

BLINDNESS CAN BE PREVENTED

January 2009

For many persons in many countries, *failing sight can mean blindness!* Professional eye care for the poor simply is not affordable and usually is not even available.

Only volunteer medical teams offer the hope of restoring vision. However, vision care teams have great difficulty in obtaining large quantities of the right eyeglasses with the right prescriptions.

In response to that need, Project 20/20 was created to collect, screen, and prepare eyeglasses and sunglasses for international vision care teams free of charge.

To receive Project 20/20 assistance, international medical teams must meet two criteria: (1) all vision care must be supervised by a licensed eye care professional and (2) all service must be provided without cost or discrimination of any kind to disadvantaged persons of all faiths.

Since its beginning in 1993, Project 20/20 has helped over 100 medical teams improve or protect the vision of more than 30,000 persons across four continents.



Above: An advanced optometry student sponsored by Project 20/20 donations checks the vision of a woman in Belize. Most Project 20/20 funds are used to send optometry students on vision care teams. Each \$5 donation supports enough student team expenses to provide one person with a professional eye exam and eyeglasses.

PROJECT 20/20

The mission of Project 20/20 is to prevent blindness and improve vision among the poor in underdeveloped areas of the world.

This service to persons of all faiths is possible because of volunteers from United Methodist and other church denominations, Lions Clubs and other civic organizations, medical offices and associations, and the Southern College of Optometry.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

COLLECT EYEGLASSES AND SUNGLASSES

Discarded eyeglasses and sunglasses can be transformed into a miracle for the poor. You can be a part of that miracle.



Left: See the smile of a Costa Rican farmer when he can read again

VOLUNTEER TIME

Serve as local Project 20/20 contact person or work in the Memphis lab

DONATE FUNDS

Donate funds for the lab and teams (Every \$5 donated helps one person receive an eye exam and eyeglasses)

ESTABLISH AN EYEGLASSES DONATION CENTER

Receive and help recycle eyeglasses or sunglasses in your own area to support local medical teams

Project 20/20 can help you, your church, or your organization set up donation boxes, organize collection drives, or even establish a complete eyeglasses recycling center.

MEDICAL TEAM SUPPORT

EYEGLASSES

Reading glasses and eyeglasses with powers ranging from ± 0.50 to 18.00 to improve vision

FRAMES

New and used eyeglass frames in excellent condition for families that can afford lenses but not the frames

SUNGLASSES

Non-prescription sunglasses to prevent eye diseases and blindness caused by intense sunlight, wind, and dust in tropical and high altitude countries (sunglasses are available to medical teams without vision care staff)

ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT

Trip planning assistance, regional contacts, and emergency evacuation insurance to strengthen team effectiveness

Right: The removal of cataracts always requires patients to use reading glasses.

Project 20/20 provides reading glasses, regular eyeglasses, and sunglasses to vision care teams.



PROJECT 20/20

Project 20/20 is a non-profit human service program of the Memphis Conference of the United Methodist Church to support volunteer medical teams providing humanitarian aid and vision care worldwide.

Lay volunteers (non-optometrists) screen donated eyeglasses through five simple steps and analyze prescriptions with automatic equipment.



The eyeglasses and sunglasses are then packaged for free distribution to the poor by vision care teams serving in areas of the world that cannot provide eye care to those in need.

*Financial donations should be made payable to
"United Methodist Church for Project 20/20"*

*To send eyeglasses, donate funds, volunteer
your time, or obtain more information,
please contact:*

Project 20/20

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Project 20/20

**Volunteers Helping People
See Better Around the World**

You Can

- **Prevent Blindness**
- **Improve Vision**



Around the World!