Hawkeye reality check

Harty says it is way too early to even think about firing Coach Ferentz.

City grad founds nonprofit ReSpectacle

Charity collects used glasses for online database

City grad founds nonprofit ReSpectacle

Charity collects used glasses for online database

D eadline

Sunday

City grad founds nonprofit ReSpectacle

Charity collects used glasses for online database

City grad founds nonprofit ReSpectacle
Glasses
Continued from Page 3A
tially sift through the boxes of used glasses and just look at their family member and ask for a meal of approval.
"Most of these individu-
als never get an appropri-
ate correction prescrip-
tion. So that was frustrating for me, to have nothing to facilitate for these people. Some of them walked a day to come see us."

While larger charities collect and distribute used eyeglasses, what acts Re-
spectacle apart is its web-
database of donated glasses.
"Rather than shipping a hodgepodge of glasses some-
where and hoping for a match, people who know the prescription amounts can come to see the glasses,
say, view photos of the glasses to find a frame or su-
tem, then order the ap-
propriate pair that is then shipped for free."

Lynch, 36, who complet-
ed a fellowship at UI this summer and now works in pediatric ophthalmology in Siloam, billed the charity in 2012 and since has established chapters in Little Rock, Ark., St. Louis, the Twin Cities and Iowa City.

A network of about 40 volunteers at the various chapters collects the glasses, ships them through pri-

vate optical practices and universities, diagnoses them, determines their prescrip-
tions and assembles the usable ones to the database. Since it was founded, the charity has collected and pres-
cribed over 100,000 pairs of glasses, and has shipped 150 pairs so far as Kenya, the Congo, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

Grants from the Mild-
red Brady and Ivan Martin-
Charitable Eye Founda-
tion and the Second Hand Uni-

versity Hospital Auxiliary, and proceeds from eyeglasses collected through the char-

ity’s Facebook page, cover the shipping costs. The charity has purchased, and com-
munities have donated, many of the next generation glasses that fit the needs, such as

Tyler Ramm, 23, a fourth-

year medical student at UI, is a board member of a stu-
dent group called U-Precip.
The group’s vision is to provide

designed with tinted lenses.

Rima said she wants to see the program expand to other states and is working on a business plan.

"I think it’s a really great way to be able to give something that makes such a big difference in someone’s life," Rima said. "It really is very rewarding and it feels good to be able to ship them out from a distance and get a letter and phone call saying they are so thankful and so appreciative."

Lynch’s youthful vision to allow people to buy the glasses they need when they need them is coming to fruition. The glasses are collected through the charity’s website, and clients can only pay what they can afford, usually less than $25.

"It’s very easy to get involved. It’s very easy to make a positive difference," Lynch said. "It’s a way to make a difference in someone’s life, even if it’s just a small thing."