

 <http://www.sidewalkuniversity.org/worldviewpage.html>

*Sidewalk University   Gives the Gift of Sight to Children in Antigua and Barbuda*

*Maplewood, NJ. – Sidewalk University's “Gift of Sight” program will provide free ophthalmic examinations and corrective spectacles to primary school-aged children at Bolans, Potter's and Greenbay Primary Schools in Antigua and Barbuda from November 7, 2012 through November 14, 2012. Sidewalk University has also reached out to area optometrists to help perform additional examinations for children at Mount St. John Medical Centre.*

*“Everyone in the world is seeing and feeling the negative impacts of our current economy,” said Conrad Andy Howell, Sidewalk University's President.   Howell is an employee of United Parcel Service (UPS).   “Personally, I have been struck by stories of children suffering from many vision issues, yet their families are unable to pay for medical examinations and eyeglasses, because they cannot afford health insurance. This is how Sidewalk University has decided to help make a difference and give back to children in the Antigua and Barbuda community during these tough economic times.”*

*Laura Gaines, chairwoman of the "Gift of Sight" committee, is hoping to make this an ongoing program, by adopting the primary schools into our "Gift of Sight" Adopt a School Program. The other committee members are Dr. Brian Rosenblatt, O.D.; Dr. Beth Rosenblatt, O.D.; Violet Potter, Nurse; Deborah Sollod, Nurse; Christopher Beyer, Optician; and Gladwin Francis, Volunteer.*

*Dr. Brian Rosenblatt will evaluate the current   Antigua and Barbuda eye care clinic facilities for equipment needs. Training will be provided to teachers and nurses so they can identify children with vision issues.*

*Sidewalk University has secured commitments from the Antigua and Barbuda Government, Jolly Beach Resort, and Rosenblatt Family Eye Care Associates who will donate products and services to help make this effort possible.*

*An eyeglass collection drive to support the event was sponsored by UPS on January 16 – 31 of 2012.  Dave Picozzi and Patricia Jones were the UPS coordinators for the eye glass drive.*

*About Sidewalk University:*

*Sidewalk University ( www.SidewalkUniversity.org) is a 501( C )( 3 ) non-profit organization that was founded on January 10, 2001. Sidewalk University’s mission is to develop people to become leaders in their communities. Sidewalk University carries out its mission through a variety of means, including an assortment of educational and cultural programs that seek to expand the horizons of people and give them the skillsets they need to lead successful and productive lives. Sidewalk University’s focus areas are Education, Economic Empowerment, and Nutrition and Health .*

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