

The “Vision Now!” Low Cost **Approach to Solving World Vision** **Problems**

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The world Health organization (WHO) has estimated that there are 1,000,000,000 people in the world today that need vision corrections and cannot afford them or do not have access to them, or both. Without eyeglasses many people cannot make a living doing close work if they are farsighted and 70% of the people of the world are farsighted. Near sighted people can't see distant signs or danger coming. There are only a handful of organizations particularly in third world countries that are working to get glasses to the poor. Their attempts are costly (hence unsustainable) and sparsely distributed.

By furnishing eyeglasses to people who need them, but don't have them, their whole lives are changed and enriched forever!

Our process is very simple:

- Fit a frame to the persons head with a comfortable frame arm length
- Place lenses in front of the client's eyeglass frame and have them read the eye chart until the lens with the clearest vision is found for each eye
- Slip the lens in the frame and squeeze the lens until it pops into the frame
- Clean the lenses and have the client read the chart again to confirm the selected lenses
- The client leaves in about 10 minutes from starting the process with new eyeglasses and a new lease on life

The “Vision Now!” program brings custom fitted eyeglasses with corrective lenses to people who can't afford optical store eyeglasses for a donation of less than **\$8** per pair. We buy only one frame style and size and a standard set of 15 different prescription lenses, covering far and near sighted people, in huge quantities. “Vision

Now!" can sell a pair of glasses to a host organization for \$3 per pair and eyeglass cases for \$.70 each if their own volunteers can do the vision test and frame assembly.

The host organization is probably a church or civic group (with IRS 501 (c) 3 status) that wants to help the poor. It must have members who can setup and run a simple vision testing clinic at a number of places around their local area or do a mission trip to a poor country. The client will be asked for a minimum donation of say \$5 to \$7 in the USA and \$3 to cover the eyeglass cost in a third world country. Since the host is a 501 (c) 3 organization there is no sales tax in the USA if the fee is a donation.

The eyeglasses come in kits of 100 and 250 pairs of eyeglass parts. There are 3 different frame arm lengths and 15 different prescription lenses on each kit. The 100 pair kit is in a box 12 in x 12 in x 3 ¾ in high and weighs 5.5 pounds. The 250 eyeglass kit comes in a box 12 in x 12 in x 9 ½ in high and weighs 14 pounds. Each kit has a special pliers to pop the lenses into place.

The host organization can also make money by setting up and running their own for profit program. The income would be the difference in what they pay Vision Now! for the glasses and what they charge the customer. This is a great fundraiser project. You can sell the glasses for whatever you think the client can afford. The area for testing and assembly can be very small as you need just a chair, a table and a wall.

You can pick the times and days you want to be open for customers. The places where poor people come for aid in the USA are where the eye testing clinics should be set up. These are medical clinics, churches, food pantries, housing for the homeless, etc. The host group can decide who gets what money from the profits of the sale. This is a true win-win situation.

- **The value of this program**
 - **This is giving people who could not afford \$100+ for eyeglasses, the chance to see much better with new prescription high quality and design eyeglasses at a very inexpensive price**
 - **It gives people in third world countries who have no availability of eyeglasses the chance to see well many for the first time**
 - **It gives the host group who is already trying to improve people's lives, another outreach program with no cost to the organization**
 - **With free vision tests, people who have never been tested or it was a long time ago, can see how good or bad their eyes are now. This is of great help to**

people who can't afford to get an eye exam. We can't diagnose medical eye problems, but we can tell those that need help to get to an Ophthalmologist because something is wrong

- If the eyeglasses were given away everybody would take them and almost nobody will wear them. The value is in buying professional glasses at a bargain price. People don't value what they get for free.
- The "Vision Now!" glasses are identical in looks and quality to what the local eyeglasses stores charge more than \$100 for.
- Contact us at terry@now4life.org for more information about the program.