Essilor and Samusocial

partner up to improve the sight of society’s most vulnerable

Charenton-le-Pont, France (7 October 2014) – Visual impairment is the most common disability worldwide and typically affects the most disadvantaged in society. Because exclusion makes access to eye care particularly difficult, Essilor is joining forces with humanitarian organization Samusocial de Paris to hold an awareness day on October 9th.

The partnership between Essilor and Samusocial aims to help the most vulnerable detect their visual correction needs and provide those who need lenses a better vision, contributing to a greater independence.

On the awareness day, to be held at the Samusocial de Paris centre in the municipality of Saint-Mandé in Paris’ eastern suburbs, 200 people aged 45 and over will receive a complete visual health check (sight test and eye exam) and be given appropriate eyewear if needed. Working alongside the teams from Samusocial de Paris, volunteer employees and partners of Essilor will be getting involved to welcome the patients and provide the necessary treatment. After the sight test, Essilor will supply a pair of glasses to patients who need basic correction. For more complex visual corrections, personalized lenses will be ordered and supplied to the patients at a later date.

“This awareness day, which ties in with World Sight Day, aims to prevent poor vision, the most common disability around the world. It is completely in line with our mission to improve lives by improving sight,” explains Hubert Sagnières, Chairman and Chief Executive of Essilor.

“Access to healthcare for the most vulnerable is complicated by the loss of everyday habits like self-care that is worsened by poor vision, and by the refusal of some professionals to help. It is essential that we reach out to these people. And it’s this approach that we are pleased to have adopted with Essilor” says Christine Laconde, General Manager of Samusocial de Paris. “We will be able to help 200 people and detect vision problems for those who otherwise would not have an eye care consultation.”

“This initiative is one step in a long-term partnership with Samusocial de Paris,” specifies Aïcha Mokdahi, Director of the Essilor Vision Foundation, in charge of rolling out the company’s charitable actions globally. “It complements the actions the Essilor Vision Foundation took in France with Action Enfance, Hôpital Avicenne and Secours Populaire during the first half of 2014.”
The goal of Essilor and Samusocial de Paris is to extend their partnership to establish a program with longer-term actions to promote social integration through good vision. How this will be done is currently under discussion.

About Samusocial de Paris
Samusocial de Paris provides assistance to homeless people in Paris experiencing physical or social distress. Founded in 1993, Samusocial de Paris has established different missions to adapt its services to the different ways exclusion has evolved in Paris over the years and now provides mobile assistance teams, emergency shelters, day centres, an emergency help line (115), a hotel reservation service, temporary shelter with medical treatment, beds with more extensive medical treatment, and social support. Since 2010, it has managed emergency integrated shelter and advice services on behalf of the DRHIL (regional department of housing and shelter) for the Greater Paris region. An Integrated Observatory assesses its activity, monitors social well-being and carries out research to help raise public awareness and assess the effectiveness of public policy in fighting exclusion.

About Essilor
Essilor is the world leader in ophthalmic optics. From design to production, the company has developed a wide range of lenses to correct and protect vision. Its mission is to help improve people’s lives by improving their vision. The company invests more than €150 million per year in research and innovation to offer increasingly high-performance products. Its leading brands include Varilux®, Crizal®, Transitions®, Definity®, Xperio®, Optifog™, Foster Grant®, Bolon® and Costa®. Essilor also develops and markets equipment, instruments and services for optical professionals. Essilor reported consolidated net sales of more than €5 billion in 2013 and employs more than 55,000 people. The company, which distributes products in more than 100 countries, has 28 production plants, more than 450 prescription laboratories and cutting and mounting centres as well as several research and development centres worldwide. For more information, please visit the www.essilor.com website.

Essilor is listed on the Euronext market in Paris and is also a member of the EuroStoxx 50 and CAC 40 indices. Codes: ISIN: FR0000121667; Reuters: ESSI.PA; Bloomberg: EI:FP. Code or symbol ISIN: FR0000121667; Reuters: ESSI.PA; Bloomberg: EI:FP.

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