

NEWSIGHT

Giving the gift of sight since 1962



FLORIDA LIONS EYE BANK

Miller School of Medicine
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute
P.O. Box 016880 Miami, Florida 33101
800-329-7000 Ext. 6359 • www.fleb.org

FALL 2005

Join Us For Centennial Celebration of the First Corneal Transplant

Join us for a special celebration on Wednesday, December 7, 2005 to mark the 100th anniversary of the world's first human transplant of any kind – a successful corneal transplant. On December 7, 1905 Dr. Eduard Zirm, a physician in what is now the Czech Republic, transplanted a donor cornea into a man who had been blinded by a chemical burn. The recipient retained his eyesight for the rest of his life. Soon doctors all over the world were replicating Zirm's procedure and corneal transplants became a common sight-saving operation.



The Florida Lions Eye Bank will honor this event with a celebration at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, 900 NW 17th Street in Miami. The evening will begin at 7 p.m. with a brief program in the Retter Auditorium followed by a cocktail party. We will be celebrating this event with corneal transplant recipients, corneal surgeons and supporters of the eye bank.

All are welcome to attend. For information or to RSVP please call 305-324-4340.

Elizabeth Fout-Caraza Named Eye Bank Executive Director

Elizabeth Fout-Caraza has been named Executive Director of the Florida Lions Eye Bank. She is only the third director of the eye bank since 1962. Upon graduating from the University of Florida in 1998, Elizabeth joined the eye bank as a full-time cornea technician and traveled to the Broward County Medical Examiner daily.

After briefly leaving the eye bank, she returned in 2000 as Quality Assurance Director. During the next five years, Elizabeth maintained the policies and procedures

of the eye bank, handled numerous state and federal inspections and emerged as a team leader. She also earned a Masters in Health Service Administration from Florida International University.

Elizabeth and her husband, Carlos Caraza, have two young children, Carly Beth and Christie Victoria.



Elizabeth Fout-Caraza

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Florida Lions Eye Bank President Receives Cornea for Eye Surgery

At the 1925 Lions Club International Convention Helen Keller asked members to be *Knights of the Blind* in a crusade against darkness. In keeping with that calling, Florida Lions Eye Bank President Mike San Miguel, a member of the Lauderdale by the Sea Lions Club for 22 years, has been active with the eye bank for 13 years. He served as treasurer for seven consecutive terms before being installed as president in June.



Mike San Miguel

Little did he know that one day he would benefit from the efforts of the eye bank. On October 12 Mike had unexpected glaucoma surgery with the eye bank providing a cornea preserved in glycerin to cover the very tiny valve inserted in his eye to reduce eye pressure and prevent glaucoma from becoming a blinding process.

"It is very ironic that I eventually would benefit from a cornea we helped to secure after educating the public about the necessity of becoming an eye donor. I always felt I was 10,000 miles away from ever needing the help of the Eye Bank!" said Mike.

Another irony of this successful surgical procedure is that Dr. Jean-Marie Parel, who heads the Bascom Palmer Biophysics Center, recently gave an informative talk about glaucoma surgery featuring details concerning the procedure that Mike would undergo. Ophthalmic surgeon Dr. Paul Palmberg performed the surgery at Bascom Palmer.

Mike is very appreciative that his sight is being restored. He has already returned to

his job as an accountant. "I am so grateful both to the eye bank for their help and the fact that glaucoma surgery is so perfected in today's medical era. This is very evident in our family because my grandfather became blind due to glaucoma."

Since his surgery, Mike has never missed an event for the eye bank and will continue to be even more dedicated to helping others regain their sight.

LETTERS

Patient Gives Thanks for His Well-Traveled Cornea

The following was excerpted from a letter to Dr. Guy O'Grady, Chief of the Eye Clinic at Miami's Veteran's Administration Hospital and on staff at Bascom Palmer.

Dear Dr. O'Grady:

The time has come for me to express my gratitude to you and the Florida Lions Eye Bank for the cornea you so graciously gave me many years ago. Let me tell you of the many things this rebuilt eye has accomplished. As a salesman for Westinghouse, the eye helped me sell steel to build a nuclear power plant in Tampa and helped modify the construction of the Chrysler Division of Rocketry in Huntsville, Alabama.

Later, the eye, always looking for new challenges, led the way in a new experimental drip irrigation system at several universities. This agricultural endeavor provided employment for more than 100 families. I am deeply grateful for the use of this eye for so many years.

John G. Hoover,
Delray Beach, FL

Eye Bank's Karen Orr Assists Katrina Victims

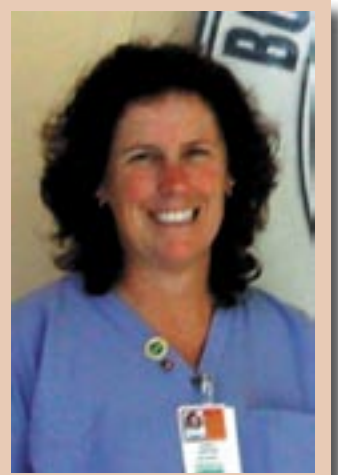
Karen Orr, a registered nurse and the Palm Beach/ St. Lucie County Coordinator for the eye bank, decided to do her part in assisting the victims of Hurricane Katrina by volunteering with the American Red Cross to treat victims and evacuees. She was eager to help since the Red Cross gave her much needed help last year after two hurricanes hit her town. The Eye Bank fully supported and sponsored her decision to help the victims.

Karen was sent to Tampa where thousands of evacuees were housed, many who were injured people from the SuperDome. She assisted victims by obtaining medications, replacing eye-glasses and replacing other medical equipment. She also helped with the discharge planning for hospitalized patients.

Many elderly patients needed placement in Assisted Living Facilities as their homes had been destroyed. The Red Cross serves as

a liaison between many of the community agencies and volunteers helped people find the appropriate care.

"The evacuees had so many needs," said Karen. "It seemed overwhelming. We tried to meet their immediate needs of food, clothing and shelter. My responsibility as a nurse was to assist them in getting medical treatment." She added that the city of Tampa provided free health clinics, emergency dental care and a Lens Crafters location donated eye exams and glasses. "It was a learning experience," said Karen. "I hope that I was able to make some kind of difference in people's lives. I would definitely do it again."



Karen Orr, RN

Florida Lions Eye Bank Hosts Medical Examiner's Luncheon

A special bond exists between the Florida Lions Eye Bank and the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiners office. Both organizations help each other to succeed in their individual tasks, while their combined efforts benefit hundreds in our community each year.

Thanks to the efforts of the medical examiner's staff, the eye bank can pursue its mission of helping patients receive the gift of sight with eyes provided for sight-saving ocular surgery. The eye bank serves all the Florida Medical Examiners by assisting in the investigation of suspected child abuse cases.

To thank the Miami-Dade Medical Examiners for their much needed assistance, eye bank hosts an annual Appreciation Luncheon. Eye Bank Medical Director Dr. Sander Dubovy and Executive Director Elizabeth

Fout-Caraza welcomed the medical examiners staff including Dr. Bruce Hyma, Department Director and Chief of the District 11 Medical Examiners office. It was announced that 88 percent of the corneas used for surgery were provided by South Florida medical examiners with 311 corneas directly from Miami-Dade County Medical Examiners.



Dr. Bruce Hyma, Elizabeth Fout-Caraza and Dr. Sander Dubovy.

HEROES Program Aims to Increase Eye Donation

Because of the past dedication of countless funeral directors and hospice representatives in our service area, the Florida Lions Eye Bank has been able to provide eye tissue for research, wet labs and other medical/educational purposes for many years. To date, there have been over 27,000 eyes donated to the Florida Lions Eye Bank that have been used to advance the field of ophthalmology.

In April, 2005, however, changes in the donor referral line/answering service led to a diminished capacity for eye banks to recover this type of eye tissue. In anticipation and response to this, HEROES was developed.

As we know, an increasing number of individuals have made donation decisions and indicated their wishes on their drivers' license, on a donor card or in discussion with their family. HEROES (Helping Enable the Restoration of Eye Sight), is a new program of the eye bank that encourages funeral directors and hospice representatives to ask individuals and families to consider eye donation.

When a loved one is admitted to a hospice program, the family and the patient often feel anxious and out of control. Opening dialogue about donation both with the patient and family is welcomed by most and can be empowering. Grieving family members are comforted and feel solace because of donation. Hospice staff find value and meaning in facilitating the process of donation. Likewise, funeral directors have opportunities to discuss donation with individuals. This can be done during either the pre-need or at-need arrangements.

So much good can come to so many. Researchers look to the Florida Lions Eye Bank to support their projects by providing eye tissue. Death is inevitable; HEROES make it a miracle for others.

Giving Thanks at Year's End

Fall is traditionally a time to reflect on our many blessings and to make plans for the future. For many, these plans include sharing with others through charitable gifts. A gift to the Florida Lions Eye Bank supports not only our mission to Give the Gift of Sight, but also reinforces your commitment to make a difference in your community. Many types of gifts allow you to fulfill your charitable intentions and may result in some significant tax benefits.

Cash is still the most popular way to make a charitable gift. With a cash gift to Florida Lions Eye Bank before December 31, 2005, it is possible to eliminate income tax of up to 50 percent of your taxable income.

Gifts of appreciated securities or stock is also an excellent way of giving. If you have owned stock for more than one year, donating it to Florida Lions Eye Bank offers you a two-fold tax savings. First, you avoid any capital gains tax on the increase in value of your stock. Second, you receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock on the date of the gift, up to 30% of your adjusted gross income, with an additional five-year carry forward.

The Florida Lions Eye Bank can give you additional information on gifts you may be considering. Please call 305-326-6359 or 1-800-329-7000, ext. 6359.



Donations

Received from July 1 -November 7, 2005

The Florida Lions Eye Bank is grateful for the generous and local support of our many contributors. We appreciate the confidence they have shown in our missions to supply corneas and scleras for sight-saving surgery.

► \$1,001 to \$10,000

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Eye Bank Gives Fond Farewell to Mary Anne Taylor

Just two days after Hurricane Katrina hit Miami, a huge crowd attended the retirement luncheon at Wyndham Grand Bay Hotel for outgoing Florida Lions Eye Bank Executive Director Mary Anne Taylor. Mary Anne was recently married to John Rollins and they are moving to his home in Tennessee.

Her accomplishments during her 21 years with the eye bank were most impressive. When she became executive director in 1984 there were six employees and when she retired there were 15 full-time and three part-time employees. Elizabeth Fout-Caraza prepared and presented a touching video about Mary Anne's days at the eye bank. The first executive director, Pearl Goldberg, attended the event as did the founder of the Florida Lions Eye Bank, Dr. Victor Curtin. Dr. Curtin was one of the guest speakers introduced by the current medical director, Dr. Sander Dubovy.

Others who attended were Dr. Joe Davis, former Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner; Norman Kassoff, who was also with the ME office; current Eye Bank President Mike San Miguel along with many past presidents and all the staff members.



(L-R) Dr. Sander Dubovy, new Executive Director Elizabeth Fout-Caraza, Mary Anne Taylor-Rollins, former Exec. Director Pearl Goldberg and eye bank founder Dr. Victor Curtin.



Mary Anne Taylor-Rollins (2nd from right, seated) with the eye bank staff at her retirement luncheon.