

People & Places

Donation effort helps Lions Club

By Mike Rothman

STAFF WRITER

The Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute is collecting recycled eyeglasses to benefit the Lions Club.

Eyeglasses may be dropped off from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at three of its locations: 1717 W. Woolbright Road in Boynton Beach; 9980 Central Park Blvd. N., #204, in Boca Raton; and 1397 State Road 7, Suite 380, in Wellington.

Gwen Cohan, Florida Eye spokeswoman, said she recently visited Lighthouse for the Blind in West Palm Beach to see if there was a specific organization to which Florida Eye could contribute.

"Some of the patients had come in and said they each had a couple extra pairs



SUBMITTED PHOTO

David Zigerman donates three pairs of glasses at the Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute.

they wanted to donate," she said. "Lighthouse told me they collected for the Lions Club."

Cohan said Florida Eye's multiple offices made the collection drive a no-brainer.

"I went home and into my cabinet and found three pairs myself," she said. "These are people who have not seen clearly because they can't afford glasses."

Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers are in Australia, Canada, France, Italy, South Africa, Spain and the United States. Glasses collected by local Lions Clubs are sent to a regional recycling center, where volunteers collect, sort, clean and repackage

them for distribution through various missions.

Michael Melnick, spokesman for the Lions Club in West Palm Beach, said 30,000 pairs of glasses were collected in the state last year.

"We sort them, and then we have doctors discover what prescription they are and then give patients examinations," he said. "Every pair of glasses, if you can donate one pair and help one person, you are saving the world."

David Zigerman, who donated three pairs of glasses, said he has been wearing glasses since the fourth

grade.

"As a sentiment, I would always save them when I got a new pair," he said. "Every time I started to move to another place, I would find old pairs."

Zigerman said he realized others could use his old glasses and decided to donate them to the cause.

For more information about Florida Eye, visit www.fleyedocs.com. For more information about the Lions Club, visit www.lionsclubs.org.

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