

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL EYE GLASS RECYCLING PROGRAM

Program Summary:

The Lions Clubs International Eyeglass Recycling Program became an official program in 1994, although Lions have been involved in eyeglass recycling for more than 80 years. Today, there are 17 official Lions Eyeglasses Recycling Centers (LERCs) throughout the world. Board Policy provides baseline operating standards for LERCs to maintain even operating standards and to ensure distribution of a consistent product. Eyeglasses supplied to Lions or other humanitarian groups are dispensed free of charge at the mission sites. Lions districts and multiple districts, singly or jointly, may sponsor LERCs. The council chairperson of the multiple district in which the LERC is located is strongly encouraged to visit the center at least once during his/her term.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How do I begin an eyeglass collection campaign in my community?

Contact Health and Children's Services Department to order a "Lions Recycle For Sight" Information Kit (KIT-RFS) for a nominal cost of US\$5.00. It contains all necessary information and sample promotional materials for organizing a successful club or district eyeglass recycling campaign. Additional resources, such as LCI collection boxes and box decals, are also available. Form a club committee to maintain collection sites throughout your community and publicize the drop-off locations in your local newspaper, the LCI Web site and your club or district Web site.

How can clubs increase their eyeglass collections?

Clubs can contact local organizations, schools or businesses to sponsor an eyeglass collection drive. The "Recycle For Sight" brochure, poster and press release can help to publicize the event. Lions can sponsor eyeglass collection contests between local clubs in the district, or within local schools, to encourage community involvement, too. Clubs may post their collection locations on the Lions Clubs International Web site.

Where can Lions clubs or districts send their recycled eyeglasses?

Clubs are encouraged to send their eyeglasses to the nearest LERC (locations listed on Web site). Contact the LERC directly to verify shipping guidelines and the types of glasses accepted. The LERC will then sort, process and prepare the glasses for inventory for future optical missions.

How can I obtain eyeglasses for a Lions optical mission?

Request a supply of glasses from the nearest LERC or another LERC (contact information on LCI Web site) to help meet the needs of your mission. Eyeglasses shall be distributed in strict accordance with local or national health regulations of the country hosting the optical mission.

Materials Available:

- KIT-RFS: "Lions Recycle For Sight" information kit contains club guide for recycling, sample box decals, brochure, poster, sample lapel pin, promotional materials and more.
- IAD-408: list of official Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers
- IAD-107: guide for starting and operating a LERC
- IAD-28DVD: 10 minute film ideal for school and general public viewing and Lions meetings.
- **New Design!!!** G1174DS: LCI official collection boxes (through Club Supplies Dept.)

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Awards Available:

- *“Excellence in Effort Award” Certificate* – to be presented by the district governor to the outstanding club in the district that provides programs and assistance to aid persons who are blind and visually impaired.
- *District Sight Chairperson Award Certificate* to be presented by district governor
- *Multiple District Sight Chairperson Award Certificate* to be presented by council chairperson

Important Dates:

- June 30: LERC annual report of compliance due
- July 30: LERC annual report of expenses (for previous fiscal year ending June 30) due
- September 15: LERC current report of board of directors and by-laws due.
- Quarterly reports from LERCs to be submitted to Health & Children’s Services: October 10, January 10, April 10 and July 10
- Lions World Sight Day: (second Thursday in October)
- International White Cane Safety Day: October 15
- Lions Recycle For Sight Month: May

LCI Contact:

Health and Children’s Services Department

Phone: 630-468-6728

E-mail: eyeglasses@lionsclubs.org