

Observatory customers give gift of sight.

Under privileged people in Africa, India and Eastern Europe will have a brighter vision of the future thanks to the efforts of Observatory the Opticians and its customers.

Observatory the Opticians and its sister company Wardale Williams, which as has practices throughout in Muswell Hill, North London, Halstead and Leigh-on-Sea in Essex and throughout Suffolk have collected more than 700 pairs of spectacles since April, which will now be sent overseas to aid people with their sight. The company collected the spectacles by offering its patients discounts on new glasses if old ones were returned. The spectacles were collected across the company's eight practices.

Managing Director, Jonathan Foreman, said: "We are proud our commitment to this cause has been so successful; to collect more than 700 pairs of spectacles in such a short time period is quite some achievement.

"We are delighted these glasses will be helping under privileged people overseas who simply do not have access to health and eyecare services which many of us have come to take for granted in this country. Most of the glasses returned are of a very high quality so they will really make a difference to the lives of so many people.

"I would like to thank all our customers who contributed and as a thank you to them we were happy to offer them a discount on their new purchase."

The glasses have now been handed over to the Lions Clubs of the British Isles and Ireland 'Spectacle Recycling Initiative', launched in 1967. A third of a million pairs of used glasses are sorted and re-distributed to clinics and eye camps in communities throughout Africa, India and Eastern Europe. The project also raises financial support for eye related projects by recycling scrap metal from spectacles that are broken.

Mandy Broadbent, Lions Club Communications Manager, said: "We would like to say a huge thank you to Observatory the Opticians and Wardale Williams and to all of their customers for their valued support, they have made an outstanding effort. Without this kind of support we could not re-distribute the amount of spectacles we do."