

# Students help others see more clearly

By **GLORIA PLEVA KACIK**  
*Contributing Writer*

Almost 3,400 pairs of eyeglasses were collected from students by members of Albion Elementary School Student Council, as well as students from Valley Vista Elementary School and Royal View Elementary School. The glasses were then donated to the North Royalton Lions Club, which sends them to the St. Vincent's Lions Eye Clinic.

The Eye Clinic has been in existence since 1925, supported by close to 45,000 Lions Clubs, spanning over 185 countries. The Lions are well known to heavily support the aid of the visually handicapped, and have devoted their time and fund raising to those who are in need of

eye care, but cannot afford that care. The Lions International are the largest service organization worldwide.

The International Association of Lions Clubs approved the Lions Eye Clinic for Cleveland in 1970, which is located at St. Vincent Charity Hospital. This clinic has treated more than 80,000, with the support of 47 Lions Clubs, two Lioness and two Leo Clubs of Northeast Ohio. The clinic is one of seven in the United States.

The project was spearheaded by Guidance Counselor, Paul Thomashefski, who is also a member of the Lions Club. Three prizes were provided by the North Royalton Lions, led by President, Dan Evans. The month of October was set aside for

the collection, with some students even collecting on Halloween as part of their Trick-or-Treating. The first place winner, collecting almost half of the total, was Jimmy Giles, who brought in 1,641 pairs of glasses, winning the top prize of a \$125 gift card. Second place went to Matthew Brewer, who collected 374 pairs and won a \$75 gift card. A tie for third place, with

250 pairs each, went to Gabriel Skorepa and Kathan Flemming, each earning a \$25 gift card.

The glasses will be refurbished by the St. Vincent's Lions Eye Clinic and distributed to those who desperately need them. The winners of the contest said they were spurred on by the thought that their efforts would help those see more clearly.



Top winners in the Albion Elementary School eye glass collecting contest are: Kathan Fleming (left), Matthew Brewer, Gabriel Skorepa and Jimmy Giles.