



RAYJON NEWSLETTER July (2019 # 4)

Looking to Make a Difference?

In the last newsletter there was a brief report on the success of the eyeglass team's trip to the Dominican Republic at the end of March. These trips continue to happen because of the strong volunteer support.

The Fall clinic will be to the Dominican Republic and it is scheduled to run for five days from November 11 -15. The goal is to build a team with 4 or 5 Optometrists, 2 Opticians, and 18 support team members.

The support team members have various tasks such as translators, patient registration, distance vision testing, near vision testing, autorefractor operators, fitters, computer operators that match eyeglasses from our inventory with the patients prescription, and one person who handles patient flow and manages the number of patients seen each day.



There is a waiting list of support team participants, and the "home team" that oversees the collection, washing, sorting and inventory management of donated glasses is in good shape at this time.

The pool of Opticians / Optometrists is much smaller with often the same people going year after year, and the organizers would like new recruits so these professionals can serve on a rotation with one another. One Optician is in her mid-70's and, being realistic, is seeking to be replaced. In five days the team is able to serve approximately 800 patients, but if the clinic runs with less than the ideal complement it drastically reduces the number of people

The advertisement, below, was prepared with the hope that Rayjon supporters would help with spreading the word about this appeal for eye care professionals. The following information might answer some of the frequently asked questions. Prior to the trip the organizers obtain a letter of authorization from the country's department of public health indicating that they

approve the clinic team volunteering their services. Part of the process for obtaining this letter is to send the department a copy of each team member's professional license and university degree. An orientation is provided to new team members along with information, closer to departure, outlining health and safety requirements (immunizations) and suggested things to pack. Please contact Bob Topliffe, the eyeglass program coordinator, for further information (details below).

Apply your optical skills.

Join one of our out of country eyeglass clinic teams.

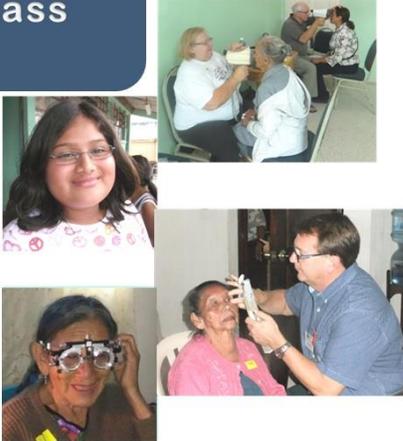


Rayson Eyeglass Program

Rayson Share Care of Sarnia is a Canadian based charity

www.rayson.org

Providing affordable vision care for communities in need, throughout the Caribbean, and Latin America, for over 26-years





Contact Bob Topliffe – Eyeglass Program
Coordinator: bobtopliffe@gmail.com
519-845-0648

REPORTING ON PAST EVENTS:

Rayson Yard Sale

Thank you to Marlo for organizing the May 11th Rayson Yard Sale (part of the town-wide Pt. Edward Yard Sale), and thanks also to her family, friends and other volunteers who helped out and made the day a success. Total profits were about \$1,200 – all of which goes to support Rayson's projects in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Making a Stand on Canada Day

This wasn't an official Rayson event, but on Canada Day a lemonade stand was set up in Pt.

birthday. It was a generous effort by the children pictured below, and others who were involved like Marlo and her family, to raise some cash for Rayjon. At the same time it served as a reminder to the people who stopped, and even those who simply passed by on their way to the parade celebration, that there are places in the world (like Haiti and the DR) where personal suffering and day-to-day serious issues are far more prevalent than they are here. It is good to feel fortunate and to celebrate, but we should never become so engrossed in our own good feelings that we forget about others.



Rayjon / DeGroot's Plant Sale

This was probably the last spring that the sale will highlight the dipladenia plant and this year ended on a high note with about \$14,500 being raised for Rayjon projects in Haiti. Next year DeGroot's and Rayjon will select something new, as by now there must be a dipladenia hanging plant or two in every garden in the city and county!

The community has been wonderful at supporting this event and special thanks goes out to Dianne for her magnificent organization, and wonderful team of (37) volunteers; and many thanks also to John, Lynn and Dianne from DeGroot's for their vision and perennial support with this partnership.

Great Canadian Challenge

Thank you to the people that supported Rayjon's bid in June to be the winner of the (#GivingChallengeCA) Great Canadian Challenge. Although Rayjon did not get recognized as the winner, almost \$4,000 was donated. Thanks to this generosity there are in fact many winners: like the children who will benefit from getting a healthy start to their education, as well as parents who are developing skills and confidence to overcome poverty. THANK YOU!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Annual Fall Fair

Help make the 25th Rayjon Fall Fair the best ever!!

The annual Rayjon Fall Fair will be held at Our Lady of Mercy (OLM) Parish Hall on Saturday, September 21st.

As always, we have a “Wish List” of requested items to make the Fair a success.

If you can help or donate any of the goods listed below, please contact the Convenor in charge.

Books: Kay McDonough 519-542-8897, NO textbooks please!

Women's Jewelry: Sharon Sharp 519-383-7578 or Pat Casey 519-542-8622

Toys: Mary Anne Wighton 519-336-6066, NO stuffies please!

Preserves: Suzanne Michaud 519-542-4464, NEW Mason jar lids & rings please!

Bake Table: Dianne McKillican 519-862-1963; Bakers, we want your “Specialty”!

We collect goods for all our tables all summer long up till the week before the Fair.

Exception: donations for the Bake Table – please deliver baking to the OLM Hall the day before the Fair any time between 10am – 6pm if repackaging or labelling is needed, or deliver it on Fair day.

Please identify clearly if nuts are present.

Volunteers: Call the convenor directly, or for general volunteer inquiries in any capacity, call Dianne McKillican 519-862-1963. Identify your area of interest and Dianne will instruct you further.

For example: I want to help with: setup, selling, clean-up, a baking/cooking-bee during the summer, etc. There's a job to fit everyone's preference and new volunteers will receive all the necessary

Save the Dates!

Golf Tournament: Saturday, September 21st, 2019 (to register please call the St. Joseph's parish office at 519-862-1213).

The Bookkeeper and **Rayjon** partnership brings Mitch Albom (humanitarian and author of "Tuesdays with Morrie". and more), to share the story of Chika, a young Haitian orphan and the subject of his soon to be released book - at the Sarnia Imperial Theatre, Wednesday, November 13th. Tickets are \$50 and include a copy of the book. Don't be disappointed ... get to [the theatre box office](#) asap to get your tickets before the event sells out.

(3rd Annual) Curling Event: November 16th, 2019

Don't forget to check out our new website at

www.rayjon.org

Thank You!

To our many donors, we must say again a tremendous thank you. With your donation you make a lasting change to the lives of people in Haiti and the Dominican Republic

DONATE NOW

One time and monthly options. Tax receipts and record of your online donations immediately available.

Mail Cheques To:

Rayjon Share Care, PO Box 2482, Sarnia, Ontario, N7T 7T1