ALERT Report

April 7, 2018

**ARIZONA LIONS EYEGLASS RECYCLING TERMINAL (ALERT)**

A Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (LERC) through Lions Clubs International (LCI)

Is a 21-B District Project

Est. September 2005 - 21-B District Project April 2007 - Designated LERC June 2007

ALERT is recognized as one of 18 Lions Clubs International (LERC) recycling centers worldwide! A 21-B District Project

ALERT’s focus is to collect, sort, clean and read used eyeglasses for distribution to those in need around the world. There are **20** countries currently receiving eyeglasses for missions from ALERT. This Lionistic year ALERT has processed over 173,000 pairs of eyeglasses to be distributed in Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, and The Philippines. Over542,750pairs of eyeglasses have been distributed through ALERT since September 2005. Think about the child who can see his mother’s face clearly for the first time and all those people who can see more clearly.

ALERT is also active in supporting eye missions to Mexico with board members assisting at many locations just south of the border.

Keep in mind what the effort of sorting, cleaning and reading 542,000 pairs of used glasses would entail, and how many glasses you go through to get that number. Generally, two out of 10 pair of glasses make it through the sorting process once you eliminate those with missing pieces, scratched lenses, chewed arms, and awful ugly ones that no one wants to wear! We, the Lions, don’t want to be known as the organization that puts ugly glasses on people’s faces. Even those in need have self-esteem.

ALERT is so thankful for the satellite centers around District 21-B. These satellites are the lifeblood for our district project as they keep the work of collecting, sorting, cleaning, and reading the glasses right in their community. The clubs in those areas often have community members who help with sorting and cleaning the glasses – which is a great recruiting tool for the clubs.

It also allows Lions club members to feel a part of the district project without leaving their community and travelling to Tucson where the project is based.

The Tucson facility is the central distribution center. All finished glasses from the satellites come to the center for distribution to missions around the world.

ALERT and its satellites distribute readers and plain sunglasses to local veteran stand-downs and through behavioral health organizations who deal with homeless veterans and community events. (Example: The Tucson Breakfast Club just handed out about 1,000 pair of sunglasses, supplied by ALERT, at Vail Community Pride Days). ALERT also supplies local libraries with readers for those who need a little help reading. This is a great way to give back in your very own local community.

Being a 21-B District Project, ALERT currently has six satellites throughout the district and one in 21 A:

**ALERT Satellite Centers:**

Casa Grande - supported by the Casa Grande Lions Club

Chandler - supported by the Chandler Sun Bird Lions Club

Globe - supported by the Globe Lions Club

Green Valley - supported by the Green Valley and Green Valley La Canoa Lions Clubs

Mesa - supported by the Mesa Fountain of the Sun Lions Club

Sierra Vista - supported by the Sierra Vista and Huachuca City Lions Clubs

Phoenix - supported by the (21A) Phoenix Metro Lions Club

For additional information on becoming an ALERT Board member or satellite, contact me, liondory@cox.net

ALERT impacts those in need locally as well as globally. Thank you for your support whether it’s helping at a local satellite, collecting eyeglasses in your community, going on missions to help distribute the processed glasses, or monetarily – you and I both know – it’s what Lions work is all about – WE SERVE! This is YOUR district project at work, the need is great and we are here to support that need.

As a member of ALERT I thank for all you do.

The next eyeglass sorting is April 14th at SAAVI, 3767 E Grant Rd, in Tucson. Hope to see you there.

Respectfully submitted

Lion Dory Hart

ALERT Director of Operations

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