

Press Release

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RUH Helping the World to See

Staff in the eye unit at the Royal United Hospital (RUH) are helping the world to see by asking people to donate any unwanted pairs of spectacles. These spectacles will be sent to third world countries.

Heather Jefferies is an orbital prosthetist, who provides an artificial eye service at the RUH. Heather has asked her colleagues in the eye unit to help gather as many pairs of spectacles as possible, ready to be sent overseas later in the New Year. Heather says: "We'll be sending the specs to people in third world countries through the charity Vision Aid Overseas (VAO).

"Poverty and the lack of skilled opticians affect millions of people who don't have the spectacles they desperately need. Giving them a pair of spectacles can help change their lives. For those in the developing world with poor vision, education and employment are out of reach. With the correct spectacles, people can learn, work, and achieve a quality of life which would otherwise completely unobtainable.

"If people do want to donate old specs, they can do so by dropping them in to the eye outpatients department, first floor central, at the RUH."

Senior sister Joan Dean, who works in the eye department, says: "Donating specs is a very simple, cost-free way of helping others and yet it has such a big impact. We are very happy to help, knowing that these spectacles will really make a difference to people overseas."

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For further information, please contact:

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