

# Woman sees her 'Vision for Africa' as a big success

By Stacy Nadelman  
of the Daily Courier

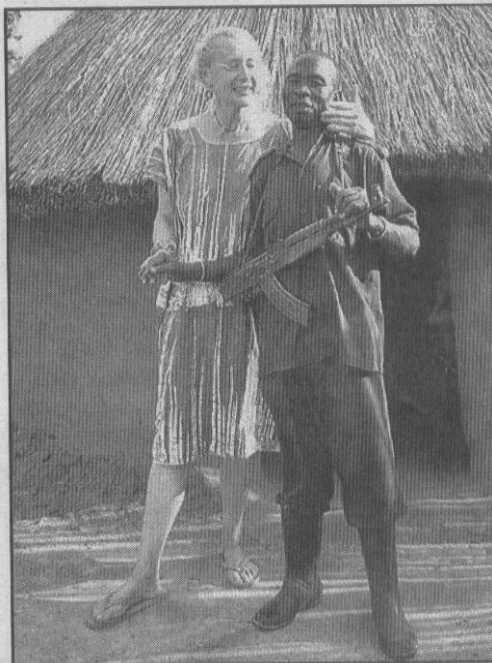
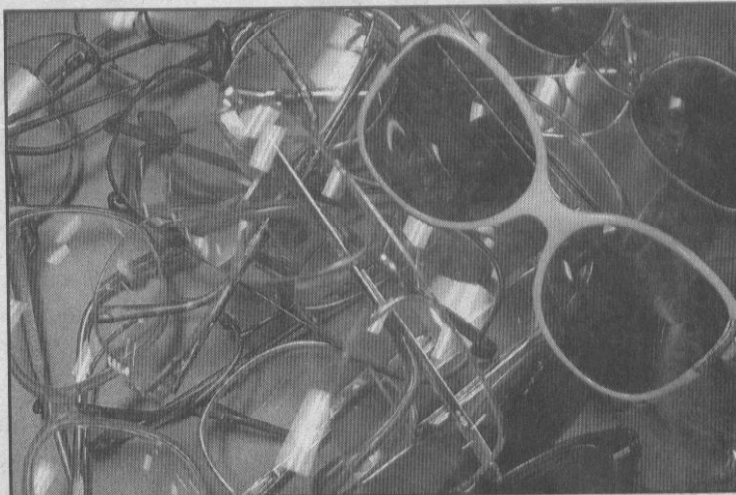
Christina Henning, who organized a project called "Vision for Africa" that collected eyeglasses in July to send to the people of Sudan, says the effort was a success.

"The number comes to around 600 so far," Henning said. "It's way more than I expected. It's really great."

The drive generated enough reading and prescription eyeglasses, along with a variety of eyeglass cases, to equip an entire village, says Henning. She said she is grateful to the community for its generosity.

Because of the response to the project, Henning is thinking of a return trip to Africa. There, she will contact an eye doctor who will examine people's eyes and help distribute the eyeglasses. Henning wants to also get in touch with an African women's group that will help distribute the eyeglasses. "Whatever I get together will eventually get to where they need to go," said Henning.

In 2001, Henning organized a book drive "Books without Borders," a project that collected and sent books and educational materials to Sudan. After routing the books through what she'd thought were the proper channels, Henning discovered the half-ton of educational materials were stuck in customs for more than four months. The books eventually made it to their intended destination.



Above are some of the approximately 600 pairs of eyeglasses collected for villages in Africa. This stack came from the Daily Courier's collection site. Left, Christina Henning stands with her bodyguard in the village of Kajo-Kaji in southern Sudan.

TIMOTHY BULLARD  
Daily Courier