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**ESSILOR VISION FOUNDATION PARTICIPATES IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS
GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT**

Foundation Brings Awareness to Health Disparities Facing People with Intellectual Disabilities

DALLAS – Jan. 29, 2013 – This Wednesday, Jan. 30, Essilor Vision Foundation will be in PyeongChang, Republic of Korea, among other global partners to participate in the Special Olympics Global Development Summit on *Ending the Cycle of Poverty and Exclusion for People with Intellectual Disabilities*. The Summit, which takes place as part of the Special Olympics World Winter Games, is the first of its kind focusing solely on people with intellectual disabilities.

“Essilor Vision Foundation is proud of our long-term relationship with Special Olympics and takes the work of global vision care very seriously; the importance of this Summit is paramount to heightening awareness of the health and social challenges facing people with intellectual disabilities,” said Stephen Shawler, president of Essilor Vision Foundation. “More than 2.5 billion people across the world require corrective vision, and our vibrant global partnership with Special Olympics over the next 10 years will continue to tackle this issue on an international scale.”

The Summit on *Ending the Cycle of Poverty and Exclusion for People with Intellectual Disabilities* will focus attention on the unmet health and social needs of people with intellectual disabilities. Discussions during the event will help build awareness of the gifts and potential contributions these citizens can contribute to society, as well as help provide a roadmap for how models of intervention can be created, modified and expanded to include people with intellectual disabilities.

Since 2002, Essilor Vision Foundation has been the exclusive global supplier of corrective lenses for the Special Olympics-Lions Club International Opening Eyes vision care program. As part of the Healthy Athletes program launched in 1997, Opening Eyes promotes healthy vision for Special Olympic athletes and includes vision screenings, corrective and sports protective eyewear for athletes in need and referrals for athletes requiring follow-up treatment and services.

Essilor Vision Foundation strives to eliminate poor vision and its lifelong consequences on a global scale. Through these initiatives, Essilor Vision Foundation has provided eye exams and glasses to more than 30,000 U.S. children; set up kiosks in 24 cities in China to provide initial vision screenings; and organized vans to travel around India providing glasses to those in need in rural areas. Since 2009, the Foundation has provided more than 86,000 eye exams and glasses worldwide.

To learn more about Essilor Vision Foundation and its programs, including details of upcoming events, tips for families and vision facts, or to make a donation, visit essilorvisionfoundation.org.

About Essilor Vision Foundation

Essilor Vision Foundation is a public non-profit charity established by Dallas-based Essilor of America, the leading manufacturer of optical lenses in the United States. We are a 501 (c) (3) public charity organized with a mission 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. We provide free vision screenings, eye exams and eyeglasses to children who would not get them otherwise. We also work to educate parents and communities about the importance of children's vision care and the role it plays in literacy, society and the economy. To learn more or to donate, visit Essilor Vision Foundation at www.essilorvisionfoundation.org. Engage with us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

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