



Many of you may have noticed the Lexington Lions Club Eyeglass collection box in the hallway of Murray Hall. I'd like to take a moment to explain how that works.

Many of us have several pairs of eyeglasses lying around our homes or offices – prescriptions change, glasses are lost and found again, sometimes we just feel more comfortable with a “spare pair”. What happens to those glasses when we decide we no longer need them? Unfortunately, other than in highly extraordinary cases, the FDA does not permit eyeglass dispensers to “recycle” used eyeglasses to folks here in the US.

Lions Clubs International has been responsible for establishing hundreds of eyeglass recycling centers across our country. At these centers, although the exact procedure may differ slightly, the frames and lenses are separated, cleaned and sanitized, and then the lenses are checked to identify their exact prescription. (Some centers retain the frames, others don't.) They are then categorized and stored accordingly. While they generally cannot be used in the US, there are many different groups who travel to impoverished areas of the world and who take thousands of pairs of lenses, and frames where necessary, to provide sight to people who otherwise would not have any hope of being able to see properly. This is obviously particularly crucial for children.

Our closest center here is the Lions Recycling Center in Roanoke, which distributes thousands of pairs of glasses every year. (The recent Friends of Barnabas trip to Honduras utilized glasses from the Roanoke Center.)

The Lexington Lions Club is proud to be a part of this service, and hopes that if you have some old glasses taking up space somewhere you'll consider dropping them off in the box. We'll arrange the collection and take them to the Recycling Center.

If you have any questions about this service, please just contact me at 463-6878. Thank You!!!!!!

John Morman