

The Florida Lions Eye Bank was established in 1962 as a nonprofit organization to provide donor eye tissue to ophthalmologists for corneal transplantation. Since then, more than 36,000 people have received this precious *Gift of Sight*. The Eye Bank also maintains a highly regarded pathology laboratory for studying eye disease and provides resources and tissue for teaching and research. The Eye Bank is located in the University of Miami School of Medicine's Department of Ophthalmology at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. It is part of The University's Transplant Team, which is capable of retrieving all organs and tissues including heart, lung, liver, kidney, pancreas, bone and skin, along with corneas.

Increasingly, the Eye Bank is providing more than just corneas to eye patients. Ophthalmic surgeons are also using donor scleral tissue, the white portion of the eye. Since the Eye Bank's founding, it has also

Providing more **THAN JUST CORNEAS**

operated a pathology lab that has benefitted many patients. More than 56,000 specimen examinations have been provided to surgeons at no charge. By examining eye tissue, the pathology lab investigates tumors, trauma, inflammatory and degenerative conditions, making valuable contributions for the treatment and eventual cure of blinding eye diseases.

For many individuals, the only hope of restored vision is a corneal transplant. The cornea is the thin transparent surface which covers the front of the eye like a window. A transplant becomes necessary when the cornea becomes cloudy or

How the gift of sight **IS MADE POSSIBLE**

damaged due to disease, injury, accident or hereditary conditions. In these situations, the cornea must be removed and replaced with healthy donor eye tissue. The procedure is successful in 90 percent of cases - restoring sight and, in some cases, even providing sight for the first time. Corneal transplant surgery is the most frequently performed human transplant procedure.

Obtaining donations of eye tissue is given top priority at the Florida Lions Eye Bank. Since 1962, more than 36,000 people have donated their eyes so another

Be a donor **AND RESTORE SIGHT**

could see. In every possible case, the donor eye is used to restore sight. Everyone who signs a donor card has the potential to benefit 18 patients. You can help those in desperate need of sight-restoring surgery by signing a donor card today. *Won't you join our miracle-making team?*

u Everyone can be an eye donor. You need not have good vision. It doesn't matter if you are elderly, wear glasses or have other eye disorders. Eye tissue is never wasted. Increasingly other parts of the eye, such as the sclera, are being used in surgical procedures. Other tissue is used for research and education.

Bringing eye donation **FACTS INTO FOCUS**

- u Eye tissue is removed shortly after death. The procedure does not delay funeral arrangements and open-casket ceremonies can still be held.
- u The gift of sight is made anonymously. Confidentiality is always protected.
- u All major religions approve of eye donation and transplantation
- u Eye donation helps the donor family as well as the recipient. A grieving family is comforted knowing this gift has been made as a living testament to the donor's memory.

Join our team **OF MIRACLE MAKERS**

The Eye Bank is staffed by technical, administrative and support personnel. Volunteers include a Board of Directors representing more than 120 South Florida Lions Clubs. An ophthalmologist serves as volunteer Medical Director. Hospitals, nursing staffs, airline employees, law enforcement agencies and funeral directors are all members of an extraordinary voluntary network making the gift of sight possible.



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You are never too young or old to be a donor. Visual acuity is not important when it comes to eye donation. Even eyes with more severe problems, such as retinitis pigmentosa, are extremely valuable for research. When renewing your Florida driver's license, please check the option for being an eye and organ donor and inform your family of your decision. Your financial help will also be of great help in our mission to save and restore sight.

And yet it can provide the priceless gift of sight for a lifetime.

SIGN A DONOR CARD TODAY

IT'S SO EASY... IT COSTS NOTHING ...

What do these people share?



The Gift of Sight

from the **FLORIDA LIONS EYE BANK**