



A Publication of the  
Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center  
January, 2010

WSRA "2009 Non-Profit Recycler of the Year"

## Welcome, 2010

Changing Lives. One Pair of Glasses at a Time.

*John Kirry, President, NWLERC*

Throughout the year, I get a chance to speak to a lot of clubs, zone meetings, conferences and MD-19 functions. My opening topic is always the same: how small we were when we started and how big we've become in the five short years of our existence.

Please indulge me if you've heard this before, but I am immensely proud of the progress we've made as an organization, and I cannot overstate how much I appreciate the hard work of all of you--our amazing volunteer force. Simply put, the work you all do on behalf of NWLERC changes lives around the world.

Starting with just a handful of volunteers in 2004, we provided 1148 pairs of mission ready glasses on a single mission to Honduras. By the end of December, 2009, we have provided over 82,000 pairs of mission ready glasses on 88 missions to 26 countries on four continents. Wow.

The result of this meteoric rise has put us on the verge of some significant milestones. Sometime in 2010, we will reach some important numbers:

**100:** The number of **missions** on which we will have sent glasses

**100,000:** The number of **finished glasses** we will have sent out on those missions

**1 million:** The number of **total glasses collected** through our center and our satellites.

We're not there yet, and we most certainly won't reach these numbers all at once, but I wanted to show you how close we are and how much your efforts have given the gift of clear vision to people around the world.

But while numbers are interesting, here's the bottom line for all of us: Every pair of finished glasses we send on a mission **changes the life of the recipient**. We can all be proud of that accomplishment.

*John*

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**A 501(c)3 Foundation**

## **Things You Should Know About, January, 2010.**

### **Lens-Techs: We Need You!**

Our increased mission operations tempo has led to a dwindling of our inventory of mission ready glasses. Quite simply, we need every qualified lensometer reader to "man the battle stations" and read glasses! While we're able to keep up with missions for now, we'll need everybody's best efforts to keep up with the requests. If you aren't a lens tech and would like to become one, please contact Operations Trainer Michael Petty to schedule a training session.

### **Mission Update**

Here is the list of the glasses we sent out in the last quarter:

<b><u>Mission</u></b>	<b><u>Number of Glasses Sent</u></b>
Afghanistan	760
Pierce County Homeless Connect	385
Philippines	2000
Peru	400
Marshall Islands	365
Kenya	248
Cameroon	1030
Mexico	500

### **Mission Report from Nigeria**

We received a nice note in December from Mr. Evon Anukam, representing Enyiogugu International Congress. They used our eyeglasses to serve a mission to Nigeria. In all, they distributed over 1300 eyeglasses on this mission. Here are his comments:

*"The mission was largely successful due to the availability of the eyeglasses that were so appreciated by the large number of patients we served. Thank you!"*

### **Shameless Plug: Has Your Club Donated To NWLERC Yet?**

PDG Emerson Bishop, our Vice President for Outreach has sent a letter to clubs in District C asking if they have made a financial donation to NWLERC yet this Lions year. We've started a campaign to get the word out to other Districts that we would love to have financial commitments from your clubs and zones as well. We're a fully endorsed MD-19 foundation and your contributions of \$50 or more will greatly offset our operating expenses. Make 2010 the year to contribute!

## Update on the Afghanistan Mission

Kerby Kee, our wonderful satellite manager for District G's Longview area, passed an email on to that is worth sharing. The first note is from Kerby to USAF Captain Dr Scott Martin in Afghanistan, and the second note is the response From Captain Martin. The exchange speaks for itself.

*Good Morning Scott,*

*Hope this note find you and the other personnel at the eye clinic well. I was on Google earth and found Bagram about 35 miles north of Kabul. It seems to be out in the country. Have you received any snow yet? All it does in Longview is rain, rain and more rain. The reason I am bothering you is that the guys at the club figured that you might need a care package, we knew the Air Force takes care of all your clothing needs so we decided to buy you guys some goodies. I don't know exactly when they will get there but there is a total of five boxes. I hope you will enjoy them. From our crew to your crew Have a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.*

*Kerby and all the Lions*

Dear Kerby,

I just received your care packages, and all I can say is -- WOW!! You guys really went all out with the great variety of goodies. I've been sharing with all the medics and docs in our clinic and they have really enjoyed it. With all the stuff you guys sent, we'll be snacking on it for quite a while!

To answer some of your questions about Bagram: you are correct, we are located just north of Kabul, and it is definitely pretty cold around here this time of year. We are surrounded by the Hindu Kush mountains, which are a beautiful sight right now as they are covered with snow. We don't actually have any snow on the ground right now, but we'll probably have some in the near future. Right now, we'll have frost/ice in the mornings, but it warms up enough during the day for everything to melt. The last significant rain we had was about a month ago, but it wasn't cold enough for snow at that time. Sounds like you guys could use a little break from all the rain you're getting.

Again, thank you so much for the Christmas care packages -- it really brightens the day around here when we get packages (especially this time of year when we are away from our families). I've only got about 3 weeks left before I get to go home, so I'm pretty excited about that.

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and I wish you all the best for the upcoming New Year,

Scott

Northwest LERC provided 760 pairs of eyeglasses and sunglasses for this civil assistance mission to Capt martin in Afghanistan. Thank you Kerby and the Longview Satellite for making this USAF Civil Assistance mission happen!



Kerby Kee, at left, and volunteers from the Longview satellite have brightened the Christmas Holidays for airmen in Afghanistan. Kudos, Kerby!

**Changing Lives. One Pair of Glasses at a Time.  
Thank You, NWLERC Volunteers!**



