



HELPING HANDS -
Members, from left, Rotary Club Members supporting the Eyes For The Needy Program: Dale Huot, Kitty Chadbourne, Andy Baillargeon, Pris Baillargeon and club President, Dan Colby.
(Courtesy photo)

Rotary club helps 'Eyes for the Needy' non-profit group

In September 1991, Pris and Andy Baillargeon and Kitty Chadbourne started a Saco Bay Rotary project to help out Eyes for the Needy, a non-profit, volunteer organization whose purpose is to help provide better vision for the poor the world over.

Predominately funded by contributions of glasses, jewelry and silver; and supported by the Rotary Club of Saco Bay.

The organization later expanded to take in contact lenses, hearing aids, sunglasses and soft cases for glasses.

The metal frame glasses received are sent to a refiner and the income received is used to pay for new prescription glasses for indigent Americans.

Prescription glasses from this program are also shipped to third world countries around the world. Costume jewelry and silverware are sold in the

salesroom and the proceeds are again used to provide glasses to the needy.

The early-on box dimensions were given to Pris Baillargeon and the donation boxes were made by fellow Rotarians.

The club presently sponsor boxes in 12 locations: Biddeford Savings Bank, Biddeford, McArthur Library, Biddeford, Saco and Biddeford Savings Institution, Saco and Old Orchard Beach, Shaw's Supermarket, Biddeford and Saco, Hannaford, Biddeford and Saco, Dyer Library, Saco, Saco Valley Federal Credit Union, Biddeford Senior Citizens Center, Esty Optical, Saco, First Parish Congregational Church, Saco, York County Federal Credit Union, Saco

and Dr. Whelan, Biddeford.

At the beginning of this year, club co-chairmen, Pris and Andy Baillargeon picked up, packaged, and mailed 1,725 pairs of glasses and 11 hearing aids.

To date the project has donated 36,599 pairs of glasses, 70 contact lenses, and 69 hearing aids, along with batteries, watches, and costume jewelry to provide need for those in need.

The project is made successful by modest contributions from the Rotary Club of Saco Bay and the labor intensive hands-on work that the group provides.

To learn more about The Eyes for the Needy Program or the Rotary Club of Saco Bay visit <http://www.sacobayrotary.org/>