



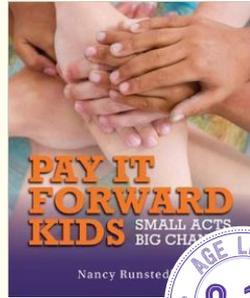
# Pay It Forward Kids: Small Acts, Big Change

## CHAPTER 3: GIVING THE GIFT OF SIGHT

by Nancy Runstedler

### Themes

- Encourage Others
- Kindness
- Pay-It-Forward
- Community Service
- Donations
- Eye Glass Drive



This book features the individual stories of young men and women such as Yash Gupta from California (Chapter 3). As an eyeglass wearer, he researched and learned that there are millions of people around the world; many of them children, who were not getting a proper education because they couldn't afford to get glasses and couldn't see properly.

He started collecting used glasses and developed a website to help match people with eye glasses. Yash is using his passion as motivation to pay-it-forward to those in need.

### Key Vocabulary

**Invisible:** not seen, hidden from view or hardly noticeable

**Perceived:** to become aware of or to notice

**Disadvantaged students:** unfavorable condition or circumstance – such as financial need

**Donor:** someone who gives or donates to an organization or fund

**Optometrist:** a person who examines eyes and prescribes eye glasses if needed

**Nonprofit organization:** a business organization not set up to make money but rather to help a cause or meet a need

### Discussion Starters

#### 1. What did Yash learn when his own eyeglasses broke?

*He discovered that his learning was impacted when he couldn't see, became easily distracted in the classroom, learned it was difficult to learn without proper vision, recognized how lucky he was to be able to correct his own vision with eyeglasses.*

#### 2. Why do some children not have glasses to see properly?

*They can't afford them. Eye glasses are expensive.*

#### 3. What did Yash attempt to do to solve the problem?

*Collected used glasses and set up organization to help distribute to needy people. Partnered with organizations to run eye clinics where free glasses could be matched to needy people.*

#### 4. Why do you think he didn't just raise money to buy new glasses for those children?

*Answers will vary. Eye glasses can be expensive. Why not recycle glasses just thrown away. Research showed that thousands of glasses were being discarded. It was EASY to collect throwaways – not so easy to collect money. People more generous to give used glasses rather than money for new glasses.*

#### 5. What inspired Yash? How did he feel when he was delivering glasses to the needy?

*He was inspired by smiling faces, happiness and emotions of those receiving the glasses. It felt great when he encouraged others and paid kindness forward to people he didn't know.*

#### 6. What would NED say about Yash's story? Find examples of N.E.D in the text.

*Answers will vary...*

*NEVER GIVE UP: worked very hard to gather glasses and start his organization, In 2014, he reached his goal to collect and distribute more than \$1,000,000 worth of used glasses to students around the world. NOT stopping!*



When your school had The NED Show, most likely it was gifted to you by another school. So...when you bought a yo-yo after the assembly, you helped pay-it-forward to the next school. Now that's keeping kindness going!

### Aligned to Common Standards

For correlation information for all of our lesson plans, please visit [theNEDshow.com/lessonplans](http://theNEDshow.com/lessonplans)



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*ENCOURAGE OTHERS: wanted to help disadvantaged youth who needed glasses, loves to deliver glasses himself to see their excitement and happiness*

*DO YOUR BEST: Recognized with many awards for doing his best: Hasbro Community Action Hero, ABC 7 Eyewitness News Cool Kid, Presidential Volunteer Service Award*

### Writing Prompt

Do you have a dream about something you can do to encourage others and pay-it-forward? Write about and include your thoughts and ideas on how to make it actually happen.

### Activities

#### Planning a Pay-It-Forward Event: Eye Glass Collection

Class discussion about what it takes to have an Eye Glass Collection. Allow students to freely brainstorm as you facilitate the discussion and helps them organize their thinking. Encourage them to think about ALL the details! We have provided a teacher's guide to help you get started.

#### Promo Flyer

Design a flyer that promotes your event. Include interesting words, pertinent information and appealing visuals so your audience will want to read your ad. Be sure to include the information listed to the right.

#### THE PROMO FLYER

Include the following info:

1. SCHOOL/CLASS NAME
2. NAME OF THE EVENT
3. DATES (START AND END)
4. WHY WE ARE DOING THIS
5. OUR END GOAL

#### Share

Tell us about your project (send us a photo and description) and it will be added to **NED's Keep Kindness Going Gallery** at [www.theNEDshow.com/keepkindnessgoing](http://www.theNEDshow.com/keepkindnessgoing). We may even select your project to receive a small donation from the All for KIDZ employee Pay-It-Forward Fund.

#### Research

Research other philanthropic groups. Use the printable to gather information and prepare oral reports. After presentations, have students vote on which group is of most interest to them. Consider doing a service project to support the one of most interest the class majority.

Check out [www.kidactivities.net/post/Community-Service-Ideas-for-Kids.aspx](http://www.kidactivities.net/post/Community-Service-Ideas-for-Kids.aspx) and the book *The Kid's Guide to Service Projects* by Barbara A. Lewis.

 PRINTABLE:

*Research Guide*

Additional Resources

#### For more info...

Yash Gupta:

-  <http://sightlearning.com/>
-  [yashgupta@sightlearning.com](mailto:yashgupta@sightlearning.com)

#### Create a Kindness Day at Your School!

Check out all the activities, available at [www.thenedshow.com/kindness](http://www.thenedshow.com/kindness), for creating an all-school celebration of kindness at your school! Daily announcements, a poster, a bulletin board kit, kindness cards and more can help kick start a Kindness Day!

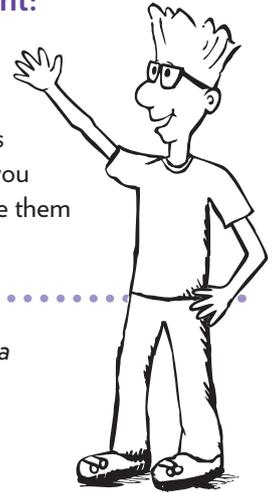


#### Kindness Button

Did you know you can purchase NED's kindness buttons for your class? Visit [www.thenedshow.com/shop\\_ned](http://www.thenedshow.com/shop_ned). Use them as a reward or incentive to encourage your students as they pay kindness forward!



# TEACHER'S GUIDE to Planning a Pay-It-Forward Event: Eye Glasses Collection



Teachers, use this as a guide to start a class discussion about what it takes to have an Eye Glass Collection. Allow students to freely brainstorm as you facilitate the discussion and help them organize their thinking. Encourage them to think about ALL the details - some are listed below!

## PLAN

- Is there already a collection project in your neighborhood (such as a Recycle center, eye doctor office, eyeglass retail stores, local Lions Group, Eagle Scout project)? Do they need/want our help?
- What are the starting & ending dates of our drive?
- Do we have permission from the school/district for our drive?

## PREPARE

- Who could we ask for used eyeglasses? *Ideas: Old pairs from eyeglass wearers, lost and found departments (hotels, churches, restaurants, gyms)*
- How will we collect used eyeglass donations?
- Where will we store the eyeglasses until we deliver?
- How will we deliver the eyeglasses to the community?

## PROMOTE

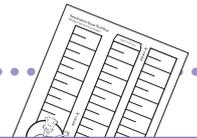
- What should a flyer say? How will flyers be distributed?
- Who will make the fliers?
- Who will make collection boxes? Drop them off? Collect them?
- How else can we promote the event? *Ideas: Newspaper, local TV or radio, school website, PTA*



PRINTABLE:  
Collection Box Label

## PREDICT

- Estimate the number of eyeglasses to be collected. Have students each write down their guesstimate on a post-it and add it to the goal sheet printable.



PRINTABLE:  
Goal Sheet

## PARTY

- Plan to celebrate your success. Help students to feel proud and excited that they paid kindness forward. What is a good celebration? Be sure the celebration provides time for reflection and discussion of how it feels to encourage others by paying kindness forward!

### Resources

#### Recommended Books & Websites...

- Doing Good Together: 101 Meaningful Service Projects...* by Jenny Friedman Ph.D.
- Kids Taking Action: Community Service Learning Projects, K-8* by Pamela Roberts
- The Giving Book: Open the Door to a Lifetime of Giving* by Ellen Sabin
- The Kid's Guide to Service Projects* by Barbara A. Lewis

*SightLearning.com, OneSight.org, Lions Clubs International: Eyeglass Recycling Centers*

#### Share

Tell us about your project (send us a photo and description) and it will be added to NED's Keep Kindness Going Gallery at [theNEDshow.com](http://theNEDshow.com)! We may even select your project to receive a small donation from the All for KIDZ employee Pay-It-Forward Fund.



# Used Eye Glass Collection Box Label

Directions: Print copies of the label for the collection boxes.

 **CUT OUT**



**DONATE  
HERE**

**Collecting Used Eye Glasses**

# Keep Kindness Going: Goal Sheet

Directions: Keep track of your progress!

Attach to other strip

CUT OUT

CUT OUT

OUR GOAL

Attach to other strip

CUT OUT



# GIVING IS THEIR BUSINESS

*Pick a philanthropic group to investigate!*

Name of Organization	
Who is the founder? What is the story behind why they do what they do?	
What did they hope to accomplish? What were their goals?	
What was their plan or action steps? What obstacles, if any, did they have to overcome?	
What makes them a NED? How could N.E.D's message help them more? Be specific.	
What can be done to help them continue their work?	
Provide Contact Info	