



LIONS CLUB

DISTRICT 25-A

EYEGLASS PROCESSING & EDUCATION
CENTER

WESTVILLE CORRECTIONAL ANNEX

Mr. Caldwell oversees the Eyeglass Program to make sure we are producing the highest quality of glasses possible as well as all the clerical work for the program.

Mr. Caldwell works with the Lions Members to ensure all of their objectives are being met.



Kenneth Caldwell the Eyeglass Clerk

VINTAGE EYEGLASSES



Roggie Looney and Royal Smith work in the Vintage Department cleaning and polishing vintage glasses for The Lions Club.

Eyeglass Class Room



Alan Conrad teaches our Optical Technology class

Juan Dominguez is in training to replace Alan after he graduates in a couple of months. We cross train for all positions here in the Eyeglass Program.

Buddy Long and Aaron Wright sit patiently awaiting to receive the knowledge to be shared by their teachers..

Floor manager



Steve Plis is the Floor Manager checking glasses for top quality

1. Receiving



John Joyce sorting some glasses.

Glasses are sorted by Single Vision, Bifocal, Vintage, Kids and put into separate boxes.

Receiving is where the glasses come first, here they are sorted and gone over for quality. They are checked for mold, rust, etc. From this room the glasses go to the washroom.

2. Wash Room

Ryan Sleziak



(3)

3. Lensometer Readers

Glasses are stored in bags with the prescription wrote on them.

EXAMPLE

R -0.50 -1.00
23
L -1.00 -0.75
79



Gary McKeehan reading glasses

If the Cylinder reading is over -3.00 then a P.D (Pupil Distance) measurement is performed.



Using millimeters on a ruler a measurement is taken to determine the distance between both

At the lensometer machines, eyeglass employees read the prescription that is in the glasses and determine the Sphere, Cylinder, and Axis. Also the glasses are checked for quality.

On avg. each lensometer operator reads between 300 up to 350 glasses per day.



Lensometer Technicians

When glasses are available, up to 8,000-10,000 pair can be produced per week.

In 2010 the Westville Eyeglass Program produced over 362,000 pair of glasses to be distributed in 2010-2011 missions around the world.

4. Sort Table

The sort table employee collects glasses from the readers periodically. Back at the sort table, he quality checks each bag as he separates them according to gender and prescription. They are then stored in boxes behind him, later to be used by packing and shipping to fill all orders requested through the Lions Clubs.



Seth Cummins

5. Packing and Shipping



Michael Sharp

Michael Sharp is filling an order for a VOSH Mission due to go to Peru later this year. Once order is complete he will sort and pack for future orders for Mexico Missions or for glasses to be sent to Upland Recycling.

At the packing and shipping department, glasses are sorted by prescription and gender, inspected again for quality, and then packed into boxes to be entered into a tracking database.

Recycling



Some unusable glasses are disassembled to be reused by our repair technician. We believe in recycling!

Jackson & Allison separating glasses for recycling

In our recycling station nothing goes to waste, all glasses damaged beyond repair get sorted through and separated by metal to be shipped to a recycling center.

Repair

Here are some of the many parts that have been salvaged to repair glasses; screws, temples, nosepieces.



Charles Swangim repairing glasses

At our repair station, damaged glasses are completely restored to ensure as many possible glasses make it to those in the need of the gift of sight. On Avg. 350 glasses are repaired a week thanks to the recycling and repair center.

6. Packing and Shipping Data Clerk



Ryan Wildermuth keeps track of all eyeglass data such as:

- Daily count for each lensometer.
- Daily repair totals.
- Inventory of all Raw materials.
- All orders requested thru Dist. 25-A Lions Clubs.

Ryan enters shipping orders into a database. This allows for the following:

- Easy tracking for each individual pair of glasses
- A clearly printed label for each pair of eyeglasses that are sent on the Mexico missions.

District 25-A, B and F uses this database on their missions to easily retrieve the correct pair of glasses for the individual in the need of sight.

This is where the final quality check is performed. As you can see, there has been a quality inspection at every station to ensure the best quality glasses reach each mission



Top Left displays founder of Lions Clubs Melvin Jones.



Top Right displays the mission statement of Melvin Jones.

Bottom Left displays 4 of District 25-A members whose priceless leadership inspired this mural. Gene L. Rice PID, Harold Haman, Mark "Jerry" Ruge, and Sam Reisinger PDG. Also Lions Tom Lee is not pictured, but is much appreciated

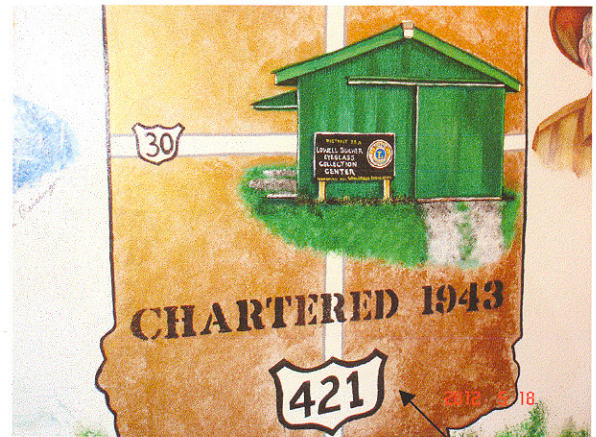


Bottom Right Displays Lions Clubs International Headquarters located in Oak Brook, IL



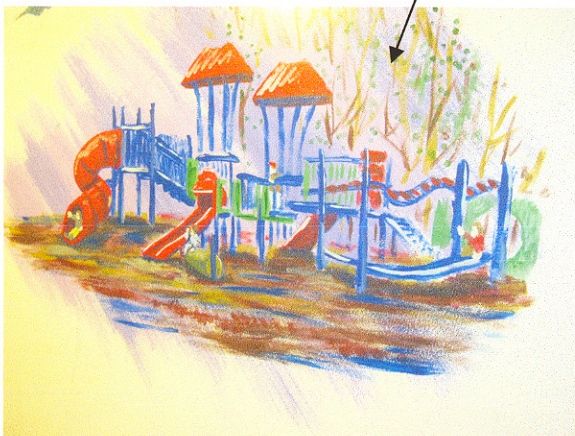


Top Left displays District Governor 25-A Mike Smith & his wife Robin

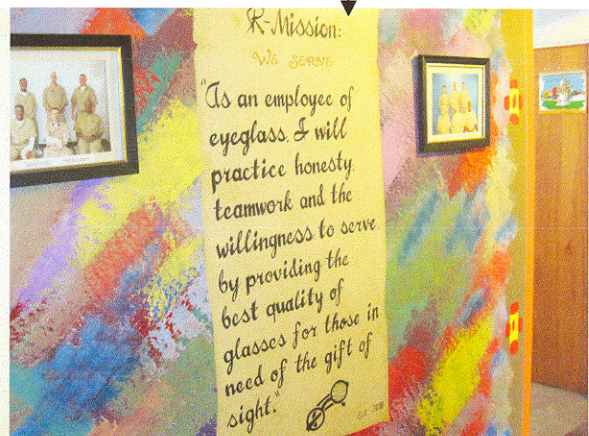


Top Right displays the Lions 25-A storage facility located in Wanatah, IN

Bottom Left displays Lions Clubs support of children.



Bottom Right displays the mission statement created by the men through the inspiration of the program.



“R’Mission” statement, inspired by the Lions Club spirit of, “We Serve.”
 “As an employee of eyeglass, I will practice honesty, teamwork, and the willingness to serve by providing the best quality of glasses for those in need of the gift of sight.”

Westville Eyeglass Recycling History

Nearly 6,000,000 pair of used eyeglasses have been processed at the Westville Correctional Facility since 1994. In the beginning, Lion Bob Stachura (from the Lions) and Andy Pazera (from WCF) started by simply cleaning, sorting, reading with a lensometer and bagging used eyeglasses. At that time, the program was housed in the basement of HQ or A building. It remained there for about 10 years.

Just to get the glasses in or out of the facility was about a ¼ mile of tunnels and sidewalks. At that time glasses were soaked in tubs overnight and the overall quality was far from perfect. Many of the glasses had been in storage too long and as a result, they were trashed. We next moved to "S" building, a much better facility, a dish washer was used and through fund raisers from gold scrap and old glasses, we were able to update our lensometers and started using computers to categorize glasses for our Mexico Mission trips and to one other Mission group. This process turned out about 70,000 pair a year.

WCF advised us we could move to "R" building if we wanted to. That area had not been occupied for many years and needed a great deal of work. It was on the 3rd floor. The real advantage was that the inmates were all "level 1 offenders" which meant less security and they lived in the same building complex. The offenders cleaned, painted, and made it by far the best facility we had ever had! The new space had a big open area for most of our lensometers, rooms for washing, sorting, a clerk's office, a computer room and a room for repairing glasses (*some 500 pair a week*).

In approximately 2009 we started an Optometry course obtained through Purdue University. All offenders entering our eyeglass program must go through this schooling, about 4 weeks, and pass the exams. At least 1 Lion is at the Center each day and grades the exams. It has made a tremendous difference in the quality and the offenders understanding of eyeglasses. All offenders are cross trained to every one of the 11 positions we have at the center.

As you enter the hallway to the Eyeglass center, murals are painted on both sides of the wall depicting the history of Lions International, a world map of Lion countries, the Eyeglass Collection Center at Wanatah and our regional center at Upland, Indiana. All of the artwork has been done by the offenders.

The outstanding clerk we had from 2009 – 2012 was Anton Jackson. His ideas and dedication to our program were amazing and he made us look so good. He strived for excellence in quality control, security and a vision for new ideas. Kenny Caldwell is now the Clerk for Our Processing Center and is also doing an outstanding job.

Each year we plan and facilitate an open house in mid-July. Many people that attend the Open House are amazed at what we do. It's through the joint work and cooperation of the WCF and the Lions that have made this project a win/win for everyone, especially the millions of patients that have improved sight through these recycled eyeglasses.

Lions helping daily at the Westville Center: District Chair Lion Harold Haman, Lion Tom Lee, PDG Sam Reisinger, Lion Jerry Ruge and PID Gene Rice

Working at the Wanatah Collection Center: Lion Lowell Bucher since 1994 Lion Ed Marks.