

The Recycle Miracle

Ninety percent of individuals over the age of forty will need help with their vision. Individuals over forty have made most of the technological advances that have been made. There are fifty percent of individuals over forty that are not afforded the opportunity to have their vision checked or to receive the help necessary for correct vision. As a result of this need, eyeglass recycling centers were established by Lions Clubs International. As an integral function of Sightfirst, eyeglass recycling centers supply recycled eyeglasses to help solve vision problems around the world. Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center is one of six centers established by Lions Clubs International in the United States and one of nine centers in the world. As the need for recycled eyeglasses increases, the collection of the used eyeglasses needed to fill orders around the world increases. Please help us at the Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center by collecting and sending us the used eyeglasses that you collect. If you don't have a collection program, please start one.

In 1994 TLERC conducted an informal survey and came to the conclusion that screening facilities needed to be established in third world countries in order to efficiently reach the most people with recycled eyeglasses. In order to accomplish this goal, training teams were established to travel to these countries, partner with local Lions there, train them to screen for vision problems, and train them to dispense recycled eyeglasses. TLERC has developed a program in association with Lions International, which allows this to happen. Without the help and valuable assistance of the optical industry and local eye health professionals we at TLERC could not accomplish this.

For example, a training team from the Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center helped the Lions of El Salvador to establish an Eye Screening Facility in San Miguel, El Salvador. This newly established facility has fitted over 5,000 pair of recycled eyeglasses on the residents of El Salvador in the nine months that it has been in existence. The Texas Eyeglass recycling center needs your used eyeglasses to help fill orders such as this one.

TLERC also supports Adult Eye Screening Facilities. In 1994 a ruling was rendered by The Attorney General of Texas which allowed Lions to fit recycled eyeglasses on indigenous individuals in Texas. The fitting of recycled eyeglasses on those in need not only assists this population with vision problems, but also assists training teams to practice their skills in fitting used eyeglasses and training individuals participating in missions to third world countries.

Please help us to help others with their vision problems. For information about TLERC contact either PDG Robert "Bob" Edwards-TLERC Information Officer-1508 NCR 1127-Midland, TX 79706-(915) 687-2279 or PDG Ike Fitzgerald- TLERC Coordinator-2811 W. Golf Course RD-Midland, TX 79701-(915) 682-7074.