domingo, DR, to be used by future Optometrists working with GHO in the betays.

Comments: Your contribution to this mission made it possible for people who had never had eye care to be able to see better. If an Optometrist does not have the prescription eyeglasses with him to give to the patients, he cannot provide any long term help for the patient. Since certain powers are more commonly needed, it is very helpful that you offer specific powers. Hopefully, I will be able to go to the Dominican Republic again next year and will be able to get started earlier on building a bank of eyeglasses to take with me.

Dr. Don R. Dye, OD
17 S. Thomas Street
Elberton, GA 30635
706-988-1351



*These two photos tell the success story
of the Lions Eyeglass
Recycling Program
better than any words could do it.*

Look at her smile!





HERE WE GO AGAIN!

THE GREAT NWLERC APPRECIATION PICNIC - 2019

AN INVITATION TO ALL LERC VOLUNTEERS (BOTH LIONS AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS)

- * **GRAB YOUR GLASSES (OR NOT)**
- * **BRING YOUR FAVORITE PICNIC DISH**
- * **WEAR YOUR VERY BEST SMILE (photos)**

AND SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, Aug. 17, 2019, 12 NOON – 3 P.M.

ON SITE – 9013 MULLEN RD., SE, OLYMPIA

HAMBURGERS, HOTDOGS, WATER AND SOFT DRINKS PROVIDED.

BRING POTLUCK – SAVORY OR SWEET.

**COME & BE APPRECIATED.
YOU DESERVE IT !**



Family & Friends are work party volunteers at LERC

A big NWLERC thank you to District B Immediate Past District Governor **Donna Oiland** for hosting a “**Family and Friends Work Party**” at LERC on Tuesday morning, July 16th. While touring LERC for her first time in May, Donna recognized the urgent need for volunteers to get the thousands of pairs of eyeglasses in inventory processed for mission readiness or respect recycling. She said she planned to organize a group to come and volunteer at LERC—**and she did it!** She said “My hope is that we can encourage others to take the time to come to help.”

Donna, a long-time member of the University/Ballard Lions Club, was joined by two nephews, Micah 14 and Caleb Husby 12, fellow Lions member Patty Minzel, long-time friend Carol who is often drafted by Donna to help with Lions projects, and Donna’s grandson Zach, 12. They gathered around the prep table—drying, wiping, inspecting and sorting the sanitized glasses upon removal from the commercial dishwasher.*

It was a treat to watch this crew in action—especially the three young boys who were enthusiastic, inquisitive, and eager to produce. In this case, to get some glasses ready to ship to Bolivia, Fiji and elsewhere! Several other volunteers and LERC staff were present and all remarked on how much they enjoyed seeing these young boys excited by knowing their volunteer hours will help people all over the world enjoy the gift of sight!

AND, Donna also brought a delicious picnic lunch that was enjoyed by all! We just heard from Donna that she is going to bring another group for a work party on Tuesday, August 13th.

How about you? Call LERC and sign up for a work party day, too.

* The major holdup right now is not having enough manpower to process eyeglasses at the prep table. This task needs no advance training, but all glasses need to go through this important step before they can be forwarded to lensometer techs for evaluation and further processing.



19B's Busyness

Hi, I am Kris Reinbold, the new representative for District 19B – The Busy B.

I would like to thank the NWLERC Staff, Directors and Volunteers that I met in July for the warm welcome and very helpful information.

I would like to thank Jim Knight for all the years that he has dedicated to NWLERC, glasses collection and vision support for the Lions. He continues to spearhead the Vision Screenings in 19B, with more machines and school/community events.

I would also like to acknowledge Don and Vicki Harris from the KCECC (King County Eyeglasses Collection Center) for all their years of service others. Having attended their sorting parties at Seattle-Rainier Lions Club, all that I have learned about this program has been from them and their graciousness in sharing information, ideas and stewardship. At this time, we (19B) are working on figuring out how to continue their amazing work, program and process.

It is my goal to work to develop the sense of community spirit that the Harris' nurtured within even more communities in our district. At this time I am looking into a variety of locations for sorting/cleaning parties (like other Lions Club locations, Senior Centers, Libraries, Churches and other community groups). I am very willing to gather glasses from any of our clubs, so that we can continue to filter quality eyewear to NWLERC.

If you have any questions, concerns and/or ideas that you would like to share with me, please contact me at lionkrisr@gmail.com or call me at 425-771-4235. I look forward to serving NWLERC with you.



Lake Chelan Lions design eye-catching collection box

Here is an example of a unique collection box for used eyeglasses. The Lake Chelan Lions Club created this for their community in Zone D2.

Sent to you by PDG Patti Sparks

Tenino Lions donate support shelf to LERC

Ed and I went to the Tenino Lions Yard Sale a couple of weeks ago - I was hoping to find "just the right" shelf for prep in the mission support room — and we found it. Paid for it. When we were leaving a Tenino Lion said something about the shelf and we told them we were taking it to LERC. When they found out we had paid for it they refunded our money and said it was a gift from Tenino Lions.



We got the little black roller cart that is pictured beside the shelf at their sale about three years ago - also gifted by them. Don't know how we ever got along without it.

Jody Taylor

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Suzanne Gayda
President

Don Schmidt
VP-Operations

Judy Ann Bergvall
VP-Outreach

Bob Wright
VP-Const. & Maint.

Hope Ramsdale
Secretary

Lyell Clark
Treasurer / Supplies

Vacant
Chair, Public & Media Affairs

PZC Kerby Kee
Immediate Past President

PZC Bob Pinson
PDG John Kirry
Pat Baron
Don Schmidt
Senior Advisors

STAFF

Cliff Brandsma
PDG Ed Taylor
Volunteer Coordinators
Site Manager Training

Berta Fender
Jody Taylor
Malena Hine
Mission Coordinators

PDG Ed Taylor
Quality Assurance / Training

Pat Baron
Materials Recycling

Marty Ikari
IT technician

Jerry Engebo
Newsletter Editor



Kelso-Longview Earlybird Lions bring shelving for new Building

The shelving was a donation to the Earlybird Lions Club from Walmart. They had wanted us to scrap the shelving but once we saw it we new it could be put to a better use. The only cost to the club was paying for transportation which was 250.00. The only fun we had in transporting it north was the flat tire we got just outside of Centralia and the 2 hour wait to have the tire changed.

Key Statistics as of 6/3019	June 2019	THIS YEAR	SINCE 2015
Raw Eyeglasses Received	66,848	293,033	3,829,600
Eyeglasses to Missions	3,255	26,295	365,590
Volunteer Hours	1,090	7,918	130,088
Missions Supported	3	29	329
Mission-Ready Inventory	6,887	As of June 30, 2019	

Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center
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