



## ReSpectacle: The World's Online Database of High Quality Used Glasses

Among all recycled items, few can contribute more to an individual's quality of life than an appropriate pair of used prescription eyeglasses. This has long been recognized by humanitarian and philanthropic groups, and over the years many have attempted to recycle this resource with varying success.

As a medical student in 2006, Associated Eye Care's Jeffrey Lynch, MD, volunteered on a surgical mission trip in Peru where he witnessed the locals sifting through boxes of USA donated eyeglasses, trying on pairs and looking back to their families for aesthetic approval. The observation that most of the people seeking surgery really just needed a pair of eyeglasses was intriguing, particularly as Lynch was aware of an abundant supply of high quality used glasses back in his hometown. The inability to align supply and demand, particularly with respect to prescription strength and cosmetic appeal, seemed like a problem that could be better addressed using a 21st century approach.

To this end, Lynch and colleagues developed an innovative approach to recycling used eyeglasses using an online database. In May of 2011 ReSpectacle was created, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to use the power of the internet to facilitate redistribution of quality used eyeglasses to underserved communities worldwide. ReSpectacle removes (or minimizes) most of the traditional barriers of eyeglass recycling, and does so in an extremely cost-efficient manner.

Currently ReSpectacle has active chapters in five metropolitan areas, each collecting glasses and selectively processing the best donations in a standardized fashion which includes descriptive variables, lensometry and photographs.

The data from all sites is entered into a single online database, which is available worldwide at <http://www.respectacle.org>. The search query features a unique algorithm that approximates search results to the prescription entered. The search can be refined based on several advanced filters (e.g. bifocals, color frames, condition, adult vs pediatric, etc).

Domestically, orders are user-driven from the website. Any individual or eyecare provider in the USA can simply enter a prescription, view the results, and select the glasses based on prescription and style. Internationally, orders are coordinated with an eyecare provider stationed in the area of need. Shipping is paid for by grant funding and private donations, and glasses are free to recipients (maximum 3 per annum).

Since inception, the organization has received a warm reception at a number of conferences, including the 2012 Unite for Sight Global Health and Innovation Conference at Yale University. It has also recently been featured in several local newspapers, Non-profit Quarterly magazine, and the USAToday newspaper.

For more information, or if you would like to donate, please contact [LynchMD@respectacle.org](mailto:LynchMD@respectacle.org)



Patient with high hyperopia in Kenya, who received a 100% prescription match with good cosmesis from ReSpectacle. Matching individuals with high or anisometropic refractive error is one of many advantages of an online database.

## Optometric Update

We are pleased to extend you an invitation to our upcoming optometric update.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2013**

The Sheraton St. Paul Woodbury Hotel  
676 Bielenberg Drive  
Woodbury, MN 55125  
3:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Dinner Served at 6:00 p.m.  
5 CME Credits Available

Please RSVP to Tara Nance at  
[tnance@associatedeyecare.com](mailto:tnance@associatedeyecare.com)  
no later than Friday, April 5, 2013