Panhia's Eye for Design

Our Research Tissue Coordinator Panhia isn't just an expert in tissue research, she's also the creator behind some of LGS's artwork. She designed our lens cloths, dish towels, conference banners, staff ID badge covers and more. Get to know her in her own words.

What's your role at LGS? I work directly with our research clients to understand their studies and what needs they have. From there, I can facilitate tissue placement as they become available.

What was the inspiration behind the lens cloth design? My general silliness, a sprinkle of whimsical derp and dad jokes.

How long have you been making art, and how'd you get into it? For as long as I can remember. I draw because it makes me happy. At a dying retail store, my manager humored my request to draw on some of the labels during working hours. When he saw some of my drawings, he was absolutely thrilled.

What's your design process like? Running with no direction, just inspiration. I can confidently say I have more drafts than finished pieces and that's okay! Being creative is finding value in the incomplete and repurposing them. Some of my best works sat as drafts until I felt ready to give them life.

What else do you like to do, outside of work? Cuddling with my dog, Poof! She drops by the office every now and then.

Lions International Youth Tour

On July 30, LGS hostedthe annual Lions International Youth Tour. We welcomed teens from 19 countries across four continents, including Algeria, Japan, Brazil, Finland and the UK, to learn about eye banking.

The visit began with an Eye Banking 101 presentation and a live corneal recovery demonstration, giving students a firsthand look at the process. From there, groups rotated through our lab to explore evaluation, processing and research.

It's always a highlight to share our work with young Lions from around the globe and a great way to keep the generations excited about donation!

Minneapolis Ambassadors Lions Meeting

In late July, we hosted the Minneapolis Ambassadors Lions club for their annual meeting. They inducted seven new members, installed the officers for the upcoming year and recognized Dr. Areaux, Jr., UMN Associate Professor & Director, Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus, with a Helen Keller Award for his outstanding work restoring sight!

The club includes nearly 100 University of Minnesota staff and community members serving through activities that include vision screening, gardening cleanup, blood and clothing drives, a bake sale and more.

To learn more or join the club, check out our website!

MLVF Board Meeting

This summer, Lions Gift of Sight hosted the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation Board of Directors for their orientation and training. Seven new directors joined the board: Diann Bellmont, Jim Boroughs, Riley Carlson, John Mortenson, Twyla Race, Christy Trutnau and Zach Wosmek. It was a wonderful opportunity to introduce these new directors to our mission and the incredible impact eye donation has on restoring sight.

Board directors are vital ambassadors, bridging the gap between Lions clubs and the community to spread awareness about donation. We are grateful for their dedicated service and look forward to our continued partnership as we work together to serve donor families and recipients throughout the region!

Upcoming Events

Minnesota State Fair

Visit our Lions Gift of Sight booth on Tuesday, Sept. 1, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m at the UMN's Crossroads building (on the corner of Underwood & Dan Patch Ave).

Golf Tournament for Good

LifeSource will host its 31st Annual Golf Classic tournament on Sept. 21, 2026, at Majestic Oaks in Hamm Lake. Registration for individual golfers and foursomes is now open. Funds raised will support its mission partnering with communities, families and healthcare professionals to save and heal lives through organ, eye and tissue donation.

Honoring Sight

On Sunday, October 18, Lions Gift of Sight will be hosting our annual Honoring Sight event. We will gather at the University of St. Thomas's Anderson Student Center to celebrate corneal donors and recipients from the first half of 2026.