

# **Mission in a Box**

## **- The Perfect Mission – Giving Vision to the Poor**

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### **Overview**

The World Health Organization says that there are 1,000,000,000 people around the world that are in serious need of a vision correction and can't afford it, or find it, or both.

Many churches and other NGO's (Non Government Organizations) are looking for an effective, inexpensive, easy to do mission project in a poor country that will be a huge benefit to that population. We have the answer.

Vision Now! - eyeglass lens and frame kits are shipped to your group in the US. 100 eyeglass pair parts come in a box 12 inches square and 3 inches tall and weighs 5 lbs. All the eyeglass parts are in plastic bags which can be stuffed into your luggage and come with you to your destination. All the support materials (vision charts, procedures, brochures, etc) needed for a successful mission experience are located on our web site – [now4life.org](http://now4life.org) - and easy to download and free. We even have a vision chart for the people who do not speak English by using finger characters.

To already established mission trips, this makes a perfect add on mission. If the group takes along 100 pair of eyeglass parts, they could do 100 vision exams and give people the glasses they need in less than 8 hours with 2 people or 4 hours with 4 people. It takes approximately 5 minutes to test and assemble the eyeglasses with 2 workers.

The vision test and assembly are very easy and anybody can learn it in a few minutes. This is not a medical exam just a vision test to see what prescription best fits the client's needs from a single strength lens. It is akin to going into the drug store and trying on glasses of various strengths until you find the

**right strength. We differ in that we have various arm lengths in the frames and can provide the right prescription for each eye. The drugstore has both lenses the same strength. Our eyes are not the same and we are giving custom lenses to serve each eye with a much higher quality of frame than those eyeglasses the drugstores have. On top of that our eyeglasses are much cheaper than in stores. We do that by ordering huge quantities of eyeglasses at a time and use only one frame design and size. The frames we use are fashionable and the same in quality and design with what you would buy in an optical store for more than \$100.**

**We give free eye tests which would cost \$40 to \$75 in an optical store. It should be noted that we are not giving a medical eye exam, just a simple vision test.**

**Sight is a big issue for many poor people as without glasses they cannot see very well and can't read or do any close work. We supply both reading lenses and regular prescription lenses (15 different prescriptions ranging from +5 Diopters to -3 Diopters). With the gift of sight, many of these poor people can fare up much better in life and can support themselves with meaningful and productive work because their eyesight is greatly improved. We have children's eyeglasses as well as adults. The frames we have will fit most every head from a 10 year old child to adults.**

**Our attorneys have given us the OK that there is almost no exposure to a lawsuit. We have a disclaimer you can use if you want, but in almost any third world country there is nothing to sue for. If the lenses are off a little, it is still better than people without glasses. In most cases these people have a new lease on life. With much better vision, doors are open for jobs and learning that were not there without the glasses.**

### **How the plan works**

**We ship you packages of either 100 or 250 pairs of frames and lenses**

**depending on how many you think you can use. These kits include frames in 3 different arm lengths, and lenses which come in 15 different powers for each frame, and cost \$3 per eyeglass pair (\$300 or \$750 per kit). The 100 pair kit**

box is 12 in x 12 in x 3 ¾ in high and weighs 5.5 pounds. The 250 pair kit box measures 12 in x 12 in x 9 ½ in high and weighs 14 pounds. Send us a check or pay with a credit card thru our website [now4life.org](http://now4life.org), for the eyeglasses plus the shipping and we will immediately send you an eyeglasses kit of either 100 or 250 eyeglass pairs which includes a screwdriver to loosen and tighten the frame lens screws. You can contact us at [terry@now4life.org](mailto:terry@now4life.org) for questions or any concerns you have.

We have found that if the eyeglasses are given away they are perceived as having little value and everybody wants them. This is true in our country and in third world countries as well. This is a waste of resources as they will get lost or broken and they know they can just get another pair free.

Poor people want a rich persons product, not a cheap looking product. Our glasses are the rich persons product in looks and quality.

You want the people who really need them to get them and cherish them. Even if you sell them for \$1 or \$2 per pair they are buying into what will improve their quality of life greatly and they will continue to wear the glasses. I know of one group that goes to Guatemala every year for a week and fits over 2,000 pairs of glasses during that time. There is a huge worldwide need for eyeglasses and those that need them and can't afford them.

Shipping directly to many third world countries is risky and many shipments do not make it to the mission site. We ship to your U. S. organization's site and suggest that you split up the eyeglass pieces which come in a series of plastic bags, and pack them with your luggage or in its own box as an extra piece of luggage. That way you know the eyeglasses will get to the right place and at no additional cost.

The testing and assembly process is very simple. One person fits the frame to the clients head and assembles the chosen lenses. Another person does the vision test by simply having the client put their hand over one eye and increase the powers of the lenses while holding them in front of the frame until the optimum lens is picked for each eye. More details of the process are found in another document "Testing And Assembly Instructions".

**You have several choices for distribution at the mission site. First, you can have your people test the individual's eyesight and prepare the frames and lenses for your customer. Second, you can set up a person or group in the population you want to serve and teach them how to test and fit the eyeglasses and set up a micro business of buying testing, and assembling eyeglasses. This business provides jobs and paychecks so that commerce is started and you have created jobs in that poor area so that these people can start to support themselves. As the saying goes "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime"**

### **Future growth possibilities**

**As mentioned above, a micro business can be started in a village where a person owns an eyeglass business and buys parts thru the mission group. By knowing the area well you can find shipping methods where a shipment will be secure and get to the right people. This can be a long term mission project and the group is encouraged to go back to the same site for years and expand the eyeglass businesses in the surrounding area as well as continuing to mentor the original business.**

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