

March 8, 2013



For Immediate Release

Contact:

Carrie Miller
Director of Content and PR
Intralink Global
773-960-6468
cmiller@intralinkglobal.com

Illinois Eye-Bank Supports the “The Art of Living” at The Chicago Flower & Garden Show During National Eye Donor Month

For 12 years each spring and summer Cyndy Loula and her husband Eric worked together tending their perennial and vegetable gardens at their Bolingbrook home – until 2006, when a degenerative corneal disease called keratoconus made gardening and many other activities impossible for Cyndy.

This year, thanks to successful corneal transplants facilitated by the [Illinois Eye-Bank](http://www.illinoiseyebank.org), no one is looking more forward to spring planting season than Cyndy. With both of them now able to plant and weed alongside their children, the couple plans to expand their plot to include lettuce and several new hot pepper varieties in addition to the tomatoes they always plant.

“Thanks to my transplants, my vision has improved enough to let me get back to something I enjoy. And now I’ll actually be able to see the fruits of my labor,” said Cyndy, who, at 44, has a lot more left to see.

To celebrate success stories like Cyndy’s – and the generous eye and tissue donors who give the gift of sight every day – the Illinois Eye-Bank is supporting a garden at this week’s [Chicago Flower and Garden Show](#) through [Donate Life Illinois](#), a coalition of agencies responsible for organ, tissue, eye, blood and marrow donation as well as donor education and [registration](#) in Illinois.

Entitled “The Art of Living,” this garden is perhaps the perfect symbol for the miraculous gift of sight, and the event fell fortuitously in March, National Eye Donor month. The show runs from March 9 through 17, 2013 at Navy Pier. The Illinois Eye-Bank will have representatives at the garden Wednesday, March 13 to answer questions about eye, organ and tissue donation, including Illinois Eye Bank Executive Director Diane Hollingsworth, who is also chair of Donate Life Illinois.

The Illinois Eye-Bank placed 2,787 donated tissues last year – 1,166 went to cornea recipients here in Illinois, 952 went to international recipients, many living in countries where eye, organ and tissue donation is just beginning to develop and 1,452 were used in clinical research.

###

The Illinois Eye-Bank is a subsidiary of Midwest Eye-Banks and a charitable, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of sight. It recovers, evaluates and distributes human eye tissue for transplantation. It also supports research into the causes and cures of blinding eye conditions, promotes donation awareness through public and professional education and provides humanitarian aid to people in need of corneal transplantation throughout the world. For more information, visit the Illinois Eye-Bank online at www.illinoiseyebank.org or contact Diane at 312-706-6765.

