

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

WINTER • 2005

SCLERA TISSUE IS USED IN SURGERY

Eye Bank Offers Glaucoma Patients Hope

Tissue supplied by the Florida Lions Eye Bank is helping glaucoma patients who undergo surgery to treat their sight-threatening condition. Ophthalmic surgeons use small pieces of sclera as part of a laser treatment procedure to relieve intraocular pressure.

Some glaucoma operations require the implantation of a plastic drain to allow fluid to leave the eye. The drains are covered with small pieces of scleral tissue supplied by the eye bank so that the eye is better able to tolerate the drainage device.

Glaucoma is a leading cause of blindness, especially for older people. This is a group of eye diseases in which damage to the optic nerve can result in loss of eyesight. Unfortunately, most forms of glaucoma do not produce symptoms until vision is already severely damaged yet if diagnosed early the disease can be controlled and permanent vision loss can be prevented. Having a regular eye examination by your ophthalmologist is the best way to detect glaucoma.

Risk factors for glaucoma include fam-

ily history, the age of 60 and over, abnormally high intraocular pressure, African descent of those who are 40 and over, past eye injuries and diabetes.



Once detected, there are several therapies available for glaucoma. Treatment is aimed at decreasing intraocular pressure and preventing damage to the optic nerve. Different types of glaucoma require different therapies to prevent further damage. These are:

Eye drops or a combination of eye drops and pills to reduce intraocular pressure by reducing the rate at which fluid is produced or to assist the outflow of fluid from the eye. In some cases, early surgery in open-angle glaucoma may be more effec-

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Eye Bank Annual Dinner Date Announced

Mark your calendars for June 4, 2005 - the date of the Florida Lions Eye Bank's 43rd Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers. Join us at the Sheraton Fort Lauderdale Airport



Hotel for an evening of great dining, music and camaraderie.

We are always honored to have corneal and sclera recipients as guests at this annual event. Your attendance offers the opportunity for Lions Club and FLEB members to meet and talk to those of you whose lives have been dramatically improved because of the Eye Bank. Your attendance helps encourage everyone to continue their efforts in providing this service to others in need. Please contact the Eye Bank at 800-329-7000, ext.6359.

Testimonial Shows The Importance of Being an Eye Donor

It took a near tragedy to convince this Virginia woman to sign a donor card. What will it take to convince you?

Several years ago I was standing in line for a new driver's license when I was given a donor card to fill out. In my ignorance or arrogance, I did not sign up to be an eye donor. Two years later while sitting in a hospital waiting room, I would have given both eyes and anything else to my daughter to give her the chance to keep her one eye during surgery. All I could think about was the donor tissue and the family of the donor, how out of their tragedy my daughter was receiving such a gift. I wondered if my daughter would ever appreciate the magnitude of the gift she was receiving.

I got out my donor card and just stared at it. Then I took a pen and scratched out that I didn't want to be an eye donor and marked "anything you need." It has dawned on me since that the ultimate gift one can give is something we can only give after our deaths. If you're not a donor now, please consider it. I remember thinking it will

FLORIDA LIONS EYE BANK STATUS REPORT

	7/1/04 thru 12/31/04	GRAND TOTAL
Eyes/Corneas Received in Total	995	69,308
Corneas Furnished for Transplant	366	36,712
FLEB Corneas Used in Florida	247	
FLEB Corneas Sent Outside Florida	119	
Received from other eye banks & sent to International patients	178	
Eyes Provided for Research	366	27,372
Pathology Specimen Studies	1,072	59,381
BPEI Patients	854	
Patients operated on outside BPEI	158	
Florida Medical Examiners Cases	60	
Scleral Tissue provided (whole or parts)	182	
Glycerin preserved corneas provided	172	
Total patients served to date	1,970	

National Philanthropy Day Celebrates 20 Years

Representatives from the Florida Lions Eye Bank attended the 20th Annual Philanthropy Day Dinner in Miami at the JW Marriott Hotel on Brickell. To note this milestone anniversary, Coral Gables Commissioner Chip Withers and Robert Parente, representing the City of Miami, presented official proclamations for National Philanthropy Day. Also, a letter from Governor Jeb Bush was read congratulating the chapter for its 20 years of working to advance philanthropy through advocacy, research, education and certification programs

Eye Bank President Juan Tejera, Treasurer



er Mike San Miguel, Secretary Betty Newcomb and Executive Director Mary Anne Taylor were among the 600 who attended

April is National Donate Life Month

Each year, thousands of lives and restored sight depend on the kindness of strangers who are organ and tissue donors. Organ and tissue transplantation is one of the most remarkable success stories in the history of medicine. In many cases, it's the only hope for thousands suffering from organ failure or for those who need replacement tissues such as corneas, skin or bone marrow. To emphasize the importance of becoming a donor, April is National Donate Life Month.

A single donor can save or enhance up to 50 other lives. While medical advances are enabling more Americans to receive lifesaving transplants, there are not enough donors to help everyone. Last year, close to 6,000 Americans died while waiting for

organ transplants. The Florida Lions Eye Bank also has a long waiting list for those who need sight-restoring corneal and scleral tissue.

Nearly \$25 million is included in President Bush's 2005 budget for organ/tissue procurement and transplantation efforts.

Originally known as National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week, the name was changed in 2003 by US Department of Health and Human Services Secretary



CORNEAL RECIPIENTS Express Their Gratitude



Dear Sir,

I am sending you a small donation right now. I do wish I could do much more. I received my transplant in 1993 and I did have some problems - but with God's help and my doctor I survived. I want to thank you all for this wonderful thing you are doing - giving the blind their sight back! Please keep on doing your work and God also will give you more ideas, how to do it better and better. You all have my blessings.

With Joy and love in my heart,
Mrs. Vivian W. Morris
Palm Beach West

The enclosed donation is another contribution to the Florida Lions Eye Bank. I hope this will help in some small way to give the miraculous gift of sight. May God bless each and everyone.

Thanks again,
Vanlentina Pizzoferrato
Melbourne

Dear Ms Taylor,

I want to take this opportunity to thank both you and the Florida Lions Eye Bank for the two corneas my husband received in the past two years. Both corneal transplants were performed by an excellent and caring Ft. Lauderdale eye surgeon.

Your organization is all the more reason everyone should become a donor. I've been one for many years and my husband, the recipient of someone else's misfortune, is about to become one. God bless you and all those associated with the Florida Lions Eye Bank.

Edye Lynn

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is my yearly donation for your wonderful organization. My wife and I will always be grateful for the two corneas you provided my wife many years ago when we liven in North Palm Beach. Her eyesight is very good thanks to you. May God continue to bless your organization.

With love and prayers,
Milton Jensen

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is my yearly donation for your wonderful organization. My wife and I will always be grateful for the two corneas you provided my wife many years ago when we lived in North Palm Beach. Her eyesight is very good thanks to you. May God continue to bless your organization.

With love and prayers,
Milton Jensen
Walnut Creek, Ohio

Funeral Directors Attend Training at Eye



Funeral director Donald Harrison learning eye enucleation.

The Florida Lions Eye Bank annually invites South Florida funeral directors to attend a special training class in eye removal. This in to provide the community with qualified, trained funeral home personnel who are able to properly enucleate (remove) donor eyes.

There has been a close relationship between the eye bank and funeral directors since 1971 when Dr. Victor Curtin, founding eye bank medical director, held the first class to teach the sterile technique of eye enucleation. Since that time, more than 350 funeral directors have been trained This year's day-long course, held at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and the Florida Lions Eye Bank, was attended by representatives of South Florida funeral homes from Jupiter to Homestead.

Eye bank employees and BPEI faculty members provided instruction by using anatomically correct mannequin heads, teaching the anatomy of the eye and the role of funeral directors in securing donor eyes. Each attendee practiced enucleation while being observed by instructors. At the completion of the course, students received certificates from Eye Bank Medical Director Sander Dubovy, M.D.

Wish List

Your Opportunity to Help Florida Lions Eye Bank

Below is a list of specific items the Eye Bank needs to continue providing vision services to our South Florida community. Please help us purchase these needed items. When you make your contribution, you may designate it to be applied to any of the items on our

FLORIDA LIONS EYE BANK 2005 Wish List

Educational course for Funeral Directors and Life Alliance Coordinators	\$3,500
Update and certification of Specular Microscope, including expenses for travel for representative to come to Miami to certify the microscope for FDA requirements	\$4,000
Replacement cost, validation expenses and interface for specular microscope computer	\$3,000
Upgrade of four Dell computers for cornea lab and offices.	\$6,700
Purchase of solution to store donor corneas until surgery is performed	\$29,000
Cost of four different blood tests for each eye donated for surgical purposes (annual cost)	\$29,000
Printing of donor cards, brochures, Eyelines and Newsight (annual cost)	\$62,000

CONTRIBUTIONS

received from October 13, 2004 to January 31, 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 corneal and scleras for sight-saving surgery.

► \$1,001 to \$10,000

Jean R. Cornille
The Calvin and Flavia Oak
Foundation, Inc.
Dr. Dario F. Savino
Dr. Nestor M. Szuster
Taylor Family Foundation

► \$501 to \$1,000

John E. and Nellie J. Bastien
Memorial Foundation
Richard T. Bueschel
The Huisking Foundation
Linnie G. Kidd
Club De Leones Quito Central

► \$101 to \$500

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Dr. Carlos R. Leon
Isaiah A. Litvak
Jacqueline Lowy
Norma Martin
Robert Rhodes
Dr. Eduardo D. Scarpello
Charles R. Stevens
William Thode

► Up to \$100

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Ruby Whipkey
Rhoda Winters
Ileana M. Wood
Alfredo Yaber

REMEMBER THE EYE BANK IN YOUR WILL

Consider including the Eye Bank in your estate planning. There are many ways to designate the Eye Bank as the recipient of a planned gift either now or in the future. Consult your financial planning professional for advice and counsel or contact the Planned Giving Council of Miami-Dade County (plannedgivingmiami.org) for help in making your planning decisions.

To include the Eye Bank in your will, you need only include the statement:

I bequest to the Florida Lions Eye Bank (Federal I.D. # 59-0967012)
the sum of \$_____ (or you may include a percentage or specific
item, such as real estate, jewelry, etc.

Please provide the Eye Bank office a notification of your bequest once final-



NEWSIGHT

P.O. Box 016880
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CAN YOU HELP WITH A REPLACEMENT?

Faithful Iris Approaches Retirement Age

Iris, a 1992 Ford Tempo was donated to the Florida Lions Eye Bank almost two years ago thanks to the kindness and generosity of Robert and Anna Ribbens,

Since that time, *Iris* has traveled far and wide in service to the eye bank. Judith Cornille, Director of Hospital Development, speaks of *Iris* as if she were a loyal friend. "Iris has been the 'vehicle' for the successful evolution of hospital development at the Florida Lions Eye Bank." Judith said. "What would I have done without her?"

Over the past two years, *Iris* has safely carried Judith throughout our service area, logging almost 20,000 miles in their journeys together. "While I 95 traffic can make both of us shudder at times," Judith says with a smile, "*Iris* is my office on wheels

and she's reliably taken me to hospitals, hospice organizations, funeral homes, high school career days and many other community activities, including health fairs, Critical Care Nurses conferences, programs for AARP, Telephone Pioneers, and the like. Her large trunk is invaluable!

Because the car is almost 13 years old, it has required some major repairs in the past six months. While that's to be expected, the Florida Lions Eye Bank is looking for a newer model automobile, with additional safety features, as a replacement.

CAN YOU HELP?

If so, please contact Mary Anne Taylor, Executive Director of the Florida Lions Eye Bank or Elina Hackworth at 1-800-329-7000 ext. 6359.

