



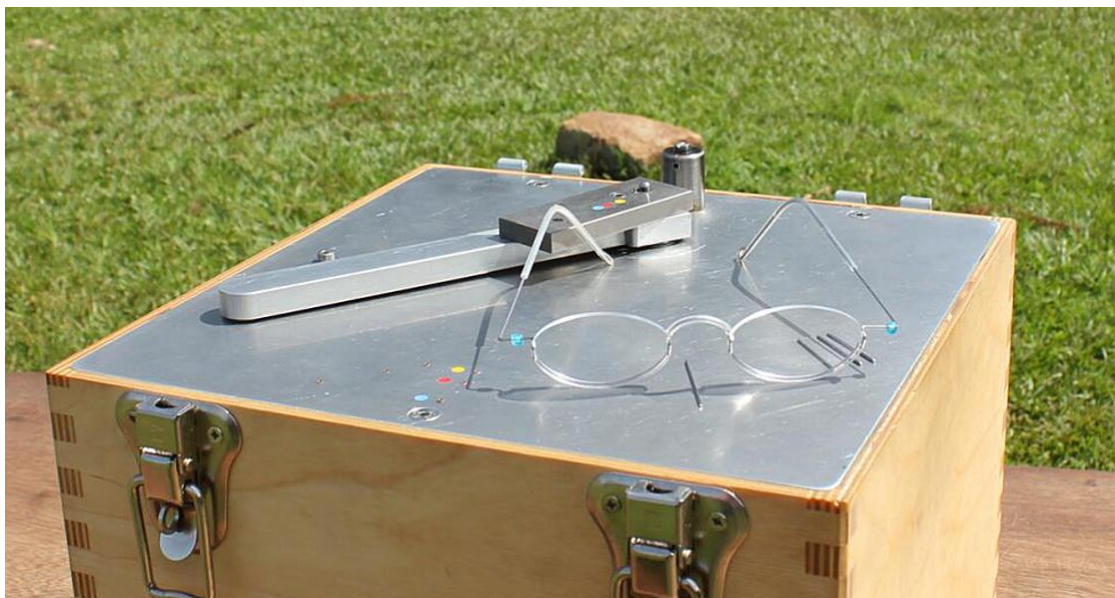
October 2020 Update

Our New Website is Here!

Almost a billion people around the world need eye glasses but cannot afford them nor have access to any optical care. Learn more about how this impacts communities where children are unable to learn and adults struggle to provide for their families.

The **OneDollarGlasses USA website** will shed new light on the global situation and will provide you with information about how the organization is changing the way people see, including our work to bring good vision to the people of Liberia.

Visit [OneDollarGlasses-USA.org](https://onedollarglasses-usa.org)



It's All for Good Vision: OneDollarGlasses

The founder of OneDollarGlasses, Martin Aufmuth, was recently featured in a documentary that aired on PBS stations around the country. The piece shows how he has successfully developed a sustainable social business model which consists of a locally produced lightweight and extremely strong wire eyeglass frame, made on a simple bending machine that does not require electricity. These are paired with pre-

fabricated lenses which are made of break-resistant plastic and simply click into the frames, so they can be made anywhere!

The film explains that the name of the organization, OneDollarGlasses, refers to the material cost of the glasses which is only around US \$1 per pair and helps to deliver a very low final price to consumers. This makes them affordable for most people in developing countries and are given away free to school children.

Watch the documentary feature [here](#) and be inspired!

OneDollarGlasses USA: Donation Challenge

For the first time ever, two generous supporters will **match all donations 1:1** for those funds received between now and the **end of this year**. We encourage you to donate to the ambitious projects of ODG USA in Liberia and elsewhere and NOW is the best time to do it! Just scan the QR code below or click **HERE** to donate.



**GLASSES
CHANGE
LIVES**

One Dollar Glasses
United States of America 

DONATION CHALLENGE

Thousands of children need your help to see properly!

Many cannot succeed in school because they are not able to read the words on the blackboard or the pages of their school books.

To maximize the impact of your generous gift, the donation challenge will focus on providing affordable eyeglasses for children in Liberia.

YOUR GIFT WILL BE DOUBLED BY TWO GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!



**DONATE TODAY
HELP SOMEONE SEE**

+1 (617) 454 4797
MAIL@ONEDOLLARGASSES.ORG

WWW.ONEDOLLARGASSES-USA.ORG

Sustainable Local Businesses

OneDollarGlasses trains local specialists in the manufacture and dispensing of the glasses and in performing critical eye tests for people in remote and often impoverished communities.



The goal is to allow the specialists to earn a living from the dispensing revenue of the eyeglasses and to ultimately create new jobs that employ more people in disadvantaged regions.

With free vision screening, educational work in schools and village communities, and building relationships with health institutions and other NGO's, ODG supports a growing number of technicians in their home communities that benefits all.

Training of Liberian Optical Specialists via Skype!



Our partner, Matee Morris, Ophthalmic Nurse in Liberia, participates in a virtual training session

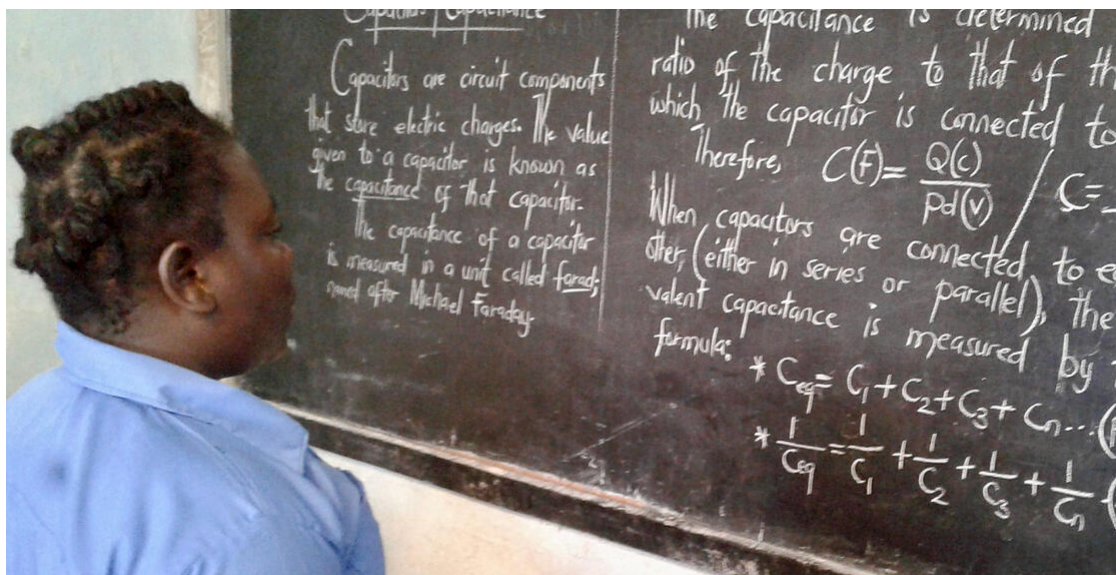
The Corona pandemic has greatly impacted ODG USA's work on the ground in Liberia, as well as in other African countries. Local outreach events and campaigns in rural villages have been limited due to the potential risk associate with spreading infections.

Nevertheless, Refuge Place International (RPI), ODG USA's Liberian partner, is getting back to work as they learn to deal with COVID-19. RPI's ophthalmic nurses and optical technicians, in cooperation with the head of optics from ODG, are not deterred by this challenge; they have switched to virtual meetings to conduct refresher training for the trainers. Eye testing and dispensing skills have been maintained and even improved during these trying times.

Philipmena's Friends Don't Tease Her Anymore

Philipmena, a high school student in Monrovia, Liberia, had been experiencing vision problems since the fifth grade and could not read the blackboard during class unless she sat in the front row. But her classroom was overcrowded, so if she didn't arrive early enough, the only available desks were those in the back of the room.

When Philipmena was unable to secure a seat up front, she spent the lecture walking up to the chalkboard, taking notes, and returning to her seat. Friends and classmates teased: If she couldn't see, why didn't she just get glasses?



Unfortunately, that solution wasn't as simple as it sounded. Philipmena is the youngest of nine children. Her father had passed way and her mother sold food at a local market to ensure that her children were taken care of and received an education. When she could not pay Philipmena's school fees, she convinced the school principal to let her pay in installments. Unfortunately, she could not also afford to purchase eyeglasses.

When Philipmena was in the ninth grade, her school received an eye outreach visit from Refuge Place International, ODG USA's partner organization in Liberia. Philipmena was sitting in the back of the classroom because she had arrived too late to get a seat up front. The Refuge team asked her to read the eye chart from her desk — she couldn't make out a single letter. They moved her closer to the chart — still nothing. She was finally able to read the chart when seated at the very front of the room.

It was clear that Philipmena needed glasses, but the Refuge outreach team wasn't carrying the high-powered lenses that she required. So they brought her to the Refuge ophthalmic nurse, who confirmed her prescription and fitted her for glasses. Under the ODG USA-RPI program, glasses are free for students, so Philipmena went home that day wearing a new pair of glasses for the first time in her life.

Today, Philipmena is in tenth grade and has been wearing One Dollar Glasses for over a year. She plans to attend university and dreams of becoming a medical doctor. She can see the board from any seat in the classroom, her grades have improved, and her classmates have stopped making fun of her — all thanks to a pair of OneDollarGlasses.



Mobility in Liberia - Thanks to YOUR Donations!



OneDollarGlasses USA is currently focused on bringing glasses to the poorest neighborhoods of Monrovia, the capital of Liberia. Partnering with Refuge Place International (RPI), ODG USA conducts eye tests and dispenses ODG glasses to people with impaired eyesight. However, it has been very challenging to reach remote locations.

Thanks to your donations, we have been able to fund the purchase of a new vehicle. Now the team is able to conduct optical campaigns throughout Monrovia and into the outlying rural areas. We can provide more people access to the affordable eye care that they desperately need!

Our Team of Volunteers is Expanding

Since the foundation of ODG USA in March 2019 as a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, we are growing fast. We adhere to the mission of the international organization by providing screening and affordable eye glasses to those who normally would not have access to vision correction. This mission has successfully been implemented in over 8 countries, with more than 260,000 pairs of glasses provided to people with poor eye sight.

ODG USA has attracted dedicated volunteers from varied backgrounds and geographic locations - we have specialists in communications, project management, graphic design, opticianry and more.

Our MVP Volunteer: Blair Wong

In August 2018, **Blair C. Wong** joined our team of volunteers as a Board Member. He is a Master Optician in Ophthalmic Optics and teaches at the New England College of Optometry. Blair's passion for Ophthalmic Optics was not deterred when, at the age of 26, he was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, an incurable disease that lead to blindness. Blair works closely with ODG USA's Executive Director, Jen Hyde, in reaching out to optical organizations within the USA for potential cooperation and support, specifically for our work in Liberia. We are very pleased to have Blair "on board" and here is his message to you:



"As much as seventy percent of our daily experience of the world is through our eyes. Having good vision throughout life heightens our human potential to become more highly skilled, educated, independent, productive, interactive, and socially engaged. Through my work as an optician, and as an educator of eye health professionals, I am fortunate to be able to celebrate the opportunity to serve the community by enhancing, preserving, and protecting peoples' vision.

As a member of the OneDollarGlasses USA team, I am honored and privileged to work with so many dedicated and talented individuals who share in the vision and belief that through the act of providing prescription glasses to the vision needy, we can make a difference for all people and their ability to achieve their greatest potential. I am humbled by the far reaching and profound impact of the ODG mission, and how by the act of providing a simple pair of glasses can enrich the lives of our fellow citizens and better our world."

If you have experience in fundraising or any other skill that you think would benefit the organization, we would love to have you join our team!

Contact us at mail@onedollarglasses.org.

Your contributions are greatly appreciated to power the work we do. With your donations, we provide glasses for people around the globe who need them by building our organization and supporting our field work. Thank you!

[Please Donate Here](#)

OneDollarGlasses USA, a 501(C)(3) public charity, EIN 83-1871284, PO Box 600121,
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