

Overview of

ShowMe Lions Eyeglasses Recycling

Why is District 26-M7 involved with the ShowMe Lions Eyeglasses Recycling?

The evolution of Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation (MLERF) (dba Saving Sight) called for the elimination of the foundation's involvement in eyeglass recycling. Fearful of losing a worthwhile vision project, a former board member of MLERF stepped up to relocate the recycling effort from Columbia, MO to Jefferson City, MO. Consequently, District 26-M7 Lions volunteered to relocate the existing stockpile of eyeglasses from Columbia to Jefferson City. Initially, the boxes, bags and other containers of eyeglasses were stored in a club's storage building and members' homes. Subsequently a central storage facility was provided by Millard Family Chapels.

The Cole County Health Center offered space for the Lions' eyeglasses recycling operations; this was done in conjunction with on-going discussions on space to conduct regular KidSight screenings. In addition to providing dedicated storage spaces within its building, Cole County Health Department generously provides space for the following operations: sorting the donated eyeglasses into categories, discarding unusable items (loose lenses, broken frames, etc.), cleaning the sorted eyeglasses and classifying (reading/labeling) the cleaned eyeglasses. Saving Sight transferred their lensometer and washer to the Lions to facilitate the operation.

Lions of District 26-M7 provide the necessary supplies used in the eyeglasses recycling operations. Clubs within District 26-M7 also kindly donated funds to buy additional equipment to further assist in the operations.

What changed with the move of the recycling operation from Saving Sight to ShowMe Lions Eyeglasses Recycling?

The location where Lions and other organizations take their donated eyeglasses changed from Columbia to Jefferson City. To facilitate the delivery of donations, PCC Jeff Hilke arranged a Columbia location where smaller donations may be left. Additionally, arrangements may be made to have donations collected at Council of Governors meetings, the state convention and possibly other large meetings.

The association between Saving Sight and ReSpectacle was ended. This relationship was ended when ReSpectacle was reworking its business plan. Now, all donations (eyeglasses or funds) are made directly to ReSpectacle, 529 2nd Street, Suite 100, Hudson, WI 54016. Despite numerous attempts to establish a relationship, it appears that ReSpectacle has chosen to consolidate its distribution efforts at its home location.

What is the future of the ShowMe Lions Eyeglasses Recycling?

The Lions of District 26-M7, while proud to serve as the temporary caretakers of the fledgling organization, have a dream to form a non-profit corporation managed and operated by a board of directors composed of representatives from each sub-district of Multiple District 26-M7. Towards that goal, an organization by-laws was drafted and shared with the 2019-2020 Council of Governors. It is unfortunate that no consensus was received following that initial effort at coordinating the

organization's future and the organizational effort fell dormant for a while, aided by the activity lull caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the slow-down of the organizational efforts, recycling operations continued as Lions clubs collected used eyeglasses, experienced only a brief respite due to COVID-19. Other eyeglasses operations – including sorting, cleaning and classifying – also experienced a short stoppage between late March through August 2020 but have since picked up.

Distribution efforts were drastically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Donations to mission trips were greatly diminished. Donations to other organizations who distribute within the United States and those who do their own classification and labeling remained constant. As we emerge from the pandemic, we expect overseas missions to resume. Saving Sight shared its distribution list

What can Lions clubs do to help ShowMe Lions Eyeglasses Recycling?

Continue to collect used eyeglasses.

Pre-sort collected eyeglasses. Discard loose lenses.

Deliver collected eyeglasses.

Participate in sorting, cleaning and classifying eyeglasses.

Identify groups interested in assisting in the eyeglasses recycling effort or conducting mission trips. Report contact information for those groups or organizations.

Encourage Lions to participate in the management and operation of ShowMe Lions Eyeglasses Recycling. Each sub-district is encouraged to elect an active representative to the proposed board of directors.

How does ShowMe Lions Eyeglasses Recycling sort eyeglasses?

Preliminary eyeglass sorting seeks to eliminate unusable eyeglasses (broken/missing parts, loose lenses, damaged lenses – excessive scratches, damaged coatings, etc.). Further separation includes:

Gold Plated	All Other Frames
Sunglasses, Prescription	Sunglasses, Non-Prescription
Readers	Pediatric
No Visible Frame Markings	New/Demo Frames
Scrap Metal (broken frames/missing parts)	

How do Lions notify ShowMe Lions Eyeglasses Recycling we have eyeglasses to deliver?

Primary contact is PCC Jeff Hilke, 573-690-8272 or lionjeffhilke@gmail.com and the alternate contact is PCC Jesse Hathcock, 573-338-5530 or jess26m7@aol.com.

Eyeglasses are delivered and stored at 2701 West Main Street, Jefferson City, MO.

Other arrangements may be made by contacting our points of contact.

How do Lions clubs and other organizations volunteer to sort, clean and classify eyeglasses?

Contact PDG Don Soph to schedule times and location to volunteer. His contact information is 314-304-5054 or donsoph@hotmail.com.

Currently, two locations are available:

Daytime (sorting only) is conducted at 2701 West Main Street, Jefferson City, MO.

Evening and weekend (sorting, cleaning and classifying) is conducted at the Cole County Health Center, 3400 West Truman Boulevard, Jefferson City, MO.

We opened the storage facility to conduct screening for a number of reasons, The primary reason is that the area we use at the Cole County Health Center is used during the work hours as part of its COVID vaccination site.

How does an organization request eyeglasses for a mission trip or further distribution?

Contact Lions Alberta and Gary Zumwalt, 573-782-3560 or gzumw@aol.com.

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