DEDICATED TO THE RESTORATION OF SIGHT
“...YOU WHO ARE STRONG AND BRAVE AND KIND.
WILL YOU NOT CONSTITUTE YOURSELVES KNIGHTS
OF THE BLIND IN THE CRUSADE AGAINST DARKNESS?”

– Helen Keller,
Lions Clubs International Convention, 1925
AT THE LIONS EYE BANK OF NEW JERSEY, WE ARE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO FULFILLING HELEN KELLER’S CRUSADE AGAINST BLINDNESS. WE ARE DEDICATED TO THE RESTORATION OF SIGHT. THAT MEANS WE EXPLORE EVERY AVENUE TO HELP THOSE WITH EYE AND VISION IMPAIRMENTS REGAIN THEIR VISION.

We Care for Donors and Their Families.

We consider eye donation to be a special gift from the donor and the donor’s family. Regardless of whether a person chooses to donate, or whether an eye donation results in a transplant, we respect the wishes of the donor and the family, and honor the irreplaceable gifts they have given.

The decision to give consent for a loved one’s eye donation can be difficult. Donor family members are experiencing a tragic loss, often one of the most painful experiences in their lives. We offer our donor families hope by offering the option of eye donation. Knowing that a loved one’s eye donation can truly make a difference – that their loved one can live on in the eyes of others – brings them comfort when little else can.

The Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey is staffed by specially-trained professionals who work with donor families in a sensitive, compassionate manner. Our staff understands the special needs of these family members, and is there to help them make an informed decision about eye, organ and tissue donation.

www.donorttribute.org
We help donor families find grief recovery resources, and also encourage them to honor their loved one by creating an online Donor Tribute through our special Donor Tribute Web site, www.donorttribute.org. Many families find comfort in adding a few words or a special picture as a memorial to a loved one who has helped others by giving the precious gift of sight.

Providing the gift of sight in New Jersey… and beyond
The Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey was established in 1970 as the New Jersey Eye Bank, in conjunction with the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Initially funded by the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, the Eye Bank joined the Eye Institute of New Jersey in 1973. In 1975, the Institute assumed total funding of the Eye Bank, changing the name to Eye Bank Foundation of New Jersey, and adding Lions to its Board of Directors. In 1988, the name changed once again to Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey and, in 2005, the Eye Bank became a subsidiary of Midwest Eye-Banks.

Today, the Eye Bank remains a state project of the New Jersey Lions and provides nearly 500 corneas annually. It is committed to promoting eye, organ and tissue donation throughout the state, waiving the processing fee for eye tissue when appropriate, and supporting scientific research, leading to new knowledge regarding the nature of blinding eye disease and methods of treatment.

The transplantation process begins when a specially-trained Lions Eye-Bank of New Jersey technician recovers corneal tissue from an eye donor. Our technicians are certified by the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) within their first year of employment. They travel across New Jersey at any hour of the day or night when donated eye tissue becomes available. After eye tissue has been recovered, it is quickly and carefully returned to our on-site laboratory for evaluation.

Using advanced techniques and equipment, our skilled laboratory staff assesses the cornea’s viability for transplant, working to protect the health of the transplant recipient and ensure the best possible outcome. Corneas that are unsuitable for transplant can, with donor family consent, be utilized for important eye and vision research. Corneas deemed suitable are placed in the hands of ophthalmic surgeons whose patients are awaiting transplant procedures.
The Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey has virtually eliminated waiting lists for corneal transplantation. A skilled Tissue Distribution Coordinator and highly efficient surgery scheduling system enable corneal tissue recovered by the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey to be made available for patients in New Jersey and elsewhere, at a moment’s notice.

Although there is never a charge for human tissue, eye banks must charge processing fees, paid by hospitals and surgery centers. These fees are intended to offset the cost eye banks incur in recovery, evaluation and distribution of corneal tissue for transplant. When a patient is not covered by insurance and cannot afford a cornea transplant procedure, the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey can work with the transplanting surgeon to waive or reduce the processing fees.
Community Education
The Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey is committed to the cause of raising public awareness of the need for eye, organ, and tissue donation. Together with the New Jersey Sharing Network, the Eye Bank conducts community education programs and other activities to promote donation.

The Eye Bank is a member of the New Jersey Coalition on Donation, which is a collaboration of the various organizations that promote eye, organ, and tissue donation.

Your Lions Eye Bank
We are proud to be a state project of the New Jersey Lions. As such, we benefit from the support of Lions clubs throughout the state in furthering a mission that began nearly 100 years ago. As part of the Midwest Eye-Banks, we have a passion to serve, a passion to prevent blinding eye disease, and a dedication to the restoration of sight.

Help the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey offer someone a second chance for sight

Corneal transplant recipients have a wonderful story to tell. Not only have they been given a second chance for sight, but they are part of a miraculous process that began with the generosity of someone they never even met.

The cornea is the most frequently transplanted part of the human body, and more than 90 percent of corneal transplants performed in the United States are successful. Our recipients find many ways to express their gratitude for the gift they have received. If you know someone whose life has been touched by eye donation, or perhaps someone who has vision-related problems for which research may be the only hope, we hope you will also consider supporting our mission to restore sight.
Become an eye donor.
Donation is a selfless act of generosity that creates a lasting legacy. The most important step in deciding to become an eye donor is to tell your family of your decision. At the time of the donation, your family plays a critical role by providing much-needed information and allowing us to recover eye tissue.

We also encourage you to join the New Jersey Organ and Tissue Donor Registry through the New Jersey Sharing Network, www.sharenj.org or (973) 379-4535.

Become a Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey Volunteer.
Our Ambassador Program brings together eye donor families, corneal transplant recipients and others whose lives have been touched by eye, organ and tissue donation. Ambassadors support the Eye-Bank by volunteering at special events, distributing educational materials and reaching out within their own communities. They are always looking for new ways to support our mission to restore sight.

For more information, contact the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey at (800) 653-9379.

Make a charitable contribution to the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey.
Financial support is one of the most powerful ways of bringing the gift of restored sight into the community. Your contribution can help us place corneal tissue where it is needed most. It can be the foundation for new and more effective means of educating the public about the ongoing need for eye donors. It can also fund groundbreaking eye and vision research, offering new hope to those who cannot be helped by corneal transplantation.

To learn more about making a gift to the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey, or including the Eye Bank in your estate plans, please contact us at (800) 653-9379.

Your support can be a light in the darkness for those we help. www.lionseyebanknj.org
LIONS EYE BANK
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