

LIONS EYE BANKS – FROM SAVING SIGHT TO SERVING THE BLIND

Lions Clubs International Convention

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LIONS EYE BANKS

MISSION:

- Honor donors and their gifts of sight by advancing corneal transplantation, research, medical education and innovation in ocular medicine

VISION:

- Serve as agents of global sight restoration initiatives so that preventable blindness can be eliminated

A VIEW OF THE EYE-BANK INDUSTRY

The Past:

- Successful eye banks in each state, multiple eye banks in some states
- Long lists of people waiting for cornea transplants and not enough tissue

Approximately 40 accredited LIONS eye banks in US,
about 60 LIONS eye banks worldwide

The Present:

- Increasing FDA regulation, escalating costs and competition for tissue placement
- Eye tissue for Research is needed but American eye banks can't afford to supply it
- Advancements in transplant technique & equipment is straining eye bank budgets
- LIONS eye banks compete in a Global Marketplace

LIONS VisionGift has trained surgeons from Korea, Hong Kong, Chile, Brazil, South Africa & San Salvador

The Future:

- LIONS Eye Banks can balance their Mission to Restore Sight with their resources by honoring the Past, embracing the Present and planning for the Future

“Together we can do so much”
Helen Keller

HOW CAN LIONS HELP THEIR EYE BANKS ON A LOCAL LEVEL?

- Join the Board of Directors
 - Set organizational culture
 - Partner with Staff to develop operational goals and strategies that fit the Mission and Vision
 - Provide financial oversight and risk management
 - Help with Friend-raising and Fundraising
 - Become an Eye Tissue Courier

Hold a “Coffee Talk” for donor families and cornea recipients

HOW CAN LIONS HELP THEIR EYE BANKS ON A STATE LEVEL?


- Become Ambassadors
 - Get the word out about LIONS eye banks in particular and about eye donation in general
 - Expand the eye bank's base of influence in the community and the legislature
 - Report on the organization's successes
 - Make a personal contribution of funds, time and resources

MARCH is National Eye Donor Awareness Month

BASK IN THE COLLABORATION

- LIONS Eye Banks have led the field of corneal transplantation through research and extensive new tissue processing techniques
- LIONS, in partner with their Eye Banks, have given the gift of sight not just to patients in the U.S., but to the hundreds of thousands that have benefited from their work around the world.

Share the Story!



“We exist temporarily through what we take, but we live forever through what we give.”

Vernon Jordan
Civil Rights Leader