

Belfast City Council support from Newcastle Lions Club on Spectacle Reuse Campaign

The spectacle reuse scheme that you see flashing in the images above, encourages residents of BCC to donate unwanted glasses for the benefit of people living in developing countries.

Lions International has five global causes. One of these is to help prevent blindness in developing countries. [Newcastle Lions Club](#) volunteer and coordinator for the spectacle collections, Dan O'Reilly, told NIRN 'I was asked to coordinate donations of glasses in N.I. and then put in touch with Alexander Jebb. We had a meeting and from this Newcastle Lions formed a partnership with Belfast City Council for Newcastle Lions to collect glasses four times each year or as required, from the four Belfast Recycling Centres'.

As a result of the first collection, Dan and his team were able to send 10 boxes with 3,000 pairs of glasses to [MEDICO](#) which receives 3 million pairs of glasses per year.

Dan told us that 'three weeks later we sent 4 more boxes with 400 pairs of glasses. The glasses are cleaned, calibrated, and then sent to countries that ask for specific types. They also reuse glasses cased and recycle broken cases.'

NIRN would like to applaud this partnership model of working and would want to hear of other projects like this so we can promote and support. Many thanks to Tools for Solidarity for making introductions and to BCC for their continued commitments for repair and reuse.