

# Optician looks out for charity

by **Craig Winyard**

District Chief Reporter

Two kind-hearted opticians have their sights set on making a real difference to the lives of others by supporting a charity's efforts to improve the eyesight of homeless people.

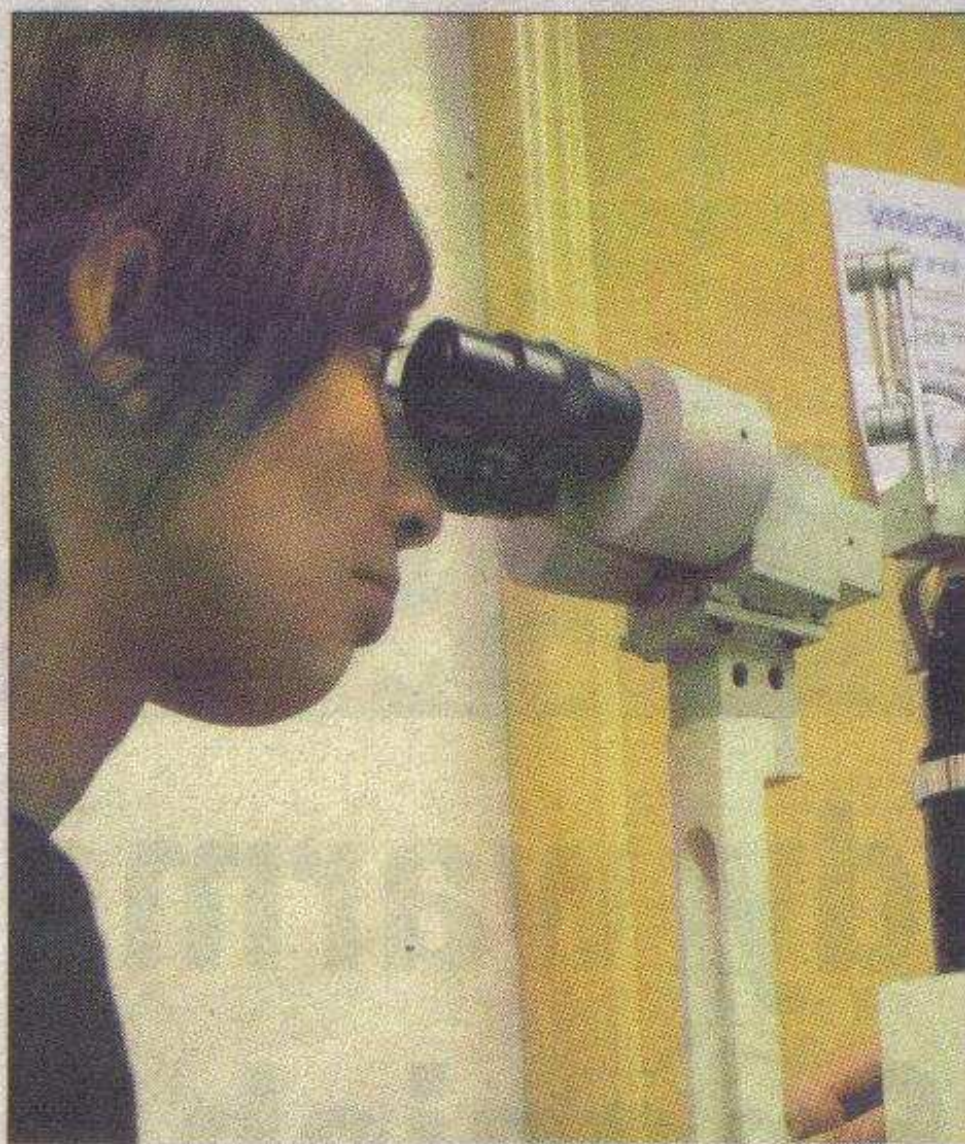
Sonia Aggarwal, from Great Barr, and Jaimin Chauhan, from Harborne, are forfeiting a fifth of their salaries from the jobs to devote time for charity work.

Every Monday, the newly-qualified opticians will swap their day jobs at High Street opticians to offer free eye care at The Salvation Army's William Booth Centre in Birmingham on behalf of the Vision Care charity.

The William Booth Centre provides accommodation to homeless men and helps them to gain and sustain their independence.

Vision Care, which is a charity set up in September 2003 to provide eye care services to homeless and other vulnerable people, will work with the hostel to improve people's sight.

Sonia said: "I really wanted to do something rewarding for others with my profession and not just for myself.



■ Sonia Aggarwal from Great Barr at work improving people's eyesight.

"I believe that it is important to give back to others so when I heard about Vision Care I just had to get involved."

Garry Murphy, manager at the William Booth Centre, said: "When I heard from Vision Care we welcomed them

with open arms.

"I think it is very important for us to partner with another charity like Vision Care, particularly when so many of our clients come in without a GP or other healthcare provision."