

Recycling Eyeglasses

The World Health Organization estimates that corrective lenses can improve the eyesight of one-fourth of the world's population. Unfortunately, for many people a pair of eyeglasses is both unaffordable and unobtainable. The donation of old but useful eyeglasses to the needy in the US and abroad can help solve this problem.

The Lions Clubs International and local Lions Clubs conduct eyeglass-recycling programs. Used glasses are cleaned, repaired, and classified by prescription, then distributed free to needy people in developing countries around the world.

Contact a local Lions Club or call Lions Club International at 630.571.5466 to find a local recycling center. Chapters collect the used prescription eyeglasses, reading glasses, and even sunglasses, and then package and ship them to the centers.

Community services for the visually impaired often have names of those needing glasses. Many ophthalmologists (Eye M.D.s) and optometrists accept donations. Donating your eyeglasses to any charitable organization will improve the eyesight of those in need.