

Dear Volunteers,

*Happy New Year! I hope that your holidays were peaceful and happy, and that you were able to spend quality time with your family and friends. After our warm December and the completion of the flurry of preparations for the holidays, it is nice to ponder some goals for 2016. I hope to be more healthy by cooking more vegetarian meals, getting more exercise, and learning some new skills.*

*The New Eyes volunteers are some of the most active and giving people that I know, so you are all covered on any service related resolutions! You will be happy to hear that a Corporation for National & Community Service report noted that "volunteering leads to better health... those who volunteer have lower mortality rates, greater functional ability, and lower rates of depression later in life than those who do not volunteer."*

*It was wonderful to spend time with all of you at the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at the Short Hills Club. They created such a delicious buffet for us, and the room and decorations were so festive and elegant. Thank you to Board Member Marianne Busby for arranging the event with the Club and for designing and making the beautiful centerpieces. I hope that you were able to learn more about New Eyes and talk to some of the other volunteers. We so appreciate all of you and are so lucky to have such a loyal, dedicated, and fun group of volunteers at New Eyes.*

*We look forward to a new year of working together to help improve vision around the world and help the needy pursue a better quality of life!*

Fondly-  
Sally Golding  
Volunteer Manager



## HAPPY NEWS

**Pat French** travelled to Hawaii for her 40th anniversary and her daughter is engaged! **Sushma Sheth** took glasses to India to assist the needy in her mother's school. **Ellen O'Loughlin** had a wonderful trip to Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam. **Naomi Shapiro** spent a great week in Spain. **Mary Herald** enjoyed her amazing two weeks in India. **Nathan Bram** visited family in Israel. **Art Abig** took cruises to the western Caribbean. **Shreyal Shukla** was accepted to the SUNY College of Optometry. **Carole Karp, Carol Pedoto, David Ridgway, Malcolm Waddoups** and **Peggy Sussman** spent time in Florida. **Marianne Rudder** vacationed in Hawaii.



It was great to have a visit and some help from our intern and website guru, Nathan Bram, home from Clark University over the holidays!

## HINTS FROM HELOISE

### Donate and help fund new glasses



#### HELOISE HINTS FROM HELOISE

**Dear Heloise:** You have been so kind to feature New Eyes For The Needy in the past. We are currently collecting more items. It would be wonderful if you could mention us again.

— Sally Golding, volunteer manager

Of course! Readers, please donate eyeglasses, hearing aids, jewelry, watches and small giftware to this organization. They clean, fix up and sell the items in the Resale Shop, and 100 percent of the proceeds are used to buy new prescription glasses for those who can't afford them. Send donations to:

New Eyes for the Needy, 549 Millburn Ave., Short Hills, NJ 07078

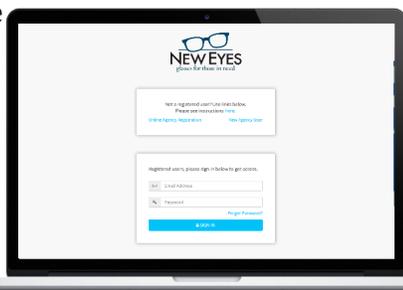
If you are in New Jersey, stop by the Resale Shop boutique! Go online to [www.new-eyes.org](http://www.new-eyes.org).

— Heloise

P.S.: Slip a buck or two in the package — cash is always welcome! A big Heloise Hug to all the volunteers, too!

## OUR ON-LINE VOUCHER APPLICATION IS LIVE!

In November, New Eyes moved from receiving eyeglass voucher applications in the mail to a new on-line application system. Social Service Agencies now register on our website and directly submit their client's information to apply for vouchers. With the old system, the voucher managers and admin volunteers spent a lot of time looking up agency details and obtaining missing information.



The new on-line system has decreased the time required to send out vouchers to approved applicants from a couple of weeks to a couple of days. We are very thankful for the generosity of our Anonymous Donor, who funded the software development! With this streamlined system and available funding, we are on track to increase the number of vouchers issued by 52% to 10,000 vouchers this year!



In September, we were fortunate to be featured in the "Hints from Heloise" column. The exposure has given us a big increase in donations of glasses, jewelry and cash from around the country!

## EYE ON YOU - SHREYAL SHUKLA | MY UNITE FOR SIGHT EXPERIENCE



This past September, I traveled with Unite for Sight to Chennai, India for a mission trip to help local optometrists provide vision care for those in need. Unite for Sight is one of the many organizations that takes glasses from New Eyes to developing countries. It was wonderful to see how the eyeglasses are distributed and how they make such a difference in someone's life.

My weekly schedule in India consisted of helping the local optometrists set up eye camps in rural villages and sorting the eyeglasses by power. As patients started to flow into the camps by word of mouth, they were able to sit through a visual acuity exam and have their eyes checked for abnormalities such as cataracts. If they needed eyeglasses, I would find the correct pair and help the individual to try them on. They would read a sample and if I saw that they were smiling and nod-

ding, it meant that they were able to see clearly. One experience that I will always remember was when a woman came into one of the eye camps with her mother to get her eyes checked. She looked worried but hopeful, and



she sat down next to me and started speaking Tamil, which I was not able to understand. She explained by way of hand gestures how thankful she was that her mother was going to receive a pair of eyeglasses and how she would be able to cook again. Through this experience, I learned that it is still pos-

sible to understand and connect with someone despite a language barrier.

By seeing how eye care works in a primitive setting, I also learned about the barriers that exist when it comes to eye care and how important our eyes are for a greater quality of life. Some of these barriers include cost, lack of



transportation, and even fear of treatment. I met some wonderful and uplifting people, and their hard work and dedication inspired me. I also learned many things about myself along the way and was able to step outside my comfort zone for a greater cause. Being able to see the journey a pair of eyeglasses takes from a donation at New Eyes to sorting by the wonderful volunteers to distribution in an area in need of vision care was incredible. During my time in Chennai, India, I was able to observe someone being able to see again which was very inspiring and heart warming and it is an experience I will always hold dear to my heart.

## THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO IMPROVE THEIR VISION!





# THANK YOU

Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast was held on Friday, December 4, at the Short Hills Club to recognize the incredible support of our volunteers. The Club was festively decorated for the holidays and the breakfast was attended by 55 of our volunteers. A delicious buffet breakfast was served and the volunteers received raffle tickets for a chance to win their choice of ten gift baskets with items donated by Greenwood Gardens, Trader Joe's, Millburn Deli, Paper Mill Playhouse, Squirrel and the Bee Grainless Bake Shop, The Discovery Orchestra, and The Shakespeare Theatre of NJ. Thank you to those who were able to attend!





glasses for those in need

549 Millburn Avenue  
Short Hills, NJ 07078  
973-376-4903

## SHOP AT THE FABULOUS FINDS RESALE SHOP

Don't forget to stop by the Fabulous Finds Resale Shop for bargains on jewelry, watches, sunglasses and small giftware. Our volunteers have been busy cleaning/pricing the donations and selling in the shop.

**100%**  
of the sales purchase glasses  
for the needy in the U.S.

The Resale Shop will be open on  
Thursdays, 1pm-3pm, and 10am-  
1pm on Saturdays, April 9, May  
14 and June 4.

Please let your friends know  
that we collect jewelry, watches  
and small gift items.



EACH YEAR, OUR VOLUNTEERS DONATE  
OVER 12,000 HOURS TO HELP NEW EYES!

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW VOLUNTEERS

Nidhi Thakur-Sorting  
Norman Leit-Sorting  
Maggie Jodon-Sorting  
Vanessa Gibbs- Drew  
University Intern  
Leyla Karim-Sorting  
John Bertot-Sorting  
Mike Dugan-Sorting  
Patty Olsen-Sorting  
Catherine Carlson Kadar-  
Public Relations

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Aspasia Shappet, CEO,  
MES, Inc.  
Rupal Shah, VP,  
Prudential Fixed Income  
Anand Shah, Director  
of Corporate Counsel,  
Toys R Us

### DID YOU KNOW

Do you know of anyone who  
might be interested in volun-  
teering in our sorting room?  
We are looking for more vol-  
unteers to help count, sort and  
pack donated glasses, any time  
Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-12.

**96%** OF PEOPLE SAY  
VOLUNTEERING  
ENRICHES THEIR SENSE  
OF PURPOSE  
IN LIFE

