

**Sharing Resources Worldwide**  
**GUINEA, AFRICA EYE GLASS MISSION**  
**Summer of 2006**

**GOAL OF MEDICAL MISSIONS / SRW**

Because there are children and adults in the world today who have limited or no access to medical care/treatment that would significantly improve their ability to participate in their community activities and goals, we offer the opportunity for local medical professionals to travel to the countries identified as having such a need, while working with local healthcare and community members, we would provide such medical services. This is offered at no cost to the person in need.

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This medical/eyeglass mission would be to Guinea, Africa.

Guinea is a tropical country- on the coast of West Africa. The population is about 8 million and that figure consists of many refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone. It is primarily Muslim (85%) and French is the official language.

There are other languages spoken- for which we will have translators available to our team for the eye exams.

Guinea is a republic that established their independence in 1958.

The GDP is approximately \$376. (2003)

Their major products are minerals agriculture and fishing.

A team of 6 volunteer professionals from this area (Wisconsin) would travel to Tougue, Guinea, West Africa where we would perform eye exams, and provide glasses for 400-500 persons in the community in the week that we were there. We would work closely with local volunteers and professionals from the local hospital in Tougue.

**The team would consist of:**

- 2 Ophthalmologists to do eye exams
- 1 Eyeglass technicians to fit eyeglasses
- RN to perform basic eye screening
- Assistant to handle paper work

Other persons needed would be located in Guinea- many of them local citizens and Peace Corps volunteers who would serve as translators.

- All qualified persons who are willing and able to go on this mission have been identified
- The mission is scheduled to occur the week of June 26, 2006.
- Airfare to Guinea is \$2500 from Chicago (per person).
- The mission would be for two weeks- as much time is spent in traveling- especially in Guinea.
- About 500 exams would be done in our 5-7 days in Tougue.
- Glasses are available through Wisconsin Lions Eyeglass program at no cost to SRW and as of November 2005, these 2800 pairs of donated glasses have been shipped to Guinea and await our arrival for the mission.
- The local hospital in Guinea has a generator (SRW would have to supply the fuel to run this generator to keep our equipment fully charged for the exams to take place) and they are willing to have our mission take place on their grounds where there is sufficient and appropriate space for all phases of the exams to take place.
- Volunteer translators will be identified and contacted before the team arrives. They will be both local citizens and Peace Corps volunteers serving in the area.
- The village elders are eager for the mission
- This is a large village but with no electric power, unless you have a generator, and limited phone access.
- No surgery would be possible – only eye exams
- The need for this has been identified by the local physician
- Room and board would not be expensive. Each team participant will pay their own.
- In country vehicle rental for this time period will be critical to our safe travel. Safe vehicles are essential.
- I visited this area in July of 2002 and spoke with hospital administrator about such a mission. My daughter in law is from there- she was there in the summer of 2005 and they still await our arrival for the mission eagerly. My son was in the Peace Corps stationed in Guinea for 3 years and continues good communication and relationship with local Peace Corps volunteers and directors there. Both of these elements assure the success of this mission.
- SRW would require an invitation from the Guinean Government and preliminary work toward this goal has begun months ago. (as per SRW policy)
- Funding for this mission is being sought from **many sources** here in Wisconsin.

**Budgeted Expenses are as follows:**

Airfare for 6-----	\$2000/ea -----	\$12,000
In country transportation for entire team-----		\$3000
Fuel to run generator for 507 days-----		\$1000
Room and board- 6 persons- 14 days at \$20/day=-----		\$1680 (Pd by individual participants)
Extra baggage costs for equipment (prearranged with airline)		\$1000
Extra pairs of reading glasses (200pr at \$.50ea-----)		\$100
	<b>Total -</b>	<b>\$15,780</b>

This is a way for our community to reach out to a population of people that we would probably not otherwise have any connection with. The population is predominantly Muslim and in an area unlikely to be served by such a mission by any other group in the near future. We believe strongly that we can and must reach out to our brothers and sisters worldwide in friendship and sharing. One village at a time- we can change the way many people think about Americans and put ourselves in more of a positive light and help to promote peace for all. I hope that you might consider helping us with this mission and being a part of that process.