



## ***Mission***

New Eyes for the Needy purchases new prescription eyeglasses for poor children and adults in the United States and recycles donated glasses for distribution to indigent people overseas.

## ***History***

**New Eyes has helped more than 7,000,000 people to see clearly in the U.S.  
and in 56 countries around the world.**

In 1932, as a volunteer for the Red Cross in New York City, Julia Lawrence Terry of Short Hills, New Jersey saw that applicants for food assistance could not see well enough to fill out the necessary forms. Her first thought was to bring in spare glasses from her friends, but she quickly realized that a better solution was to melt down the gold in donated frames and use the proceeds to purchase new eyeglasses for the poor. With a check from a smelter for \$60, New Eyes for the Needy was born.

## ***Need***

- The average retail cost of a pair of glasses in the U.S. is \$250, well beyond the reach of working poor families.
- Our clients have incomes at or below the national poverty level (currently \$22,050 for a family of four) and have no medical insurance, or have public or private insurance plans that do not pay for eyeglasses.
- In 2008, 12.5% of the people in the U.S. lived in poverty (37 million people).
- 15.3% of U.S. residents (45.7 million people) had no health insurance coverage of any kind in 2008, including Medicaid or Medicare.
- In 2008-2009, New Eyes was unable to respond to 19% of requests for assistance.

## ***Accomplishments – 2008-2009***

- New Eyes purchased eyeglasses for 3,118 adults from 47 states and the District of Columbia.
- New Eyes purchased eyeglasses for 670 children in 29 states.
- New Eyes purchased eyeglasses for 1,396 seniors living in 38 states and the District of Columbia.
- New Eyes distributed 162,000 pairs of recycled eyeglasses to poor people living in 28 developing nations around the world.
- New Eyes welcomed 14 new volunteers.
- *A World Tour of Wine* Gala in February 2009 raised \$45,000 to support the U.S. eyeglass voucher program.
- *Kids Rock for Vision* Concert in March 2009 raised \$7,860 for children's eyeglasses.
- *Fabulous Finds* jewelry and giftware re-sale showroom raised nearly \$52,000 for the U.S. eyeglass voucher program.
- New Eyes secured \$42,500 in new foundation grants.

## ***Challenges***

- The 2009-10 budget restricts New Eyes to issuing 104 vouchers per week: we receive **double** that number of applications weekly.
- Given the current economic climate, we anticipate a 20 percent drop in individual donations and foundation grants for the coming year.
- Applicants approved for assistance are on a 8-10 week wait list to receive vouchers.