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# Focus

A Publication of the Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center

*“Changing Lives. One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time”*

WINTER 2024

EDITOR: JERRY ENGEBO



## The new look at LERC

*The main room work area has been enlarged.*

A third table has been added to the new glasses received for inspection and sorting area. This area is where we make sure the glasses are complete. If they are complete the glasses go to the dish washer for cleaning and disinfectant.



A new set of tables have been added to the wash and clean area. Now we have room for four to six more volunteers to dry and inspect the glasses for scratches and dirt after the glasses have been cleaned.

*(Continued on page 2)*

# The new look at LERC

(Continued from page 1)

We need volunteers, get a group together and schedule a work outing, afternoons, evenings or weekends, you pick the time and number of hours you would like to work. Let us know when you would like to come, we will have someone there to work with you. Call LERC 360-923-2020 or LERC President Suzanne Gayda 253-905-6005 to schedule your work party outing.

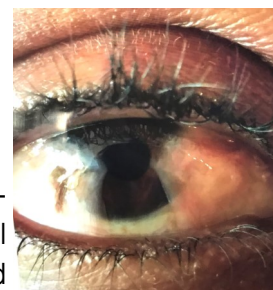


The shelves that were in the main room work area were moved to the warehouse. We need a group of volunteers to help Paul and Ann organize the warehouse so we can find the glasses that we need to process. Paul and Ann have done a good job in the warehouse, but it is to big a job for two people to sort and organize all those glasses.



This shelf is for the Mission Room storage. At the present time there are 24 boxes of glasses soft cases stored there. If you would like some hard cases we have 21 boxes stored in another part of the warehouse. Mission ready boxes and other items will be stored there instead of on top of the big shelves.

## Pinguecula Andptergia Disease is a growth on your Sclera due to excessive sun exposure.



Wearing proper sun glasses is the best preventative treatment of these tropical growths. Last week LERC supplied around 400 sun glasses each to two missions going to the Tropicals. Another Mission will be going to the Tropicals in May. By April they would like all the sun glasses that we can supply them. We have just received a Mission order to go to Cabo. They would like to have 1,000 sunglasses to help protect against this disease. They also would like some children's sunglasses and reading glasses. We also received a Mission order to go to the PeaceHealth/PazSalud Mission El Salvador. They would like to have 2,000 pairs of glasses for their Mission.

## We need Volunteers to help fill these orders

Get a group together and form a work group and come to LERC for a few hours. Afternoon, evenings or weekends. Just let us know when you would like to come. Have fun and help us fill these orders.

### A note from Laurel Strong, Lacey Sunrise Lions —

Last week I was unpacking from mail intake and ran across a nice little note in the comments. I'm taking and writing her a nice note back and from the nursing profession. I showed her note to some people and they thought it would be nice if you put it in your LERC newspaper that people actually believe in LERC and our mission. I'm glad I didn't throw it away but chose to respond. Empathy is lacking in our lives. Whatever I can do in my part I will.

Contact Person: Jesse Stephens

Email Address: jesse.stephens10@outlook.com

Phone Number: 509 466 8451

Eyeglass Count: 3

Comments or Notes: My husband had very nice new eye glasses all the time. He passed away and I would love those to bless someone else.

NWLERC Form #2  
Revised 11/10





## PazSalud provides eye exams, surgery referrals and glasses for 302 senior citizens in El Salvador

PazSalud brought together 83 optometrists to conduct this Optical and Cataract Screening, on November 11 in Ilopango, El Salvador, making it the largest team of medical professionals ever assembled for any PazSalud-run medical event in its 23-year history in El Salvador. In addition, 302 patients were given care, setting a record for the largest number of optometry patients ever seen in one day at a PazSalud mission delivering care to the seniors of Ilopango, many of whom and never before had an eye exam or ever worn a pair of glasses.

**STATS:** ■ 382 low income seniors received comprehensive eye exams ■ 284 pairs of distance and/or reading eyeglasses prescribed ■ 32 patients with cataracts identified and given referrals to Rosales Hospital for possible surgery ■ 12 patients with pterygia identified and given referrals to Rosales Hospital for possible surgery ■ 72 bottles of eye lubricant distributed with education on their use ■ 83 optometrists from UNAB Optometric University.

Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (LERC) and the Wisconsin Lions Foundation Eyeglass Recycling Center donate distance and reading glasses essential to carrying out the PazSalud OCS missions. PazSalud (*“Peace Health”* in Spanish) was created in 2000 to share the gifts of the PeaceHealth health system with patients living in poverty in El Salvador.



# LERC Director participates in iCARE Jamaica mission

Nina Day, District N Director from Camas, has been looking forward to sharing with you all about her iCARE trip to Jamaica. In summary:

- We saw over 300 patients each day of clinic, for a total of 2095 patients. Our team had 48 volunteers - 13 doctors, 14 opticians, and the rest were all non-optical volunteers who learned it all.
- We performed over 1000 health screenings for diabetes and hypertension, and dispensed over \$200,000 worth of medications for glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and dry eye.
- We distributed 837 pairs of reading glasses, and 1,862 pairs of sunglasses - every single patient was offered sunglasses.
- 63 pairs of pre-fabricated NEW prescription glasses were dispensed (simple, spherical single vision prescriptions), and we measured 648 patients for their custom-made pairs that will be made in the US and dispensed by another team in February.
- Our ophthalmologist performed 9 PRP laser surgeries that halt the progress of diabetic retinopathy, and I even got to assist him! That was an incredible experience in itself. I am so grateful for the support and sponsorship I received for this trip from so many MD19 Lions. Thank you! This will certainly not be my last iCARE Project trip! And next time, I hope to bring some of you with me!

In service,  
Lion Nina Day.  
LERC Director  
Camas Lions

*The iCARE Project is an international humanitarian program providing free eye care (exams, glasses, surgery, health screening) in collaboration with our essential partners: Sandals Foundation, VOSH International, SEE International, Alcon, Jamaican MOH, Lions Club, and the people of Jamaica.*





## Zone N1 Lions provide vision services to 80 homeless people at annual resource fair

In 1925, Helen Keller challenged Lions to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness." Today, sight programs remain one of the defining causes of Lions clubs around the world. Since 2010, the Zone N1 Lions have provided vision services to the homeless at an annual resource fair. The fair is held to entice homeless individuals to be counted in the "Point in Time Count" which is a Housing and Urban Development requirement.



For many years the Lions were able to partner with Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (NWLERC), LensCrafters and the Northwest chapter of Volunteer Optometric Service to Humanity (VOSH). LERC provided equipment to read existing prescription glasses, frames, cases and staffing. Lions did the initial vision screening then VOSH provided full eye exams. Lens Crafters wrapped up the effort by fitting the frames and fulfilling all the prescriptions.

Regretfully, this year we had no licensed professional willing to write the prescriptions so we were only able to screen and provide magnification glasses. However, LERC again stepped forward to provide the readers and VOSH matched the readers to peoples needs and fixed any glasses needing repair. As a result, 80 people were able to obtain needed readers in four short hours. Additionally, during the fair, contacts were made for two new outreach events to held later in the year.



We are already making plans for next year and would greatly appreciate any assistance anyone could provide on obtaining licensed professionals to help for this one day, 4-hour event.

As of December 31, 2023	End	Of Year	Report
<b>NW LERC Key Statistics</b>			
	December, 2023	This Year 2023-24	Totals
<b>Volunteer Hours</b>	<b>443 Hours</b>	<b>3,280 Hours</b>	<b>155,172 Hours</b>
<b>Hours Reading Prescriptions for Mission Ready Glasses</b>	<b>51 Hours</b>	<b>395 Hours</b>	<b>2,330</b> (Since Feb. 2021)
<b>Glasses Processed for Missions</b>	<b>1,146 Pairs</b>	<b>4,692 Pairs</b>	<b>19,322</b> (Since Feb. 2021)
<b>Raw Glasses Information</b>			
<b>Raw Glasses Received</b>	<b>14,717</b>	<b>96,254</b>	<b>3,532,470</b>
<b>Raw Glasses Recycled</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33,150</b>	<b>2,086,670</b>
<b>Mission Information</b>			
<b>Eye Glasses to Missions/Events</b>	<b>3,670</b>	<b>8,041</b>	<b>307,031</b>
<b>Missions Supported</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>369</b>
<b>Mission Ready Inventory</b>	<b>19,750</b>	<b>As of 12/31/23</b>	

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS



Sumner Lions, Port Angeles Lions  
 Sequim Valley Lions, Ephrata Lions  
 Tacoma Downtown Lions, Mattawa Desert Aire Lions  
 Walla Walla Downtown Lions, Renton Lions  
 Wenatchee Central Lions, Battle Ground Lions  
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Girl Scout Troop 46840 is having their annual

**COOKIE SALE**

These girls, who volunteer at LERC, will use proceeds toward another year of going to camp, field trips, supplies and badges.

All sales from LIONS will be split evenly among our Girl Scouts. Cookies are \$6.00 per box.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

**Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center**

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Olympia, WA 98513

360-923-2075

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***“Changing Lives,  
One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time”***