



## 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 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 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 \$20,650 for a family of four), have no medical insurance, or have public or private insurance plans that do not pay for eyeglasses.
- In 2007, 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 2007, including Medicaid or Medicare.
- In 2007-2008, New Eyes was unable to respond to 16% of requests for assistance.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS – 2007-2008

- New Eyes purchased eyeglasses for 3,918 adults from 47 states and the District of Columbia.
- New Eyes purchased eyeglasses for 768 children in 24 states and the District of Columbia.
- New Eyes purchased eyeglasses for 1,259 seniors living in 38 states and the District of Columbia.
- New Eyes distributed nearly 200,000 pairs of recycled eyeglasses to poor people living in 24 developing nations around the world.
- Corporate, civic and student volunteers donated over 10,750 hours to New Eyes.
- 75th Anniversary Gala raised \$150,000 to support the U.S. eyeglass voucher program.
- Fabulous Finds jewelry and giftware re-sale showroom raised more than \$50,000 for the U.S. eyeglass voucher program.
- New Eyes secured \$36,500 in new foundation grants.

## CHALLENGES

- Requests for eyeglass vouchers far exceeded the funding necessary to purchase the glasses.
- Requests from the Philadelphia area jumped more than 50 percent over the past year as a result of restructuring in Medicaid reimbursement in Pennsylvania.