

Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation



October 28, 2023

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Dear Guests,

Welcome to our annual celebration, Thanksgiving for Vision! Every one of you here today has some connection to the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation and their work to preserve, enhance, or restore sight.

Thank you to all the Lions of Multiple District 5M, for your donations of time and money. Your support of the Vision Foundation, Lions Gift of Sight, and the University of Minnesota is deeply appreciated.

Thank you to the scientists, eye bankers, doctors, and eye donor family members with us today. You contribute to the larger mission to save sight in a valuable and distinct way.

Thank you to the cornea recipients joining us. Your stories give us hope and keep us strong.

Please enjoy the day and the opportunity to celebrate our work together. Thank you again for the tremendous support.

Warmly,

Your Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation Directors

Symposium

University of Minnesota
Department of Ophthalmology
and Visual Neurosciences (OVNS)

Chair

Erik van Kuijk, M.D., Ph.D.

Moderators

Lions Jodi Altenhofen and Jennifer Marshall

Lions Gift of Sight

Automated Software for Analyzing Donor Cornea Tissue Quality Prior to Transplantation

Lion Joshua Hou, M.D.

Associate Professor, OVNS

Medical Director, Lions Gift of Sight

The Retina: A Window to Life

Lion Hossein Nazari, M.D., Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, OVNS

Towards Next Generation Medications for Retinal Vascular Diseases

Lion Harold Junge, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, OVNS

Making An Impact!

Lion Jill Anderson, M.D.

Associate Professor, OVNS

Lions Save Lives

Lion Patty Stockdale

Partner and Community Relations Manager, Lions Gift of Sight

Luncheon Program

Welcome

PDG Lion Rob Hed
Chair, Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation

Invocation

CC Lion Rob Wiener
Multiple District 5M Council Chair

❧ LUNCH ❧

Silent Auction Results

Lion Deb Bialke
Auction Chair

Kailee's Story

Kaliee Vigen
Corneal Recipient

Tales of an Eye Banker

Lion Jodi Altenhofen
*Community Liaison, Lions Gift of Sight
Donor Family Member*

Concluding Remarks

Lion Rob Hed

Musical Performance

PDG Lion Gina Detviler
"What a Wonderful World"

Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation Board of Directors

PDG Lion Rob Hed, Chair

PDG Lion Jack Krage, Vice Chair

PDG Lion James Arvidson

VDG Lion Deb Bialke

PDG Lion Patrick Findley

Lion Wendy Goldsmith, O.D.

Lion Scott Grove

Lion Jordan Haukos

Lion Jim Hoyt

PDG Lion Steve Linder

PDG Lion Nadeen Lunde

Lion Jim Molde, O.D.

PDG Lion Kristine Morin

Lion Bob Nyre, O.D.

PDG Lion Mark Osthus

Lion Patricia Purath

Lion Craig Schellberg

PDG Lion Dick Stebbins

PDG Lion Jeff Swenson

Lion Dustin Tino

Lion Hilary Wickenhauser

PDG Lion Terry Wold

Lion Mary McNellis, Treasurer

PDG Lion Nancy Mathwig, Secretary

Lion Jeff Fenske, Legal Consultant

PDG Lion Dave Moen, Fundraising Consultant

DG Lion Terry Zabel, Council of Governors Liaison

University of Minnesota
**Department of Ophthalmology and
Visual Neurosciences Faculty**

Lion Erik van Kuijk, M.D., Ph.D., Chair

Anne Abel, M.D.	Glenn Lobo, Ph.D.
Lorick Andersen, M.D.	Lion Collin McClelland, M.D.
Lion Jill Anderson, M.D.	Lion Linda McLoon, Ph.D.
Lion Raymond Areaux, Jr., M.D.	Lion Amy Maltry, M.D.
Karen Armbrust, M.D., Ph.D.	Lion Ali Mokhtarzadeh, M.D.
Sarah Baer, O.D.	Lion Sandra Montezuma, M.D.
Lion Jess Boysen, M.D.	Lion Hossein Nazari, M.D., Ph.D.
Wassen Chanbour, M.D.	Lion Joshua Olson, M.D.
Lion Susan Culican, M.D., Ph.D.	Armand Radke, O.D.
Kevin Engel, M.D., Ph.D.	Vania Rashidi, M.D.
Deborah Ferrington, Ph.D. (Emerita)	Lion Andrew Ritter, O.D.
Peggy Gramates, M.D.	Christina Ryu, M.D.
Ethan Greenberg, M.D.	Ryan Scheurer, M.D.
Lion Dale Gregerson, Ph.D. (Emeritus)	Huda Sheheitli, M.D.
Lion Andrew Harrison, M.D.	Seth Silbert, M.D., Ph.D.
Lion Joshua Hou, M.D.	C. Gail Sommers, M.D. (Emerita)
Michael Jordan, M.D.	Meredith Stallone, O.D.
Lion Harald Junge, Ph.D.	Lion Sasha Strul, M.D.
Lion Stephen Kaufman, M.D., Ph.D.	Roger Thomas, M.D.
Lion Dara Koozekanani, M.D., Ph.D.	Lion Denh Tuyen, O.D.
Erik Kulenkamp, M.D.	Lion Martha Wright, M.D.
Lion Christian Larson, O.D.	Lion Justin Yamanuhah, M.D.
Lion Michael Lee, M.D.	Lion Cheryl Zabrowski, O.D.

Lions Gift of Sight Staff

Lion Sean Poppoff, Executive Director

Lion Joshua Hou, M.D., Medical Director

Duluth-Based Staff

Tina Olson

Lion Steven Veit

Taylor Savoie

Kayla Voelker

Mary Swelstad

Jennifer Ziells

Nick VanRaden

North Dakota-Based Staff

Casey Fuegmann

Tracee Sanger

Aleida Garza

Rochester-Based Staff

Samantha Erickson

Lion Nancy McGee

Jason Hall

Macy Trousil

Rachel Kingery

Saint Paul-Based Staff

Lion Jodi Altenhofen

Lion Wallis Brooks

Sophie Anderson

Lion Natalie Buckman

Lion Lynn Balfour

Jeff Bymark

Amanda Beaner

Amanda Capasso

Rick Beckel

John Chavez

Lion Patrick Becker

Brooke Chou

Lion Peter Bedard

Khadijah Diop

Lion Mandy Duong	Kari Obbink
Lion Angie Edwards	Isa Ojales
Lion Grecia Glass	Kendra Philippy
Nicholas Granata	Lion Brian Philippy
Anna Hanson	Christina Rice
Jade Johnson	Jolie Schmidt
Laura Kalk	Felicia Schneider
Jen Kastner	Anthony Seguin
Debbie Keosongseng	Brad Seguin, Ph.D.
Grace Krueger	Stephanie Simpson
Chris LaGassie	Lion Patty Stockdale
Lion Sung Lee	Laura Synowczynski
Aileen Li, Ph.D.	Patchrick Szathmary
Sarah Luger	Hannah Theuson
Fangze Ma	Jeff Uhlarik
PDG Lion Jennifer Marshall	Nicholas Van Raden
Nawal Maxamed	Alicia Vialpando
Lion Katie Norton	Robert Wolfe
Kyle Miller	Lion Minhua Wu
Lauren Nahurski	Lion Panhia Yang
Angela Norton	Lion Ching Yuan, Ph.D.
Lion Katie Norton	

*Congratulations to July 2022 - June 2023
Helen Keller Award Recipients*



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.

During her lifetime, she received many honors in recognition of her accomplishments, including the Theodore Roosevelt Distinguished Service Medal in 1936, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1964, and election to the Women's Hall of Fame in 1965. In addition to the degree she earned from Radcliffe College, Helen also received honorary doctoral degrees from Temple University and Harvard University in the United States and from the universities of Glasgow (Scotland), Berlin (Germany), Delhi (India), and Witwatersrand (South Africa). Additionally, she was named an Honorary Fellow of the Educational Institute of Scotland.

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 young service organization to become "Knights of the Blind" in the crusade against darkness. This speech so moved Lions club members that they have worked to assist the visually-impaired and to eradicate preventable blindness ever since. As a tribute to this inspirational woman, the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation created the Helen Keller Award to honor exceptional individuals, groups, organizations, or businesses.

Dan Ahlstrom

Liz Anderson

Bruce Albrecht

Mark Arndorfer

Peter Albrecht

El J. Arntson

Linda Albrecht-Norby

William J. Babatz, Jr.

Lion Joel Anderson

Kim Bach

Jim Banister	Tim Conaway
Joan Bauernschmitt	Jim Culhane
Garrett Beck	Dr. Kayleen Dempsey
Sandy Becker	Pat Donlin
Bryce Becstrand	Kathy Dox
Char Beerling	Dan Dreyer
Suzie Bjork	Ralph Egbert
Bill Blashack	Mark B. Elson
Gary Blezek	Mike Eveslage
Joseph Borland	Peter Farstad
John Keith Both	Jay Femrite
Monica Buboltz	Rod Fenstra
Michael Burns	Lion Tiffany Fick
Lion Gail Burvee	Lion Duane R. Fischer
Jim Cain	Jason Flakne
Nell Campbell	Julie Foster
Jan Cariveau	Rollie Frank
John Carlson	Andrew Fuenffinger
John & Jo Carlson	Leo Gaffey
Lion Valerie Carlson	Lion Valerie Goering
Mark L. Carlson	Jacalyn Grothe
Tim Carlson	Kevin Guck
Wayne & Linda Carlson	Jeffrey Hagen
Sue Cavalier	Dan Halsey
Dottie Chamberlain	Sue Halsey
Mark Chapple	Robert Hannahs
Mark Christensen	Terry Hansen
Richard Christensen	Eileen Hanson

Dale Harbitz
Archie Haus
Rob Hed
Rhonna Hed
Lion Mark Held
Grant Hendrickson
Denise Hess
Lynn Hjelmeland
Alan Holm
Mike Holmin
Lion Sue Hovland
Jan Hron
Lion Daniel Inderlee
Paul Jacobus
Amanda Jaeger
Carrie Jaenicke
Bruce Jahnke
Bob Jechorek
Kyle Jensen
Chris Jerome
Myrna Jirik
Judith A. Johnson
Noah Johnson
Jim Jones
Danielle Jorgensen
Mary Junnila
Lion Donna Keacher
Paul Kellerman

Zelda Kieser
Mike Kinnan
Lion Shannon Klick
Debra Koepl
Lion Duane Kriese
Brian Kuhnley
Carla A. Lagerstedt
Janice Lanyk
Bob Larson
Leader Lions
Phillip C. Lee
Legacy Storage
Lion Theresa Leggate
Don G. Lindeman
Kevan Lindley
John Link
Connie Loecken
Lou Longhenry
David Ludescher
Angie Lueschen
Harlan Mackenthun
Duane Madson
Rodney Madson
Keith Magnuson
Sam Maguire
Lion Tom Marcotte
Duane Martenson
Mike Mazzara

James Mead
Rosie Meyer
Mary Lou Milender
Mike Miller
Gaylon E. Moody
Ray Moonen
Randy R. Moore
Bonnie Mork
Don Mork
Lynn M. Neely
Lion Stefanie Nelson
Ron Nelson
Scott Nelson
Tony Nelson
Lee Newman
Mike Norgaard
Robert Northouse
Roxanne O'Connor
Carroll Oraskovich
Ray Ozmun
Vickie Parks
Ron Paulsen
Chelsea Pepek
Candy Petersen
John Peterson
Lion John Piper
Joel Polzin
Dr. Kurt Potach

Dana Potter
Gary Purath
Jason Rademacher
Chris Ramler
Burton Ramthun
Rob Rand
Lynn Rasmussen
Lion Martha Reger
Dawn Reich
Sheila Reich
Carl Reinighaus
Relf EyeCare Specialists
Roberto Reyes
Bill Rinken
Linda Rogers
Scott Rolfe
Joseph Rosenberger
Jim Rouillard
Saint Luke's Eye Care
Aaron Sand
Lion Bill Schafer
Lion Pat Schafer
Lion Brandon Schaner
Karleen Schmiedt
Sherri Schmitz
Claudia Schmoyer
Melissa Schneider
Tom Schnettler

Kim Schommer
Lion Darla Schroeder
Janet Schustak
Charles Schwartz
Brian Sheehan
Lori Sheehan
Lion Robert Sherman
Doug Sjogren
Jen Smith
James Stehr
Benjamin Stern
William Straka
Lion Michael Tangeman
Lion Bruce Theis
Jean Thiel
David Thoen
Ross Thorfinnson
Bill Thurston
Shari Thurston
Brian Torborg
Steve J. Tou
Lion Louis Trudeau
Christy Trutnau
Virginia van Kuijk Brooke

Roger A. Vanderlinde
Curt VanOort
Robert Vokes
Kay J. Wacker
Diann Warta
Gary Watkins
Kevin Watson
Evy Wedde
Weiss Eye Center
Lion Paula Wells
John Welu
Lion Carol Whalen
Lion Mark Whalen
Bonnie Wigfield
Dyan Wiseheart
Curtis Wolter
Christy Ramler, XT Creative
Joe Zignego
Terry Zimmerman
Leo Zuroski

*Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much.*

Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation

The Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation works to help the visually-impaired through its many partnerships with the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Neurosciences.

Lions Gift of Sight

Back in 1960, two organizations – the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Lions – combined their resources and energy to create a state eye bank: the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank. This organization is now Lions Gift of Sight, one of the most respected and innovative eye banks in the world.

Lions Children’s Eye Clinic

More than 9,000 children are treated every year at the Lions Children’s Eye Clinic. Lions’ donations help equip the clinic and support studies in gliomas (eye tumors that affect children under the age of 10) and retinoblastoma (eye cancer, typically striking children 3 and under).

Lions Macular Degeneration Center

The Macular Degeneration Center studies and treats macular degeneration, the leading cause of blindness in the United States. “MAC” doctors provide the best possible clinical care for individuals with macular degeneration or other retinal diseases and educate tomorrow’s healthcare providers.

Lions-Funded Research: Tomorrow’s Hope

New medications, improved surgical techniques, better treatments for vision problems, understanding and curing eye diseases—all of these advances rely on research. In 1993, the Lions helped build the Lions Research Building, and they continue to support ophthalmology research, knowing that research is the key to ending blindness.

Minnesota Lions Surgery Center

With the aging of our population, demand for the medical and surgical expertise of ophthalmologists is steadily increasing. The Minnesota Lions Surgery Center provides doctors with the best tools and facilities to give patients the best eye care possible.

Lions Gift of Sight

Lions Gift of Sight has been helping physicians and scientists restore sight for more than 60 years!

Lions Gift of Sight (LGS) helps restore sight by providing corneas for transplant and eye tissue for research and medical education. The eye bank's work affects tens of thousands of people every year, and staff members work around the clock to facilitate eye donation.

An eye bank is the link between those who donate their eyes or corneas after death and those who restore sight. Since its founding, LGS has distributed more than 39,000 corneas for transplant!

Equally important is the research LGS conducts or supports. LGS innovation has produced the corneal storage solution that revolutionized eye banking. LGS technicians have perfected eye tissue preparation techniques that result in more successful corneal transplants. LGS research has advanced the treatments available to patients suffering from macular degeneration and other eye diseases.

Eye donation can produce miracles, and it all begins with you. When you mark "donor" on your license, complete a healthcare directive, or tell your family and friends you would like to be an eye donor after death, you are the first step in the journey to sight restoration. Thank you for all that you do!

More information: LGS-Contact@umn.edu



Lions Save Lives

Right now, more than 100,000 people in the United States are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. Lions club members can make a difference by registering as organ, eye and tissue donors through the Lions Save Lives campaign, brought to you by Lions Gift of Sight and Donate Life Minnesota. Show your pride and register today! Visit: RegisterMe.org/Lions.

Did You Know?

- YOU could save and heal more than 75 people through eye, organ, and tissue donation.
- There's no age limit to register.
- Past or current health issues? They won't necessarily prevent donation.
- All major religions support donation.



*Where there's a need,
there's a Lion!*



More information: pmstock@umn.edu

What A Wonderful World

I see trees of green, red roses too
I see them bloom, for me and you
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world

I see skies of blue, and clouds of white
The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world

The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces, of people going by
I see friends shaking hands, saying “how do you do?”
They’re really saying “I love you”

I hear babies crying, I watch them grow
They’ll learn much more, than I’ll ever know
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world

Yes I think to myself, what a wonderful world

Music and Lyrics by George David Weiss and Bob Thiele

“What A Wonderful World” has long been the signature closing of the Thanksgiving for Vision celebration. Please join us in singing this lovely song of gratitude.

Thank you for coming!

