

VISION

A Subsidiary of Midwest Eye-Banks • Spring 2014

By the Numbers January-December 2012



Corneas transplanted
in Ohio



New Ambassadors helped us
spread the word about eye tissue
donation at 44 community events



Tissues provided to help support
research for cures of blinding
eye diseases



Families participated in
our Lasting Legacy program

A Note From Our Executive Director

Debbie May-Johnson



How wonderful to finally see the sun and welcome spring flowers and warmer weather to Northeast Ohio! Despite the sometimes-harrowing weather conditions, the Cleveland Eye Bank staff was able to carry out our mission this past year, with many exciting developments and changes. In addition to the achievements highlighted on the left, we also partnered with Delta Gamma Sorority to promote donation awareness and register donors on the Ohio Donor Registry at several college campuses, and witnessed an average 84 percent increase in first-time visitors to our website as a result of our media campaigns.

This year, we look forward to even more advancements. We will be collaborating with local partners and launching a groundbreaking research initiative that will provide disease-specific eye tissue for projects focused on macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma. This will include building systems to implement a model eye disease donor registry, biobank and data repository to provide researchers with a comprehensive database of information, as well as tissues that are highly specific to their study needs.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we continue to take the Eye Bank to the next level of success and provide individuals the gift of vision now and in the future.

Inside:

An Amazing Gift

Recipient Jonathan
Seward shares his story

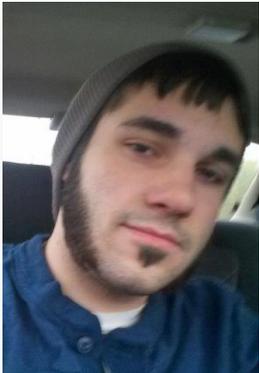
Open House

The Cleveland Eye Bank
invited supporters to
celebrate National Eye
Donor Month

Meet Dr. Goshe

Partner to the eye bank
and longtime advocate
for sight

An Amazing gift



Jonathan Seward didn't realize he had vision issues until middle school, when a school nurse noticed he had problems seeing out of his left eye during a routine eye exam.

At 13, a specialist diagnosed Seward with keratoconus, a degenerative eye disorder that causes the cornea to bulge out, which can cause multiple vision, streaking and sensitivity to light. Seward coped with the condition until his senior year of high school. He received a cornea transplant, performed by Dr. Jeffrey Goshe, in his left eye in January 2012.

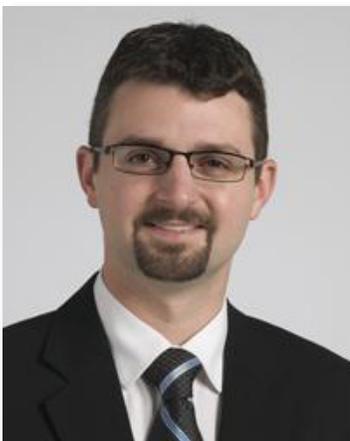
Seward's experience recovering from the surgery inspired his current efforts to become a rehabilitation therapist.

"I received an amazing gift and I don't want to waste it. I want to do something that helps people."

Seward, now 20, said his transplant has improved his everyday life and made him more independent. For the first time, he is able to get his driver's license and is shopping for his first car.

"I'm grateful every day to the family who lost a loved one, and to the person who made the decision to donate," he said. "I have a better understanding now of life and what it means to people, and what an impact people can still have after life has ended."

Dr. Goshe: Advocate and researcher



Jeffrey Goshe, M.D.

When Jeffrey Goshe, M.D., was in medical school, he was struck by how important eyesight was to the patients he observed, even when they were suffering from potentially terminal illnesses.

"In life and death scenarios, patients were most concerned about keeping their sight," he said.

A Cleveland native, Dr. Goshe found himself drawn toward ophthalmology and trained under a leading cornea specialist, Mark Terry, M.D., during his fellowship. He is known among his peers for his clinical research and experience, but to his patients, Dr. Goshe

stands out for his sense of humor, easygoing nature and attentiveness.

"He is a really great guy," said Jonathan Seward, one of Dr. Goshe's patients who received a cornea transplant in 2012. "I can't say enough about him. He had the absolute best sense of humor, and through the whole process, I felt like he cared about my transplant experience just as much as I did."

Dr. Goshe now treats patients in his hometown at the Cleveland Clinic Cole Eye Institute, where he actively advocates for and researches corneal transplantation.

He is one of the Cleveland Eye Bank's most active partners, and relies on the Eye Bank's services to provide the highest quality cornea tissue to his transplant patients.

"I think it's great that in our country, donation is perceived as such a special gift," Dr. Goshe said. "We're in a lucky position to have access to that kind of gift."



Attendees Frank and Charlene Dennis

Eye Bank shares new projects at March Open House

Philanthropic donors and ophthalmologists joined the Cleveland Eye Bank for a Wine and Chocolate Open House to commemorate National Eye Donor Month. During the event, staff and board members had the opportunity to meet and greet supporters of the Eye Bank, while attendees toured Cleveland’s state-of-the-art laboratory and learn about the Eye Bank’s new research project that will advance research into eye diseases that rob millions of their sight each year. For more information about these exciting developments, read Executive Director Debbie May-Johnson’s letter on the front page.

A SOLID FOUNDATION

Cornea transplants can cure 10 percent of blinding eye conditions, but there are many people whose visual impairments cannot be treated through transplantation.

Vision research is a critical component of sight restoration, which is why the Cleveland Eye Bank Foundation supports ocular researchers examining the causes of and cures for blinding eye conditions.

Created as the result of a generous endowment supported from the Greater Cleveland community, the Foundation raises and provides funds to increase the number of people whose sight is preserved or restored through its support of transplants, research and education.

All donations made to the Cleveland Eye Bank Foundation are tax deductible and help preserve and restore sight to those in need. For more information about the Foundation or to make a contribution, please contact Executive Director Debbie May-Johnson at (216) 706-4211 or dmayjohnson@clevelandeyebank.org.

Meet our newest employees!

In the fall of 2013, the Cleveland Eye Bank welcomed two new employees.



Rosemarie Ousley, community relations liaison, joined the Eye Bank’s staff in September. She brought with her more than 10 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, including eight years at Case Western Reserve

University. There, she worked in development and alumni relations, raising money for the university and engaging the alumni community.



Iris Powers, laboratory technician, started at the Eye Bank in October.

“Some biologists study DNA, others do research,” she said. “I’m a biologist who specializes

in restoring order – what better way to fulfill my dreams than by working for the Cleveland Eye Bank, where sight is restored?”

Save the Date



Lifebanc's Gift of Life Walk/Run

Join the Cleveland Eye Bank's Team Eye Can for Lifebanc's Gift of Life Walk/Run on Aug. 9, on the grounds of Blossom Music Center. This uplifting event includes something for everyone, with a 10k and 5k run, a Family Fun walk and the Legacy Garden. Visit our website, www.clevelandeyebank.org, to register with Team Eye Can. Your participation will help support community outreach efforts and bereavement services for donor families.

CBS Radio Free Lunch

Join us for the CBS Radio Free Lunch in downtown Cleveland, sponsored by the Cleveland Eye Bank. Stop by for hot dogs, chips, ice cream, and soda and sign up on the Ohio Donor Registry from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the following dates:

6/12 Free Stamp/Willard Park
7/17 Mall C
8/14 Perk Plaza/Walnut
9/11 TBD

Who can be an eye donor?

Anyone can join the Donor Registry, regardless of age, blood type, eye color, quality of vision or medical history. Cornea tissue is either transplanted or, with consent, considered a gift for research and education. In 2013, the Eye Bank provided 935 cornea tissues to researchers looking for the causes of and cures for blinding eye conditions that cannot be cured through transplantation.

Did you know?

- 95 percent of corneal transplants are successful.
- All major religions support donation.
- Corneal transplantation is the most frequently performed transplant procedure.