



Donor & Family
Recognition Program

May 23, 2021

Welcome.

Our recognition program honors those who are the foundation of donation – donors and family members.

They have generously and selflessly supported the gift of sight.

We are experiencing events in our world that we have not seen in a long, long time. Because of the global pandemic, so much has been set aside—maybe for just awhile—perhaps forever.

At Lions Gift of Sight, we were not able to hold a recognition service in 2020, which made our year feel incomplete. While not yet ready to host a large in-person event, we simply could not go another year without recognizing our donors and thanking their families and friends. Our compromise is this pre-recorded, online tribute to eye and cornea donors from both 2019 and 2020.

Whether in person or online, our gratitude to our eye donors is equally great!

— Program —

Opening Remarks

Jodi Altenhofen
Community Liaison
Lions Gift of Sight

Lions Gift of Sight Welcome

Sean Poppoff
Executive Director
Lions Gift of Sight

A Surgeon Honors Donors

Joshua Hou, M.D.
Medical Director, Lions Gift of Sight
Professor, University of Minnesota
Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Neurosciences

A Scientist Honors Donors

Deb Ferrington, Ph.D.

Professor, University of Minnesota
Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Neurosciences

Paige's Story

Paige Halfmann

Corneal Transplant Recipient

Donor Photograph Presentation

Closing Remarks

Jodi Altenhofen

Lions Gift of Sight Donors

Jerry L. Akerson	Betty Barthman
LuAnn Alexander	Mike Barton
Joseph Allen	Mark R. Basco
Philip G. Allmon	Bertram Persaud Basdeo
Al Alsleben	Tammy Lynn Basswood
Aidan David Anderson	LeRoy “Pudge” Beaudoin
David “Drew” Anderson	Jileen Beckey
Patricia M. Anderson	Gary Lee Behl
Richard “Tim” Anderson	Steven Louis Bellanger
Delores R. Antila	Robert Beltrame
Molly M. Antila	James Alan Benedict
Gladys Applequist	Wes Bennerotte
Karon E. Armstrong	Diane R. Bennett
Michael A. Armstrong	Christi Lee Benson
Eugene J. Arnold	Sue Berg
Ronald “Ron” Duane Asleson	Brooks Bergersen
Ethan Nathaniel Wallace Bah	SSG Juan Berrones, Jr.
Joshua Bahr	Darla J. Berry
Ernest H. Banks	Betty F. Bethea
Terry C. Barnett	Robert Warren Bicknell
Tyler Scott Baron	Vicki D. Bielke
William Barte	Emilia “Amy” Biorn

Kathe Birch
Leiah Anne Bjerkness
Adam Ace Blaser
Catie Newman Boardman
Kathy Boman
Luther M. Bonow
Marylynne Boone
Gary Bordner
Diane H. Brazil
Maria Juliana Breads
Holly Elizabeth Breymaier
Wayne D. Briggs
Brady Arthur Broedeuhl
Shemar Jamal Brown
Todd Arthur Brown
Yvonne E. Brown
Karen Brueske
Leonard L. Brunette
Christopher Bruns
Bernardine Bryniarski
William H. Bryson Jr
Michael T. Buchanan
Glendell G. Buckner II
Bob Burdick
David W. Capps

Daniel D. Carlson
Michael Carlson
Dorothy Cary
Chester Cashman
Jessie Lynn Cervigni
George “Jo” Christiansen
Aaron Michael Christianson
Anne J. Christofferson
Abigail Marie Clark
Nancy Clark
Jason Thaddeus (JT Money -
Jay Man) Clark, Jr.
Terry Commerford
Anthony E. Corriea
Teresa JoAnn Cory
Dan Cottew
Thomas Cunningham
Joan M. Curti
Ellen Damberg
Eugene D. David
Sarah “Sally” Davis
Kathy Davison
Garry Dearborn
Lee Debele
Robert Frank Decowski

Ken Denhardt	Eileen Marie Espinosa
Bonnie L. Denn	Chad Evenson
Mikhail Dereschuk	Kathy Fandrigh
Randy L. Dibble	Duane Fast
James F. Diemert	Jim Fisher
Helen M. Dittberner	Samuel “Sam” M. Fleck
Larry S. Dobszewicz	Rachel Florin
Jessica Jo Donahue	John E. Fodstad
Patrick Driscoll	Waylon James Fontaine
Mathis Israel Dudley	Marlys K. Foss
Keith I. Duff	Jeanne M. Foudray
Carolynn Lee Swensrud Duncan	George “Bud” Fousek
Desiree Duncan	Nicole Foyt
Jeanette Eaton	Bruce L. Frankoski
Dianne Marie Ebbenga	Janet Fox Fredline
Robert G. Egnoski	Celeste Opal (Pourier) Fritsch
Vincent Ehlert-Mackie	Michael D. Gallob
James L. Eiyneck	Quentin Loren Garlets
Michael Elavsky	John William “Bill” Garrison
Shirley June Emery	Jeanne Gearhart
Dennis Engelmann	Dennis Gellert
Dorothy Englert	Marcella Gerrard
Mary Elizabeth Erickson	Genevieve Gibson
Patricia Erickson	Jen Gilbertson
	Roxanne Gillen

Donald “Butch” Gillum	Melvin W. Hintz, Jr.
Rebecca Y. Glavan	Carol Ann Hitchcock
Meredith Margaretta Bjornson	Jody Hobbs
Golde	Daniel T. Hogan
Bruce L. Gore	Ronald E. Hokom
John J. Graff	Chad Holm
Stephanie Grande	Max Holm
Brian Grundahl	Madeline Grace Hubert
Nancy Gullikson	Jess Huckaby
Harry V. Halberg	James Humphrey
Marlin Halbert	Jack Hunter
Vern E. Halvorson	Kenneth Huston
Ariyah Laurei Handley	Eva B. Ilieff
Richard E. Hane	Blake Iverson
Denyce Hansch	Bruce A. Ivey
Kenneth H. “Ken” Hanson	Ann Calla Jacobson
Michael Harber	Howard Jacobson
Vicki Harvey	Andrea Joan Jacovitch
John B. Hatcher	Julie Ann Jass
Loren Albert Hedin	Michael J. Jentz
Larry A. Heimerl	Barbara Marie Johnson
Lorraine Helgesen	Brandon M. Johnson
Joel Richard Hendren	Gregory Berthel Johnson
Randy Herrmann	Helen M. Johnson
Soontaree Hillstrom	Justin “J J” Johnson

Steven David Johnson
Timothy Karl Johnson
Todd Alan Johnson
Janelle Kay Joneson
Janet Kaase
Randy P. Kafka
Leslie P. Kautz
Peter Robert Keswick
Amara Laura Kettner
James Michael Kevins
Anne M. Kilbane
Tim King
Edward Kintop
LaVerne Kintop
Norman Kiphuth
Curtis Kivi
Helen Q. Kivnick
Thomas Kjellberg
Mary Lou Klassy
Michael G. Klimek
Judy Klos
Marilyn Klouda
Emily R. Koopman
Steven Kopperud
Liam Robert Kortemeier

Greg Koss
Todd J. Kramer
Evie Kruschke
Bill Kuelz
Brent Kuhnau
Leo Kurtz
Julie LangmaackMelin
Oscar A. Lapid
Jill Diane Larsen
Joseph E. Larsen
Katherine Larson
Richard E. Larson
Gary Edward Laven
Harold “Eugene” LeDoux
Richard Lehan
William Tell Lehnherr
Michael Lenzen
Wayne C. Leonard
Wayne LeTendre
Zona Levendoski
Thomas Leverenz
Steven M. Liebold
Thomas P. Lind
Lloyd O. Linden
Daniel J. Lingen

Mary Beth Lizotte
SFC Patrick J. Loftesnes
Ethan J. Loitz
Kevin Loken
Colleen Loney
Allan Lotsberg
Gerald Lucus
Jeffrey Luedke
Patricia Ann Lund
Judy Luppino
Kim Madigan
Tiffany R. Madison
Cato Manifold
Danna Rena Towns Taylor
Massey
Judy Mausolf
Steve McGree
Nicholas John James
McGuinness III
Lady Marilyn “Cissie” McLeod
Randy McManus
Ryan William McPherson
Mary C. Meier
Gabrielle “Gabie” Marie
Meister

Peter J. Mesher
James C. Meyer
Aidan Daniel Miller
LeRoy H. Miller
Roger Lyn Miller
Yvonne Moen
Kermit Molkenbur
Asher P. Moore
Alvin Moore, Jr.
Bruce Moravec
Lion James “Jim” Morcomb
Rodney P. Morris
Deane Anthony Morrow
Barbara J. Mortenson
Susan Emma Mountain
Charles Myllykangas
Ross Naegele
Tim Neeb
John Calvin Neimeyer, Jr.
Anthony Lee Nelson
Diane E. Nelson
Joyce Lorraine Nelson
Randall R. Nelson
Walter Clair Nelson
Paul M. Nesvig

Ronald D. Neuman
Troy Niebergall
Douglas Nielsen
Jackson David Nielson
Keith Nierenhausen
Norman Niesen
Duane Nihart
Rachel Leigh Nitschke
Sharon Nolan
Barbara Ann Norine
Leroy Joel Norlander
Katherine Bohler Norwood
Irene Novotny
Carol Ann Ogilvie
Nona Lee Okerstrom
Kevin D. Oldridge
Janet Olinger
Lion Ralph Olinger
Bonnie E. Olson
JoAnn Olson
Nathan Kelly Olson
Rafael A. Orellana
Tryston John Osburn
Edward H. Parr
Lyle Ross Passmore

Kyler Wyatt Huckabay Patillo
Michael Paulson
Ted Pederson
Larry Lee Pelton
Dennis W. Peterson
Jeffrey R. Peterson
Mark A. Peterson
Roger R. Peterson
Tonya Peterson
Danny Petrie
Jackson Pfister
Leroy Daniel “Dan” Pflaum
Sergio Phillips
Brandon Richard Pietsch
Delmer D. Pinke
Roger P. Pitts
Patty Koenig Possage
Joseph Potinsky
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James F. Preston
Margaret Probst
Michael Prokott
Devin Puhl
Larry Quale
Timothy Radil

Robert C. Raedeke Jr.
Kirk D. Ramin, MD
Clyde W. Ramsden
Dean Rebuffoni
LaVonne Rees
Kathy Reihsen
Rick Reimer
Lynn Catherine Reiter
Lawrence Rhome
Joshua Richardson
Kirk Rickert
Ernest B. “Ernie” Ridens
Roy “Bill” Roberts
Robert Rogish
Gregory A. Rohlik
Lori Roiger
Leola “Lee” Rothong
Gary Robert Royteck
Paul Rubin
Harry Rudelt
Mary Jo Rusinak
Douglas Rutledge
Orville G. Ruud
Courtney A. Sainio
Donna Kay Salo

Elizabeth R. Sammons
William “Bill” Joseph Sauter
Duane T. Sawatzky
Brandon Schaefer
Linda M. Schaper
James Schiro
James E. Schlaeppi
LaVerne Schleevogt
Robert “Uncle Bob” Schmidt
Jon P. Schneewind
Maria DiMucci Schoon
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Laurele Katherine Schuebel
Clint Schuerman
Lee Paul Schuett
Robert Schuffenhauer
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Joe Schweitzer
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Karlla Rita Senske
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Keith P. Shafer, Jr.	Richard J. Stevens
Mark W. Shankey	Darryll E. Stohl
Mark Shaw	Kurt Arthur Stotts
Claire Shinn	Katherine E. Stouvenel
Thomas Anthony Shirek	Adrienne Strand
Scott C. Sickel	Duane D. Strand
Susan Gail Sizemore	Beth Strickland
Jeanette Skoglund	Rev. Fred Stroebel
Mary Kay Sladky	David Matthew Sundquist
Donna M. Smith	Bob Sutphen
Jason Albert Smith	Bruce Oliver Sutter
Mary Smith	Brent Allyn Svor
Phyllis Snustad	Stanley Kraig Swanson
Marvin Douglas Soehren	Vera Swanson
Nancy (Massari) Sparano	Rita Swift
Mark Speltz	Tom Tannuzzo
Lion Jerry A. Spencer	David Keith Theusch
Mary Helen St. Cyr	Verna M. Thieke
Audrey Rodestrom St. Martin	Imants “Karl” Thiel
Frances Mary Standke	Ronald G. Thompson
Colleen Stauffenecker	Debra Kay Tjepkes
Joan “Joni” Stehn	Austin Sterling Tolle
Keith Stein	Elaine Tonolli
Leif Merrill Stennes	Donna Torres
Patrick Stevens	Susan Torson

Michael W. Trembath
Nancy L. Triebel
Klaus Trieselmann
James E. Tweten
Joe Vazquez
Jesus “Jesse” Vega
Gary Kim Vergin
Haans J. Vitek
Alex Vogt-Wurm
Wayne Voigtschild
Starla Von Schlabach
Daniel Wagner
David M. Walczak
Edward J. Wallum
Angela Wanta
Mary Edith Ward
Larry D. Watson
David R. Waugh
Joe Wavrunek
David Weidenfeller
Joseph A. Weidt

Laura Ann Weisert
Jim Wensauer
Leslie Wilde
Becky Williams
Dennis Williams
Arlys Zum Hofe Willis
Freddie Windsor
Zachary Wise
Orland Witte
Troy Wolfe
Irene Wolfram
Joan Woyke
Larry Dale Wraspir
Ferne E. Wulf
Tina Yobbe
Kenneth Yost
Bill Ziemer
Alice Zihlke
Russell George Zimmer
Jason Zimmerman

WHAT WE HAVE ONCE ENJOYED we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.

— *Helen Keller (1880 - 1968)*

Lions Clubs International & Eye Banks

In 1925, Helen Keller addressed the service organization Lions Clubs International, challenging Lions to become “Knights of the Blind” (see page 18). Lions responded enthusiastically and made restoring vision and assisting the visually-impaired their primary mission.

Lions Gift of Sight

In 1960, Minnesota Lions partnered with the University of Minnesota to establish the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank (now Lions Gift of Sight). This historic event marked the creation of the first human tissue donation organization and only eye bank in Minnesota.

Since founding, thanks to the generosity of donors and family members, Lions Gift of Sight has provided more than 36,000 corneas for transplant and more than 38,000 eyes or corneas for research and medical education. The eye bank also distributes donated sclera (the white of the eye) for restorative eye surgeries. Every day, we strive to restore sight through eye donation. We are dedicated to our mission, knowledgeable about our profession, and expert in the services we provide.

Lions Gift of Sight is one of the top eye banks in the world in providing eyes for research. We approach families about donation for research because we firmly believe that research is the key to eliminating worldwide blindness. Hundreds of researchers use donated eye tissue in the quest to prevent, treat, or cure eye diseases such as glaucoma, macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and retinitis pigmentosa. Donated eyes also help researchers develop new medications and surgical techniques.

Worldwide, more than 2 million people suffer from corneal blindness. In lesser-developed countries, corneal disease is second only to cataracts (a clouding of the eye’s lens) in leading to blindness. The world needs qualified eye banks dedicated to the craft.

Lions Eye Banks & the Barcelona Principles

Lions Gift of Sight was founded as an eye bank firmly rooted in the Lions' tradition of service to the community and dedication to helping the sight-impaired. As a Lions eye bank, we must follow Lions Clubs International Eye Bank Program Guidelines, adhere to the Lions Code of Ethics, and subscribe to the Barcelona Principles. What might that mean? Here are a few highlights.

- Lions eye banks encourage, promote, improve, and establish Lions eye banking internationally, so that quality eye tissue for corneal transplants, research, and other medical purposes may be provided. They publicize the role and service of eye banks.
- The Lions Code of Ethics was established from a business point of view, and Lions club members pledge to accept no profit or success at the price of their own self-respect lost because of unfair advantage taken or because of questionable acts. They give sympathy to those in distress, aid to the weak, and substance to the needy.
- The Barcelona Principles are an agreement on the use of human donated tissue for ocular transplantation, research, and future technologies. The Principles are put out by the Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations, an internationally-recognized association that supports the World Health Organization's (WHO) Initiative for Medical Products of Human Origin, and the WHO Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue and Organ Transplantation.

Kindness and Diversity

Lions Clubs International chose kindness and diversity as the theme for the 2020-2021 Lions' year. A noble choice for this 1.4 million-member service organization. The world is facing many challenges. Greater good can only be achieved when we join together as one. Love. Compassion. Inclusion. Connection. These tools will help us engineer solutions.

Eye Bank & Transplant FAQ's

What is an eye bank?

An eye bank is the link between people who donate their eyes and people who help restore sight. Eye banks obtain, medically evaluate, and distribute eyes that are donated by humanitarian-minded people for use in transplantation, research, and education.

Can the whole eye be transplanted?

No. At this time, only the cornea or sclera can be transplanted. The entire eye can be used for research and education.

What is the cornea?

The cornea is the clear tissue in the front of the eye. It is the main focusing element of the eye. Should the cornea become cloudy from disease, infection, or injury, vision would be dramatically reduced.

What is a cornea transplant?

A cornea transplant is the surgical procedure that replaces an unhealthy cornea with a healthy donor cornea. People receive transplants because of corneal blindness caused by bacterial, fungal, or viral infections or by inherited and degenerative diseases. Corneas can also be damaged by chemical burns, scratches, and other traumatic injuries. More than 90 percent of corneal transplant operations are successful, making this operation the most successful transplant procedure that exists.

How common are cornea transplants?

A cornea transplant is one of the most frequently-performed human transplants. Nationwide, nearly 50,000 corneal transplants are done each year. Corneas have been transplanted to patients ranging in age from only a few days to 103 years old.

How soon after a donation must a cornea be transplanted?

A cornea is usually transplanted within three to seven days of donation.

Become Involved - Volunteer

Volunteering at Lions Gift of Sight is a wonderful and rewarding way to share skills and expertise, meet new people, and be a part of a community committed to improving peoples' lives through eye donation.

Our volunteers are crucial to our mission, and anyone who would like to donate time and talents is welcomed—and encouraged—to apply. From office work to lab support to event assistance, we have a variety of volunteer opportunities available.

Lions Gift of Sight offers:

- Flexible scheduling
- Training for volunteer positions
- Volunteer recognition
- Complimentary parking

For more information, please contact our Community Services Liaison:

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Lions Gift of Sight
1000 Westgate Drive, Suite 260
Saint Paul, MN 55114
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LGSFamilySvcs@umn.edu

“THE BEST WAY to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

— *Mahatma Gandhi*

Helen Keller: Champion of the Blind



Born in Tuscumbia, Alabama, in 1880, Helen Keller contracted a fever at 19 months of age that left her both blind and deaf. She lived in darkness and silence until a miraculous teacher, Anne Sullivan, broke through 7-year-old Helen's isolation and taught her sign language, Braille, and speech.

All her life Helen was a tireless advocate for people with disabilities. In 1925, she attended the Lions Clubs International Convention and gave a short speech asking the 8-year-old service organization to help the blind. This speech so moved Lions club members that they have worked to assist the visually-impaired and to eradicate preventable blindness ever since.

Dear Lions and Ladies:

I suppose you have heard the legend that represents opportunity as a capricious lady, who knocks at every door but once, and if the door isn't opened quickly, she passes on, never to return. And that is as it should be. Lovely, desirable ladies won't wait. You have to go out and grab 'em.

I am your opportunity. I am knocking at your door. I want to be adopted. The legend doesn't say what you are to do when several beautiful opportunities present themselves at the same door. I guess you have to choose the one you love best. I hope you will adopt me. I am the youngest here, and what I offer you is full of splendid opportunities for service...

Try to imagine how you would feel if you were suddenly stricken blind today. Picture yourself stumbling and groping at noonday as in the night; your work, your independence, gone. In that dark world wouldn't you be glad if a friend took you by the hand and said, "Come with me and I will teach you how to do some of the things you used to do when you could see"? That is just the kind of friend the American Foundation is going to be to all the blind in this country if seeing people will give it the support it must have.

You have heard how through a little word dropped from the fingers of another, a ray of light from another soul touched the darkness of my mind and I found myself, found the world, found God. It is because my teacher learned about me and broke through the dark, silent imprisonment which held me that I am able to work for myself and for others. It is the caring we want more than money. The gift without the sympathy and interest of the giver is empty. If you care, if we can make the people of this great country care, the blind will indeed triumph over blindness.

The opportunity I bring to you, Lions, is this: To foster and sponsor the work of the American Foundation for the Blind. Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no little deaf, blind child untaught; no blind man or woman unaided? I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?

I thank you.

*Lions Clubs International Convention
Cedar Point, Ohio
June 30, 1925*

*Lions Gift of Sight thanks
Minnesota Lions club members,
Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation, and
individual donors for the financial support that made
this program possible.*



*Lions Gift of Sight
also extends special thanks to
the musicians who provided the background music for
the donor photo presentation:*

The Barnett Family and Yuri Liberzon
Madison and Kirby Karpan and Friends
Maureen Karpan and Frog Legs
Maud Hixon