



# Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation

Providing vision and hearing services to Georgians in financial need

November 19, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am thrilled to recommend Yasmin Assar who started the "Gift of Sight" program in 2004 to promote sight conservation. She set a goal of collecting 5,000 pairs of used eyeglasses before graduating high school, but completed this goal by her junior year. Those glasses were used by the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation in our "Operation I Care" program. The glasses that she collects are sterilized, prescription read, and given to medical missionaries worldwide including Zambia, Honduras, India and Romania in the past year.

Gift of Sight was inspired by Yasmin's grandfather who lost his vision due to poor healthcare in his home country of Pakistan. She wanted to help others who may not have access to vision care, and promote the importance of good vision health in her own community. She began her campaign by contacting several local businesses, eyeglass shops and schools to set out collection boxes for used eyeglasses. Yasmin has been creative in her marketing approach by contacting the press to cover her project. She has had coverage in several local papers as well as *People Magazine* and *Southern Living*. She also developed a website, which is [www.donateuseeyeglasses.com](http://www.donateuseeyeglasses.com).

Yasmin has had to generate interest about this project and explain the value of recycling eyewear. She had had to negotiate with businesses to become collection points and has recruited students to help her. They have come as a group to volunteer at the Lighthouse cleaning and preparing the glasses to be shipped overseas. We have received donations from across the country because of the excitement she had generated. In addition, she had spread the word about the importance of vision conservation and access to medical care. Yasmin created this campaign completely on her own and has had the diligence to complete her goal and continue her collection efforts. The results of Yasmin's efforts are easily measured. She has collected over 5,000 pairs of glasses that will help others see again and be able to perform activities that most of us take for granted. She has done all of this while actively participating any many other school activities and maintaining and excellent GPA. She is a model student, but even more importantly she is a model citizen.

If you have any additional questions about Yasmin's service, please do not hesitate to contact me at [clennon@lionslighthouse.org](mailto:clennon@lionslighthouse.org) or 404-325-1130. Thank you for your consideration of Yasmin.

Sincerely,

  
Christina Lennon

Executive Director

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