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**AS PART OF WORLD SIGHT DAY, ESSILOR EMPLOYEES PLEDGE TO RAISE
\$1 MILLION OVER NEXT THREE YEARS TO PROVIDE EYEGASSES TO CHILDREN IN NEED**

***Essilor employee campaign benefiting the Essilor Vision Foundation
gives thousands of schoolchildren the gift of sight***

DALLAS (Oct. 11, 2012) – In commemoration of **World Sight Day**, Essilor employees today launched a three-year, \$1-million fundraising campaign benefiting the Essilor Vision Foundation, which will provide vision screenings, eye exams and eyeglasses free of charge to thousands of schoolchildren who cannot afford them otherwise. Research shows that without proper vision care, children may face lifelong struggles with literacy, low self-esteem, unemployment, poverty and crime.

“Approximately one in four American children has an uncorrected vision problem – and the number can climb much higher in inner-city communities. Unfortunately, research suggests that only 1 in 9 children are wearing glasses today,” said Stephen Shawler, president of the Essilor Vision Foundation. “So for those of us involved with the Essilor Vision Foundation, every day is World Sight Day. Our clear-cut mission is simply knowing that providing new glasses to a child can have a profound effect on their life ... not only academically in the short term, but socially in the long term.”

Essilor Vision Foundation’s mission is “to eliminate poor vision and its lifelong consequences.” In addition to providing vision services, the 501(c)3 nonprofit also educates parents, teachers and the general public about good vision and the critical role it plays in literacy, education, society, community safety, and the economy. Additionally, the Foundation takes a leadership role in creating relationships and partnerships in communities to increase access to good vision care.

The Foundation operates through four key programs in the USA – *Kids Vision For Life*, school visits using onsite vision clinics and mobile vision vans, Adopt A School with Essilor Employees, and one-day community events.

To mark World Sight Day, Essilor also sponsored a number of activities across the world. At the Essilor USA headquarters located in the Dallas area, hundreds of Essilor employees and their family members donned special World Sight Day T-shirts, participated in free vision screenings and even danced with the popular “Eye Ball.” The Foundation also conducted mobile vision clinics at numerous Texas and Georgia schools.

And since Essilor is an international company, its World Sight Day activities crossed the globe. They included the display of an eye and the message “get your eyes tested” at the train station in Brussels, Belgium; a joint Essilor and Lions Club International press conference and free eye exams at three hospitals in Istanbul, Turkey; a joint volunteer effort with the Lions Club International in France; and a 3-D “visual happening” in Charenton, France, to raise awareness about the importance of vision correction.

Essilor Vision Foundation was founded in 2008. By the end of 2012, the Foundation projects it will conduct more than 120,000 vision screenings and provide more than 30,000 pairs of glasses free of charge to children nationwide. Thanks to partners, donors, and volunteers involved in the Essilor Vision Foundation initiative, plans are to donate more than 100,000 pairs of glasses to children within the next three years.

To learn more or to donate to the Essilor Vision Foundation, go to essilorvisionfoundation.org.

ABOUT THE ESSILOR VISION FOUNDATION

The Essilor Vision Foundation is a public charity and an initiative of Dallas-based Essilor of America, the leading manufacturer of optical lenses in the United States. The foundation's mission is to eliminate poor vision and its lifelong consequences.

We strive to give children a brighter future by helping them see the world more clearly. Our programs focus on improving the quality of school vision screenings so fewer children slip through the cracks, providing eye exams and eyeglasses free of charge to children who would not get them otherwise, and educating parents and communities about the importance of children's vision care and the role it plays in literacy, society, and the economy.

ABOUT ESSILOR

Essilor is the leading manufacturer of optical lenses in the United States and is the market leader in progressive, high-index and anti-reflective coated lenses. A pioneer in the development and production of ophthalmic lenses, Essilor employs more than 9,000 people throughout North America. Essilor manufactures optical lenses under the Varilux[®], Crizal[®], Xperio[®], DEFINITY[®], Thin&Lite[®] and other Essilor brand names. Essilor Laboratories of America (ELOA) is the largest, and most trusted, optical lab network in the U.S. and offers a wide choice of services and lens brands, including Essilor premium lenses, to eyecare professionals across the nation. Essilor of America, Inc. (Essilor) is a subsidiary of Paris-based Essilor International, a publicly held company traded on the Euronext Paris stock exchange (Reuters: [ESSI.PA](#)).

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