

VISION

Michigan Eye-Bank • A Subsidiary of Midwest Eye-Banks • Spring 2014



Board member and cornea recipient Patrick Pruitt with Elyse Aurbach, hamming it up at Night for Sight and Life.

Inside

Family Ties

Cornea transplant restores sight to accident survivor

Night for Sight & Life

Fundraising extravaganza unveils new trick to raising donation awareness

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2013

VISION

Board of Directors

Busharat Ahmad, M.D.
Gary Babcock
John Barletta, M.D.
William D. Barr, Ed.D.
Paul F. Charette
Patty Jo Herndon
John Johnson
John Krienke, Ph.D.
Lisa Langley, BSN
Susan MacKellar
William Munsell
Patrick J. Pruitt
Robert Sturgis
Terry Walters

Medical Directors

Mark L. McDermott, M.D., MBA
Shahzad I. Mian, M.D.
Roni Shtein, M.D.
H. Kaz. Soong, M.D.
Alan Sugar, M.D.
Maria Woodward, M.D.

Laboratory Staff

Nicholas Hicks
Lauren Johnson
Kerryn Moore
Bill Rigley
Lisa Robinson
Kim Traczyk
Jonathan Zynda

Recovery Staff

Katie Ableson
Luanne Altman
Barry Dowdy
Melody East
Linda Gaishin
Kristopher Mavin
George Rutledge
Nicholas Sierakowski

Professional & Community Relations Team

Robb Chabie
Holly DeMasi
Victoria Launiere
Alex Teska
Carrie Wolverton
Alison Wright

Michigan Vision Team

Samantha Butcher
Jessica Carmichael
Stacy Getz
Stephanie Sorenson

From our Board of Directors



The Michigan Eye-Bank Board of Directors is comprised of 14 individuals who represent professional communities and Lions Clubs throughout the state. Each of us is a volunteer whose passion for sight preservation and restoration prompted our involvement with this remarkable organization. The whole board meets quarterly, but committees — where most of our work is performed — meet more often, on an as-needed basis.

Our efforts provide the Eye-Bank with governance and fiduciary leadership and help

shape the policies under which it operates, but we would be unable to do any of this without the dedicated staff members who perform their work diligently, and professionally under their leader, Michigan Eye-Bank Executive Director Lisa Langley. Their daily efforts make the Eye-Bank and its mission a reality. These efforts would also not be possible without our supporters. In honor of **National Eye Donor Month**, we invite you to learn more about our mission and those who benefit from it through this publication. Thank you for everything you do to help us achieve our goal of restoring sight through transplantation, research, education and partnership.

– *Busharat Ahmad, M.D.*
Board Chair

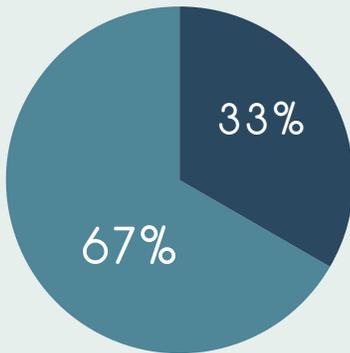


The Michigan Eye-Bank Board of Directors, top row from left:

John Barletta, Terry Walters, Paul Charette, Patrick Pruitt, John Krienke, John Johnson, Robert Sturgis, William Barr, Lisa Langley, Gary Babcock, Patty Jo Herndon, Busharat Ahmad, Susan MacKellar. Not pictured: William Munsell.

FY 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

REVENUE

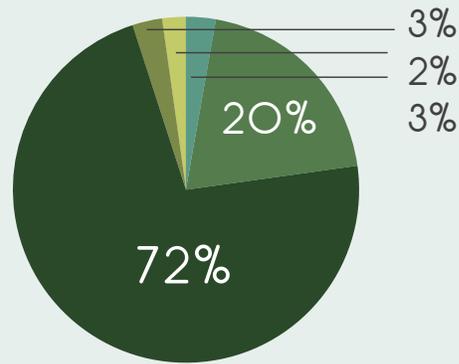


- Support from Lions, Lioness & Leo Clubs, and Other Public Sources, \$258,367
- Funding Contribution from Midwest Eye-Banks (revenue), \$523,171

TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE \$781,538

BEGINNING OF YEAR NET ASSETS, \$354,801
END OF YEAR NET ASSETS, \$451,012

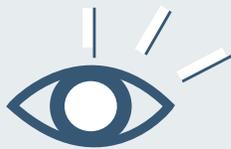
EXPENSES



- Administration, \$23,400
- Gift of Sight Charitable Tissue Program, \$13,831
- Gift of Hope Research Tissue Program, \$21,000
- Fundraising, \$135,884
- Community & Professional Relations Program, \$491,212

TOTAL EXPENDITURES, \$685,327

1,031



MICHIGAN RESIDENTS received a second chance for sight through corneal transplantation.



10 NEW AMBASSADORS joined the Michigan Eye-Bank Ambassador Program, now 289 members strong.

463,046



PEOPLE JOINED the Michigan Organ Donor Registry as a direct result of our community engagement efforts and partnership with the Department of State.

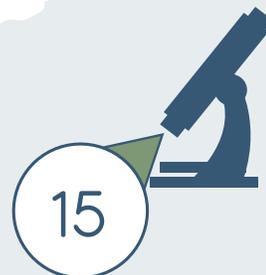


MICHIGAN RESIDENTS who could not otherwise afford the costs of corneal transplantation were given the gift of sight thanks to the funds raised through our charitable support program, which enables us to waive our normal service fees for the provision of eye tissue.

184



COMMUNITY EVENTS were conducted to raise awareness about our mission, and about the Michigan Organ Donor Registry. An estimated 1.5 million people were exposed to our message during these events.



EYE AND VISION RESEARCH PROGRAM grants, totaling \$258,860, were awarded in conjunction with Midwest Eye-Banks to help support eye disease research.

Please note: To protect the privacy of those who have generously decided to support the Michigan Eye-Bank, we no longer print the names of our contributors in the annual report.

BEHIND *the* SCENES

Our clinical staff plays an essential role in our services



Kim Traczyk

Sight restoration would not be possible without support from our donor families and cornea recipients, as well as the efforts of our clinical staff, who work tirelessly behind the scenes.

Kim Traczyk, manager of clinical services, and her staff of seven carefully evaluate and prepare all of the donor tissue we receive so we can provide our services to those in need.

Information gatherers

Once the eye bank receives authorization for a donation, Traczyk's team jumps into action, collecting as much information as they can about the donor. While the recovery team surgically recovers the tissue, clinical staff pulls together a variety of records to create the most thorough medical and social history possible, including hospital charts and consults from primary care and medical examiners.

Once the donor tissue arrives at the laboratory, clinical technicians examine the tissue using specular microscopy, which provides an image at the cellular level, and a slit lamp assessment, which allows for the evaluation of each individual layer of the cornea.



Donor Eligibility Coordinator Kerryn Moore inputs donor history into Midwire's database

After the team has organized the case records and examined the tissue, they pass it along to one of the two donor eligibility coordinators on staff, who make the final determination whether tissue should be used for transplantation.

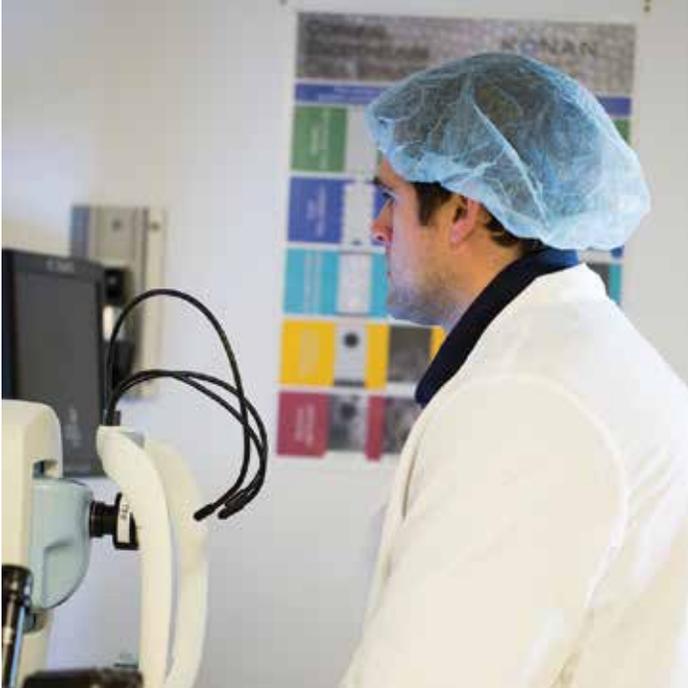
Tissues that cannot be transplanted can be used for research or training with authorization from the donor's family.

Compiling these case records takes between 24 and 48 hours. Traczyk said the team's goal is always to get the information compiled and the tissue ready for surgical use within a day, although it isn't always possible, especially in cases where a cause of death is not immediately apparent.

"We make it our mission to handle all donations as if they were from our own families, with respect and care, while ensuring the recipient is receiving a gift that is of the utmost quality within a timely manner," Traczyk said.

Prepping the tissue

Once a cornea has been cleared for transplantation, information about the tissue is logged into the Eye-Bank's software program, Midwire. Surgeons can enter requests for tissue into Midwire Match, at which point they are also able to request how they would like the tissue prepared by Traczyk's team of technicians.



*Processing Technician Bill Rigley
measuring corneal thickness*



*Processing Technician Lauren Johnson
looks at endothelial cell counts*

The most common type of preparation is Descemet Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty (DSAEK), also referred to as “pre-cutting.” This procedure cuts through the cornea, separating the endothelial (innermost) layer and some of the stromal (middle) layer from the top of the cornea. DSAEK preparations typically produce a graft between 100-200 microns (millionths of a meter) in thickness, about the width of a human hair. This graft is about one-sixth the width of the average cornea.

Transplants using DSAEK tissue leave some of the recipient’s cornea intact, which helps prevent the donor tissue from being rejected. Cornea transplantation has the highest success rates of any type of organ and tissue transplant, with success rates above 90 percent.

On the cutting edge

In the spring of 2013, Michigan Eye-Bank’s staff began refining a new process of tissue preparation that would benefit patients whose cornea conditions only affect the innermost endothelial layer. Descemet’s Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty, or DMEK, takes the DSAEK procedure a step further. To prepare for this type of surgery, one of the Eye-Bank’s processing technicians manually strips just the endothelial and Descemet’s layers from the rest of the cornea, producing a graft that is five times thinner than the traditional pre-cut grafts, about 15-20 microns thick.

“Depending on the patient, a DMEK graft might be the best choice,” said Lauren Johnson, a processing technician for the Michigan Eye-Bank who helped develop the DMEK procedure. “The time it takes for visual rehabilitation, the rate of complication and the aftercare needs associated with DMEK are all very low.”

The procedure to transplant this type of tissue is very delicate and time-consuming. Surgeons are still perfecting the technique so patients have the best visual outcomes. Demand for DMEK-prepared tissue has been slowly increasing since the Michigan Eye-Bank began offering the service in July 2013, and Johnson said she expects it to continue to grow in popularity as surgeons gain more experience with the technique.





The Night is over, but the discussion's just begun

Michigan Eye-Bank gives supporters new ways to encourage donor registration

The campaign slogan “*I 'moustache' you a question: Are you an eye, organ and tissue donor?*” – debuted at our first Night for Sight and Life in November. The Michigan Eye-Bank’s newest calling cards take a lighthearted approach to discussing donation, said Alex Teska, community relations liaison. The bright, wallet-sized cards feature various moustache styles on the front and inquire about the recipient’s donor status.

“We’re trying to create a donor-friendly Michigan and talk about donation in a way that doesn’t seem scary,” said Alison Claerhout Wright, community relations manager. “Sometimes people don’t want to talk about donation because they don’t want to think about death or dying – it can be a hard conversation to start. We’re trying to change people’s thinking and make it more of a positive topic.”

Each attendee at Night for Sight received 30 of the cards, which are meant to be passed out to casual acquaintances.

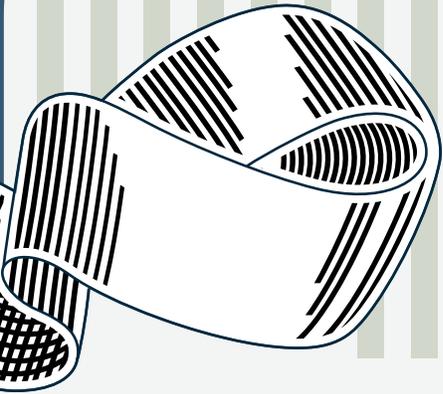
“The idea behind it was getting your every day acquaintances registered, the people that you know but who you don’t usually sit down and have a conversation with – your barista, your bank teller,” Teska said.



“You just slip them a card and you don’t have to say anything, but maybe that will influence that person to register to become a donor.”

Night for Sight, aptly named an “Optical Extravaganza,” was a departure from previous versions of the event.

Thanks to a generous sponsorship from the Gift of Life Foundation, the night took on a life of its own and helped fundraise for the Michigan Eye-Bank while thanking those who support us and promote the Michigan Organ Donor Registry.



Secretary of State Ruth Johnson with Michigan Eye-Bank Executive Director Lisa Langley



Performers from the Weird Sisters Circus, aerialists from Agora Studios, fire breathers, and other strolling entertainers helped us create a unique and visually engaging evening.

Black and white, circus-themed décor, designed by Susan MacKeller, a cornea recipient and member of the Michigan Eye-Bank Board of Directors, set the stage for the evening.

“We really wanted it to be a night of visual entertainment,” Teska said. “... There was never a dull moment. It was truly a night for celebrating the gifts of sight and life.”

Chef Carl Hakim, a cornea recipient featured in the Fall 2013 issue of Vision, provided the delicious and stunning food from his catering company, Market Basket of Franklin. We were also honored to have Secretary of State Ruth Johnson join us for the evening. We used the special occasion to recognize her extraordinary work in promoting donation and presented her with our John W. Henderson Award.

Performers with the Weird Sisters circus helped us announce the calling cards during the event, which was filled to capacity. Since the cards' introduction, the reaction from our supporters has been positive.

The event was a perfect forum for the creation of our latest video production which will be launched on our website and Facebook page in honor of National Eye Donor Month in March.



Michael (left) and Perry Napulou

Family Ties

For the Napulou brothers Michael and Perry, family is more than a bond – it’s in their name. The roots of their surname, inherited from their Hawaiian father, come together to mean “family,” and that sense of family has been critical to their survival through nine years marked by adversity and loss.

In 2005, Michael was in the passenger seat of his father’s car when his father suffered a diabetic seizure behind the wheel, crashing the vehicle. Both survived but Michael spent two years in the hospital. Injuries to his lungs and hips, combined with his myotonic dystrophy, a genetic disease marked by a gradual weakening of muscles, confined Michael to a wheelchair.

Perry, who was living in San Diego, Calif., at the time, moved home when Michael was released to help his brother and his parents with the transition.

“The Lord sent me home,” Perry said. “I knew it. I was in San Diego, loving it, and next thing you know I’m dreaming that I’m in the woods, fighting through the snow, and there’s Dad’s house. And that’s when I knew I had to come back.”

For seven months, life seemed relatively normal until a second accident occurred in 2008. A car crashed into their home, stopping mere inches from where Michael had been sitting in the front room. The accident caused Michael’s lungs to recess and he was placed on a respirator for six weeks.

Glass and debris from the accident cut his cornea, blinding him in one eye.

The year following the accident was difficult. Although a cornea transplant could restore Michael's vision, his lung injuries meant he could not be placed under anesthesia for the transplant surgery. It seemed Michael's blindness would be permanent until his ophthalmologist discovered a solution. He referred them to another local surgeon, Dr. John Barletta, a member of the Michigan Eye-Bank Board of Directors, who had equipment that would allow him to perform the transplant comfortably while Michael was awake.

Michael received his new cornea in 2012. Perry said they are both so grateful to Dr. Barletta and the generosity of Michael's cornea donor for restoring their freedom.

Perry describes their daily lives as "hectic and slow at the same time," but notes that everything they enjoy doing together is possible because of Michael's transplant.

Michael's transplant has also helped the brothers develop a passion for travel that began with a month-long trip to Hawaii.

Their father, who was 100 percent Hawaiian, and mother were laid to rest on the island after their deaths in 2013, and their estate sent Michael and Perry to Honolulu for 25 days to experience their heritage. Since returning, the brothers have purchased passports and are planning more vacations – a visit to the Canadian side of Niagara Falls, a trip to Mexico, a seafood tour of the East Coast, a return to Hawaii.

Although flying poses challenges for Michael, his ability to visit the places he once thought he may never be able to see makes the effort worthwhile.

Two years after his surgery, Michael's vision is better than ever.

"The transplant has been really, one huge step forward, and has been the most beneficial to him," Perry said. "It's the best thing that could have come out of this."



Some days are filled with a barrage of doctor's appointments and gym visits, while others leave them free to watch movies from their expansive collection that they add to on what they call their weekly "Target Tuesday" trips.

"The Lone Ranger" is a recent favorite, Michael said, and they often watch the same Disney movies their family once gathered together to view every Sunday night growing up.

"Mike's been through a lot, but the best part about everything is the corneal transplant and the fact that he can actually see the TV," Perry said.





Ketty's Gift

A family journeys from Mexico to honor their loved one



Ketty Quintana was a giver. When she was first diagnosed with liver disease, she didn't tell her family. Her mother was sick at the time, unable to walk, and her family had enough concerns. Her illness progressed but still Ketty kept it a secret. She had emigrated from Mexico,

where her family still lived, to Northville, Mich., almost a decade earlier, and she did not want to worry her family while they were so far apart.

Her life in the U.S. was reserved but always led by a desire to help those around her. She often cared for a neighbor with an oxygen tank, checking in frequently to make sure she was taken care of, and volunteered at walks that raised funds for cancer research. A local newspaper named her Neighbor of the Month. Even animals benefitted from Ketty's generosity. She adopted a family of ducks and enjoyed watching them gather in her yard after work. Geese would eat from her hand.

Ketty spent her life giving to others, and when she discussed her end of life plans with her family, she told them she wanted to continue giving as long as she could.

"Ketty touched on the subject of organ donation several times and expressed that she wanted to be an organ donor," said Carmina Ferreiro Fernandez, Ketty's mother.

As her illness progressed, Ketty began to experience heart problems and renal failure.

She knew her organs could not be used for transplantation because of her medical conditions, but Ketty still wanted to give.

When she was in hospice in 2012, nurses worked with Ketty and her family to fulfill her wishes.

The hospice nurses connected Ketty and her family with the option for eye donation, and with an organ research organization.

Both of Ketty's donated corneas were transplanted, and her gift restored sight to two people.



The Quintana family visited the Michigan Eye-Bank and the Donor Memorial Garden during their visit from Mexico.

Although coping with her daughter's illness in a foreign country was difficult, Carmina said she was glad Ketty was able to donate. It was satisfying to be able to fulfill her daughter's wishes.



The Donor Memorial Garden paver in honor of Ketty.

Carmina said her family supported Ketty's decision and found comfort in knowing her death had benefitted others.

"When you've passed away, your organs and tissues can't serve you any longer, so give someone else the chance to live a full life," Carmina said.

Carmina visited the Michigan Eye-Bank in September, accompanied by Ketty's sister, Nieves Quintana, and Ketty's aunt, Margarita Ferreiro Fernandez. Together, they strolled through the Donor Memorial Garden, reflecting on Ketty's legacy of generosity and the ways her final gift was able to change two lives.





DEDICATED TO THE RESTORATION OF SIGHT

A subsidiary of Midwest Eye-Banks

*4889 Venture Dr.,
Ann Arbor, MI 48108*

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Ann Arbor, MI
Permit #43

Mark your calendars!

Volunteers needed for Donate Life Day

We are seeking volunteer “Buddies” at our Secretary of State offices for Donate Life Day on April 2 to encourage patrons to join the Michigan Organ Donor Registry. To volunteer, contact Alex Teska at 734-780-2675 or email her at ateska@michiganeyebank.org.

Gift of Sight Golf Classic at The Polo Fields, Washtenaw Golf and Country Club

The Gift of Sight Golf Classic will take place at The Polo Fields, Washtenaw Golf and Country Club in Ypsilanti, Mich., on June 14 at 12:30 p.m. To register or learn about becoming a sponsor, contact Lisa Langley at 800-247-7250 or lisa@michiganeyebank.org

Sighting In On Vision

Our annual sporting clay shoot, Sighting In On Vision will take place on August 23 at the Grand Blanc Huntsman's Club. To register or learn how you can be a sponsor, contact Community Relations Manager Alison Wright at 800-247-7250 or awright@michiganeyebank.org.

Annual Summer Celebration

Our annual Summer Celebration will take place on August 1 at the Fifth Third Ballpark in Comstock Park, MI. Call 734-780-2690 to reserve your seat as we root for the West Michigan Whitecaps. Dinner is on us!

