August 2017

Greetings from Lions Eye Bank:

On November 18, 2017, Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley (LEBDV) will celebrate a milestone anniversary as the regional nonprofit helping to provide the Gift of Sight.

Please join us in honoring:

Joe Bilson, Chief Executive Officer
Wills Eye Hospital - Philadelphia, PA
Executive Director of the Board of Directors of City Trusts

Howard Nathan, President/Chief Executive Officer
Gift of Life Donor Program - Philadelphia, PA

Gene Polgar, Past International Director of Lions Clubs International
Former President/Chief Operating Officer
Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley

Irving Raber, M.D., FRCS(C)
Ophthalmic Partners - Bala Cynwyd, PA/Philadelphia, PA/Marlton, NJ
Medical Advisory Board - Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley

The above individuals are executive representatives of global organizations that share a vision for enhancing an individual’s health status through world-class service. LEBDV is proud of its strategic alliance with the honorees and their respective institutions. These alliances have yielded significant health care innovation, investment and impact benefiting citizens not only regionally but internationally as well.

We are pleased to announce that world-renowned Gift of Life Donor Program is the celebration’s Presenting Sponsor. After your review of the enclosed sponsorship opportunities, I hope you will also partner with us to commemorate LEBDV’s Sixty Years of Service Saving Sight.

Serving New Jersey, Delaware and southeastern Pennsylvania since 1957, LEBDV is entrusted to recover, evaluate, preserve and distribute donated cornea tissue used in sight-restoring transplant surgery.

The work we are privileged to do could not happen without someone deciding to create a legacy of sight. The benevolent offer of cornea tissue is an act of heroism by donors and their families.

"A "Mr. Fix-it" by day and family man by night, Harry loved to help and share his experiences with others. Now, his wife and son find comfort knowing that his gifts have given someone a new chance to see the world."  
Debra, donor wife
What if you or someone you loved suddenly faced a diagnosis of failing vision and a cornea transplant was the only answer to restore sight? Tens of thousands of individuals faced that question. In fact, LEBDV has provided over 43,000 corneas to transplant physicians—whose patients required improved vision—and for research and education.

"She can see, which is incredibly positive for us. She can read books and she can find her toys. She can feed herself and she can walk and run to us from across the room!"  
Margie, mother of 14 week old cornea recipient

What happens if you don’t have the financial means to access care for your newborn infant? One’s ability to see should not depend upon one’s ability to pay. Believing everyone deserves the best vision possible, LEBDV’s work with its partners here and abroad has made a significant impact in the world community. Regaining vision means a better quality of life for cornea recipients and their families. It also means a community’s health is transformed.

"The provider was considered out of network and the cornea processing fee was not covered. My daughter’s doctor requested assistance from the gratis tissue fund. As with anything medical, it’s expensive and nerve-racking.”  
Kristin, mother of 4 month old cornea recipient

Proceeds from this event benefit LEBDV’s gratis tissue program for individuals who cannot readily afford a cornea transplant. In 2017, over $200,000 has been granted from this fund to date, a 100% increase over 2016 grants. The need is growing and is only sustainable through fundraising efforts.

"There is no substitute for a human cornea. Without cornea donors, corneal transplants would not be possible."  
Jim Quirk, Eye Bank President/CEO

You undoubtedly receive requests from many organizations and sometimes it may be almost impossible to decide which will benefit from your decisions. After learning about our mission, I hope you will find Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley worthy of your consideration. I would like to extend an invitation to visit our organization or to personally contact me if you have questions. My direct line is 215-563-1874, extension 125.

We are seeking sponsorships as described on the attached information sheet. All sponsors are recognized in the program booklet, on our website and highlighted in our newsletter which is distributed to over 14,000 households. We hope you will consider partnering with us to make this year’s fundraiser triumphant.

On behalf of cornea donors, cornea recipients and all their families, thank you for taking the time to learn about our mission.

Sincerely,

James T. Quirk  
President/CEO

Enclosure
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LEBDV Makes Grand Strides in Education, Funding and Research

This year Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley (LEBDV) celebrates its 60th anniversary. One of the oldest eye banks in the United States, LEBDV provides the gift of sight through corneal transplantation to more than 1,000 people living in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey and Delaware annually. I have been associated with LEBDV for almost 36 years and have served as Medical Director for more than ten years.

Throughout its existence, LEBDV has been on the forefront of technology, research and education. After decades of providing tissue for full-thickness corneal transplantation (approximately 1/200th of an inch thick), in 2003 we started providing tissue for selective corneal layer transplantation such as Descemet stripping automated endothelial keratoplasty (DSAEK)—tissue that is 1/300th of an inch thick—and more recently Descemet membrane endothelial keratoplasty (DMEK)—tissue that is less than 1/1,000th of an inch thick.

In the last 15 years, LEBDV has participated in two major research studies. The cornea donor study (CDS) evaluated donor age in relation to graft survival in recipients and debunked an age-old myth about the lack of utility of older corneal tissue, thus significantly increasing the donor pool. More recently we completed the three-year follow-up for recipients enrolled in cornea preservation time study (CPTS), which is evaluating corneal graft survival in recipient time in relation to the elapsed time between donor tissue preservation and transplantation. The preliminary results of this study will be available later this year.

Our educational efforts in LEBDV’s service area continue unabated, Greece and Florida as residents and our Chairman Bob Perez. The fund makes corneal transplantation possible for uninsured or underinsured recipients. It has also made it possible for us to use our surplus tissue on mission trips to distant lands, where access to corneal transplantation remains limited at best.

On the auspicious occasion of our 60th anniversary, it is indeed a privilege to have been associated for almost three decades with LEBDV and its team of professionals that bring the gift of sight to many in the Delaware Valley and beyond.

Sadee B. Reinhorn, M.D.
Medical Director

A Gratifying 60th Anniversary Year

“The more things change, the more they remain the same.” — Alphonse Karr, French Novelist

These words strike me deeply, as they can perfectly represent Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley’s 60 years of service to the community. To be able to celebrate a 60-year anniversary is a remarkable feat, and I could not be more honored to sit as the President and CEO as we ring in this celebration.

On March 23, 1957, dedicated and visionary Lions founded the Eye Foundation of Delaware Valley, which would later become Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley (LEBDV). During LEBDV’s 60 years, there have been numerous advances in medicine, technology and regulations. From the advent of corneal storage media to layer-specific corneal transplants, eye banking has evolved into one of the greatest success stories of modern medicine.

The pages within this issue of Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley (LEBDV) are filled with remarkable stories of cornea recipients and their transplant journeys. You will read about renewed hope for a young family, an improved future for a young man pursuing his dreams and a corneal transplant recipient’s triumph in the Transplant Games of America.

In addition to the stories of recipients that tug at your heartstrings, you will read about a cornea donor who made the gift of sight a reality with his ultimate act of heroism. Allen’s story of donation is a reminder that the work we do is an honor and we are so very fortunate to serve as ambassadors of the gift between benevolent donors and grateful recipients.

Behind every triumph, every successful transplant we aid, is a team of individuals who work ceaselessly and tirelessly. Our dedicated team of staff, volunteers, surgeons, nurses, technicians and countless other donation professionals devote their time, talent and patience to better the lives of others every single day.

This past March, LEBDV hosted its 2nd Annual Recipient Luncheon. This event brought recipients together to celebrate their renewed vision, whether their transplant happened 50 years ago or just three days ago. At one point during the program, a grateful recipient stood up and thanked a donor mom that was in the room. Her words were sincere and comforting to a mother who experienced a loss.

As I stated at the outset, “The more things change, the more they remain the same.” The methods for delivering the gift of sight have changed in too many ways to count, but what remains constant is our unyielding commitment to serving those in need and the selfless acts of kindness that we witness with each and every donor who gives the gift of sight.

Jim Quirk, President and CEO

A Year of Celebration

Serving as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, I’ve had the pleasure to experience a year dedicated to both celebration and vision.

Celebrating 60 years of community service, Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley (LEBDV) is honored to have provided sight-restoring eye tissue for corneal transplant surgery to more than 40,000 people in the Delaware Valley. Instituted as an organization completely dependent upon volunteers, the Eye Bank now has a full staff and trained technicians who process tissue quickly and efficiently for patients’ and surgeons’ requirements.

Founded by local Lions Clubs, LEBDV celebrates Lions Clubs International (LCI) as it celebrates 100 years of changing lives through humanitarian services. As the first non-Lion serving as Chairman, I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for its encouragement and support. You have made this an incredible experience.

We focused this year on developing a strategic plan that will help ensure continued success in serving our community for the next 60 years and beyond.

My passion and affinity for the Eye Bank derive from my personal experience with my wife Carmen, one of the many community members who received the gift of restored sight. Diagnosed with Fuchs’ Dystrophy in her thirties, Carmen was told there was no cure and that her condition would continue to worsen, causing discomfort and, eventually, blindness.

Fuchs’ Dystrophy caused Carmen to start her day by drying her eyes with a hair dryer so she could see well enough to function. There were times when she had to pull over to the side of the road and put her face in front of the air conditioning vents until her eyes dried.

Carmen’s vision continued to deteriorate. To make a bad situation worse, she also developed cataracts. I remember her insisting that she needed stronger glasses. She claimed that with a little more strength in her glasses, she would see more clearly. Unfortunately, the prescription was not the problem. Her eyes were failing, and cataracts and disease were the culprits.

Carmen had cataract surgery but her Fuchs’ Dystrophy caused her cornea to react poorly. She lost all vision in her left eye and her right eye was failing. She was no longer able to drive. This was a very scary time for both of us. She felt restless and trapped at home.

After her first cornea transplant, I remember returning for the follow-up one week later and watching as they asked her to read the eye chart with her formerly blind eye. I almost jumped out of my chair as she read the letters one after the other. As the weeks went by, her vision continued to improve. After two years, surgery was required on Carmen’s right eye. Her sight returned even faster that time.

Carmen has terrific patience and plays for hours with our grandkids. I see her sitting on the floor assembling puzzles, Legos and other assorted things. She colors, reads books and does whatever makes them happy. Without this gift of sight, none of this would be possible.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge our talented staff, and thank our volunteers, financial contributors and, most importantly, cornea donors and their families. Your time and effort are treasured and truly help make miracles happen on a daily basis.

Angel “Bob” Perez, Chairman of the Board of Trustees
HISTORY OF
A SQUARE
GRAFT:
THE STORY OF SID SKLAR

It was 1939 when 13-year-old Sid Sklar began experiencing vision problems. Doctors in his hometown of Philadelphia were unable to diagnose his eye condition. At 15, Sid lost his vision completely. As a last hope, Sid was referred to Dr. Ramon Castroviejo at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. Dr. Castroviejo diagnosed Sid with keratoconus, a condition not well known in those days, and prescribed an experimental procedure—a corneal transplant.

Time was of the essence. In 1941, there was no such thing as a preservative for the donated cornea. During that time, there was not even an Eye Bank to store tissue. When a graft became available, the experimental procedure was performed under local anesthesia, taking about two and a half hours. In those days, a pressure bandage was applied to immobilize the eye. It was kept in place with tape heated by a Bunsen burner to make it stick because adhesive tape did not exist in 1941. Sandbags were placed around Sid’s head to keep it immobilized. He was confined to his bed for almost three weeks.

“When the pressure bandages were removed for the doctor to examine my eye, the experience was almost impossible to describe,” Sid told Life magazine in a 1946 interview. “I could see the furniture in the room, the lights, the doctors and the nurses standing around the bed.”

On December 8, 1941, after Sid had spent three months in the hospital, the stitches were removed from his eye. This was also the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

“‘As we were leaving the city, we stopped on the New York side of the Holland Tunnel to listen to the car radio,’ Sid recalled. ‘President Roosevelt was addressing Congress, asking its members to declare war on Japan.’”

Sid returned to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital two weeks later for a follow-up examination. His vision was improving dramatically. Dr. Castroviejo and his associates were ecstatic.

Over the next two years, Dr. Castroviejo attempted two corneal transplants on Sid’s right eye, but each time his body rejected the new graft. Finally, after the third attempt, the operation on Sid’s right eye was a success.

Based on an article found on https://www.nkcf.org/keratoconus-personal-stories/thank-you-baby-the-sid-sklar-story/.

LEBDV Cares!

Millions of people around the world struggle to survive living with corneal blindness with no hope of recovery. The treatable solution is a corneal transplant. Unfortunately, there is a shortage of transplant tissue and insufficient surgeon training in many countries, leaving more than 10 million men, women and children in darkness. Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley (LEBDV) partners with ophthalmologists affiliated with local hospitals to restore sight to people who need our help beyond our borders.

“It is our distinct honor and privilege to partner with gifted surgeons like Dr. Raber to bring the gift of sight to those less fortunate,” says President and CEO Jim Quirk.

Irving M. Raber, M.D., LEBDV medical advisory board member, has made it a priority to volunteer his time to impoverished communities, most recently during his trip to Rwanda in the summer of 2016.

Dr. Raber traveled to Kigali to perform surgery with Dr. John Mukentsi at Dr. Agarwal’s Eye Hospital. He spent three days in Kigali performing surgeries and lecturing at the Rwanda International Institute of Ophthalmology. He then went to Kabgayi, where he spent two days working with Dr. Piet Noë at the Kabgayi Eye Unit. “I enjoyed working with the local physicians and teaching them to perform transplants,” says Dr. Raber. “One major impediment to corneal transplants in Rwanda is access to donor corneas.”

“I went to Rwanda to teach local surgeons how to do corneal transplants because they have a high incidence of keratoconus in their population, but limited access to specialized contact lenses,” says Dr. Raber. “The patients I treated were mostly young children and adults, between ages 8 and 20, who were legally blind before surgery.” He performed 22 corneal transplants during his trip.

“I hope to facilitate the transfer of transplant corneas from Eye Banks in the United States and around the world to Rwanda in the future,” says Dr. Raber. “I have been very fortunate to receive support from Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley. It’s allowed me to do what I have been trained to do to the best of my ability. It is an unbelievably wonderful institution.”
A Family's Misfortune Turns Into a Miracle

Svea loves pulling out her favorite books from the bookshelf and flipping through the bright, colorful pages. She spends endless hours of her days fascinated by books. Two-year-old Svea and her twin sister Emma live in New Jersey with their first-time parents, Brian and Marjie.

Born a month early, baby Svea spent a week in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) before being discharged. “Svea was a little smaller than her sister,” recalls Marjie. Marjie and Brian were overjoyed to finally bring their two precious babies home and begin their new adventure as a family. Soon after settling the babies in, Marjie and Brian noticed that Svea’s right eye appeared cloudy. Svea’s pediatrician referred her to a pediatric ophthalmologist. “That was when we learned our daughter had Peters’ anomaly in both eyes,” says Marjie. Babies born with Peters’ anomaly often require surgery to correct central corneal cloudiness that can lead to permanent poor vision. Eye and vision issues at an early age can lead to developmental delays. It is crucial to detect and correct any problems as early as possible to ensure babies develop the visual abilities they need to learn and grow.

“It was very frightening for us,” recalls Marjie. “I left the appointment really upset. In the world of the Internet today, it’s a little terrifying! We had so many concerns. Would Svea ever be able to see? Would she have a normal childhood? Would she be able to drive a car?”

The family drove to Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia to meet with Dr. Alex Levin, Director of Pediatric Ophthalmology. “Dr. Levin is an amazing person. He walked us through what this would mean for Svea and what the appropriate next steps would be,” says Brian. Svea was referred to Dr. Christopher Rapuano, Director of Cornea Service at Wills Eye Hospital, who reassured the family not only about the course of treatment for Svea but how it would affect their family over the coming months. While there was Peters’ anomaly in Svea’s left eye, it did not require surgical intervention. However, a corneal transplant was the best course of action for her right eye.

According to Dr. Rapuano, “Taking care of newborn babies with cornea problems is difficult for a variety of reasons. The babies are not easy to examine, anesthesia is tricky and surgery on such small eyes is technically challenging. If a corneal transplant is being considered, parents need to understand that since babies can’t tell us when something doesn’t seem right, we need to do frequent, often weekly, exams in the office, and may need to do urgent evaluations under anesthesia to remove loose sutures or just get a better exam. Fortunately, Marjie and Brian were up to the task!”

“Just based on Svea’s size and infancy at that time, it was scary,” recalls Brian. “I think she was only about six weeks old when Dr. Rapuano recommended a corneal transplant.”

Dr. Rapuano performed Svea’s corneal transplant surgery at age 14 weeks. She needed eye drops and a plastic shield to protect her eye during recovery. “It was challenging at first, babies have very delicate skin and Svea is a very sensitive baby,” says Marjie. “Replacing the tape on her face to shield her eye constantly and administering eye drops every two hours was daunting. Peeling off the tape would leave her skin red, and she would wail and fuss when we tried putting in her drops.”

As Svea became accustomed to the eye drops, nerves began to settle. “She is two years old now and takes eye drops like a champ! I think that, as with everything, what feels overwhelming becomes easier with time,” says Marjie. “She can see, which is incredibly positive for us. She can read books and she can find her toys. She can feed herself and she can walk and run to us from across the room!”

Svea wears corrective lenses and works with a physical and occupational therapist to help her catch up to developmental milestones. With the enormous amount of love and support from her parents and her sister Emma, Svea is making incredible progress. Along with books, Svea loves music. “If a song is playing that Svea is interested in, you can tell because she excitedly responds and listens thoughtfully.”

She has started talking and singing, which is amazing! Her sister Emma is a tiny tornado,” Marjie jokes.

Brian and Marjie offer advice to parents who may find themselves in a similar situation. “With little babies, you become so terrified and overwhelmed,” says Marjie. “In retrospect, I would have taken a deep breath, worked through the situation, and just spent time being happy that we have these two amazing children. It was hard to appreciate some of the most amazing moments because I was so stressed about everything. To see where Svea is today, we are just so thankful.”

“She and her parents were real troopers!” says Dr. Rapuano. “And while it was a long haul, Svea is continuing to do beautifully.”

Brian and Marjie are grateful for their talented Wills Eye Hospital specialists, Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley and especially for Svea’s cornea donor, whose generosity allowed her to have restored sight and a much enhanced life. “It is just impossible to express our gratitude to someone who would be so thoughtful and willing to help someone in need,” says Brian. “It put us on a path to a new and improved quality of life for our daughter.”
Congratulations, LCI!

Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley (LEBDV) congratulates Lions Clubs International (LCI) on its 100th Anniversary and commends the humanitarian work of the 1.4 million Lions, Lionesses and Leos of the world!

LEBDV is tremendously grateful for the outstanding support provided by LCI and the 10,000 Lions, Lionesses and Leos of District 22-Delaware, New Jersey Districts 16-N, 16-J and 16-L, and Pennsylvania Districts 14-A and 14-P throughout our 60-year history! We are proud to be part of the vision and the mission of LCI to provide humanitarian service to those in need and to have helped provide the gift of sight to more than 40,000 people. We, too, are proud to say, We Serve!
Creating Miracles of Sight Since 1957

1905
Dr. Eduard Zirm performs the first successful corneal transplant in Austria.

1957
The Eye Foundation of Delaware Valley, or Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley (LEBDV), is founded.

1964
LEBDV moves into Wills Eye Hospital on Spring Garden Street in Philadelphia.

1967
Peter Laibson, M.D., is installed as the first Medical Director.

1983
LEBDV facilitates the establishment of the National Ambassadors for Corneal Transplantation (NACT) supporting pre- and post-op cornea recipient patients.

1988
LEBDV begins its Recovery Technician Training Program.

1996
LEBDV merges with the Medical Eye Bank of Delaware.

1925
Lions Clubs International adopts sight conservation as its mission after a plea from Helen Keller. Volunteer Lions begin the recovery of eyes for corneal transplantation.

1961
The Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) is founded with 25 member Eye Banks. LEBDV is one of the founding charter members. Today, the EBAA has more than 100 member Eye Banks, including international Eye Banks.

1980
PID Gene S. Polgar becomes Executive Director. LEBDV moves with Wills Eye Hospital to its new facility in Center City Philadelphia.

1995
State routine referral laws end corneal transplant waiting list.
1999
LEBDV installs its first woman Lion board member, Mary Devon O’Brien, PCC.

2004
LEBDV moves into the Gift of Life Donor Program building in the Northern Liberties section of Philadelphia.

2005
Endowment fund is established to help expand programs and benefit people in need of sight-restoring corneal transplants.

2007
LEBDV opens the board to non-Lions. Sadeer B. Hannush, M.D., is installed as Co-Medical Director.

2008
LEBDV begins to offer processed tissue for layer-specific transplant procedure, or Descemet’s Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty (DSEAEK).

2011
Jim Quirk becomes President/CEO.

2012
LEBDV recovers corneas from 30,000th donor and invests in lab expansion and equipment upgrade.

2014
Tissue processing program is expanded to include tissue for Descemet’s Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty (DMEK).

2015
Recipient Kit Program and Gratis Tissue Fund are launched. To date, the Gratis Tissue Fund has helped save or restore sight to almost 250 people in need.

2017
LEBDV celebrates 60 years servicing the Delaware Valley community and humanitarian efforts beyond our borders. Lions Clubs International celebrates its 100th anniversary.

2007
LEBDV opens the board to non-Lions. Sadeer B. Hannush, M.D., is installed as Co-Medical Director.

2015
Recipient Kit Program and Gratis Tissue Fund are launched. To date, the Gratis Tissue Fund has helped save or restore sight to almost 250 people in need.

60th Anniversary Committee Members
PCT Ann E. Reiver, Co-Chair
Lion Norman Imaoka, Co-Chair
Dr. Robert Abal, M.D.
PDG George Benadio
Lion Peg Huebner
PDG David Jones
Nancy Houston
Lion-Peg Huebner
PDG David Jones
Ruth Laibson
PCC Mary Devon O’Brien
Jim Quirk, President/CEO
PDG Philip Shober
Joanne Weidner
PDG Richard W. Zimmermann, Jr.
Turning Setbacks into Successes: Nick’s Story

University of Delaware student Nick is particularly grateful to pursue a career in dentistry after being told by doctors it would not be possible due to his deteriorating vision.

“As a single parent, my mother worked hard to put me in private school,” says Nick. “In the sixth grade, I started having trouble seeing the chalkboard in class.” Nick’s optometrist prescribed him glasses that corrected his vision for a brief period of time.

As Nick advanced through high school, his vision worsened at a constant rate. During his sophomore year, Nick was diagnosed with keratoconus, a progressive eye disease that causes the cornea—the clear outer covering of the eye—to become cone-shaped. If left untreated, keratoconus can eventually lead to blindness.

While working at a dental lab over the summer, Nick grew fascinated with dentistry. His mother Dawn worked in the dental field herself, contributing to Nick’s passion. He enrolled in the University of Delaware with a major in biology and hopes to attend Temple University’s dental school upon graduation. “I really like the idea of helping patients,” says Nick. “I was told that I couldn’t be a dentist if I wasn’t able to see, and that was really hard for me to accept.”

As the disease progressed and his eyesight continued to deteriorate, Nick also experienced extreme sensitivity to light. He was no longer able to drive. “Getting my driver’s license was such a big deal, and not being able to drive was pretty rough,” says Nick. “It was also difficult for me to read my textbooks. It would take longer and I would get headaches from having to squint. At that point I remember feeling as though I would lose my vision completely.”

Nick was prescribed a corneal transplant for his left eye, which was in a worse state than his right. Unfortunately, the family’s insurance did not cover the full cost of the procedure that Nick desperately needed. Dawn was trying to find answers to help her son. She contacted Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley (LEBDV), LEBDV collaborated with local Lions Clubs in Delaware to provide financial assistance for Nick’s transplant surgery. Nick was grateful to his surgeon, LEBDV, the Lions Clubs of Delaware and, most importantly, the cornea donor whose generosity allowed him to continue his education and looks forward to a future in dentistry.

Because of Nick’s successful corneal transplant, he is able to experience visual difficulties, photosensitivity, eye irritation, drainage, swelling and severe allergies. At age 13, Cameron was diagnosed with keratoconus. Over the course of time, the disease led to vision loss and corneal tissue scarring. Nick’s optometrist prescribed him glasses that corrected his vision for a brief period of time.

The result was a significant improvement in Nick’s eyesight. “Physically I had no pain at all,” remembers Nick. “I wasn’t expecting recovery to be as easy as it was. I returned to a normal life pretty quickly.”

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Nick’s Story

University of Delaware student Nick is particularly grateful to pursue a career in dentistry after being told by doctors it would not be possible due to his deteriorating vision.

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Consider Making a Gift in Your Will to Restore Sight

After providing for your loved ones, consider making a lasting difference by making a gift to Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley in your will. Simply name Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley as a beneficiary when writing your will or, if you already have a will, add a codicil amending it to include us.

For your convenience, we’ve provided the following language for you to use in your estate plan: “I give, devise and bequeath to Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization located at 401 North 3rd Street, Suite 305, Philadelphia, PA 19123, [insert here the sum or percentage] for its unrestricted general use and purposes.”

*Please consult your attorney, tax advisor or financial advisor before making a bequest.

An Inside Look: LEBDV’s Medical Advisory Board’s Thoughts and Theories

“Sight is our most precious sense and being an ophthalmologist is a unique privilege. It is externally humbling to be able to restore vision through medicine and surgery by partnering with outstanding institutions like Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley. The currency of human existence is the sharing of the gifts unique to our profession, and the purpose of my life is the compassionate obligation to help others who are less fortunate.”

—Dr. Abel

“I wanted to be a physician because I felt it was wonderful to be a member of a profession that involves an intellectual pursuit that improves the quality of lives of others. It brings tremendous satisfaction to patient and physician alike. Cornea is the only subspecialty in ophthalmology that involves human transplantation. It’s truly a wonderful thing to be able to take an organ from one human being, transplant it into another, and have it work in the other for the purpose of saving sight. What an honor and privilege to be a member of a community of professionals, the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley, whose single mission is giving the gift of sight to those living in darkness!”

—Dr. Hannush

“For many years, doing corneal transplantation was a very rewarding experience for me as a transplant surgeon. However, with the advent of newer techniques such aslayer-specific and lamellar corneal transplant surgery, restoration of vision to almost perfect acuities and the dramatic patient satisfaction have taken the gratification to a completely new level. One can only imagine where the technology will be in the next 10 years!”

—Dr. Orlin

“It’s a true privilege to work with the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley in providing the gift of sight, which makes such a positive impact on patient's lives.”

—Dr. Raber

“As cornea surgeons, we have the ability to change people’s lives, sometimes quickly and sometimes not as quickly. From removing the corneal opacity from a baby to treating corneal swelling from Fuchs dystrophy to performing an emergency corneal transplant for severe corneal infection or corneal perforation, we can make a real and lasting difference. That's why I come to work every day.”

—Dr. Rapuano

Who benefits from the Endowment Fund?

When a local doctor calls the Eye Bank because his or her patient needs a corneal transplant but doesn’t have the resources to pay, the Eye Bank provides tissue gratis for transplant. The Eye Bank believes inability to pay should not be a barrier to a person’s ability to see.

We are continuously inspired by the people who benefit from the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley’s Endowment Fund. They are the beneficiaries of the generosity of people like you — and every gift you make will make a difference.

For your convenience, we’ve provided the following language for you to use in your estate plan:

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Mail a Check

Visit www.LEBDV.org and click on “Donate to Your Eye Bank Today!”

Donate Online

Please let us know about your decision, so we can recognize your gift today!
23rd ANNUAL Gift of Sight Charity Golf Classic

It’s that time of the year again! Tee up this summer to support Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley.

FIRST EVENT—TEE OFF
11 a.m. .................. Registration & Lunch
12:30 p.m. ............... Tee Off
Cost: $149 per Golfer Registration Fee

SECOND EVENT—NOT A GOLFER?
Beginning at 6 p.m.
■ Dinner buffet, $39 per person
■ Awards
■ Auctions

2017 SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Visionary—$3,000
Putting Contest—$500
Dinner Buffet—$1,500
Flag—$1,000
Luncheon—$1,000
Ad/Back Cover—$350
Hole—in-One—$500
Club—$250
Giveaway Bag—$750
Hole—$100

Many Thanks to Our 2016 Course Sponsors & Contributors

Visionary Sponsors
Gift of Life Donor Program

Flag Sponsors
Dickson Furniture Manufacturers
G & M Sales, Inc.
George Benadio, POG
Eversight New Jersey
Jim & Michelle Quirk

Contest & Named Sponsors
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NJ Lions Charitable Foundation–Outside Back Cover
New Castle Insurance, Ltd.–Putting Contest
Norman & Sandy Imaoka–Hole-in-One Contest
Ophthalmic Partners–Inside Back Cover

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Faulkner Buick GMC West Chester
Frankie Winne & Son, Inc.
Gordon C. O’Brien Foundation
Haddonfield Lions Club
 חן-ל Dave & Sandy Jones
Houston Township Lions Club
10 Mile Bay, POG
John Allen & POG
3rd VC Earl Onslow
JMD James Fogle, Sr. & Tiffany Shepard-Fogle
Impact Office Supplies
Intellige Solutions, LLC
John & Donna Krawczyk
John Lamphades & Lighting
Laurel Lions Club–Humanitarian Lion Pat and POG
James E. Davis

Martini Florists–Mt. Laurel, NJ
Ophthalmic Partners of PA
Palmyra-Riverton-Cinnaminson Lions Club
Park-Ridway-Adven Lions Club
PCC Alfred E. Loseiwiecz
PCC Joe and Dottie Becklage
PCC Mary O’Brien & PZC
PCC Chris Smith
PCT Ann E. Reiver & POG
ID Mel Bray; PDG John Allen & PDG/3rd VC Earl Onslow
JMD James Fogle, Sr. & Tiffany Shepard-Fogle
Impact Office Supplies
Intellige Solutions, LLC
John & Donna Krawczyk
John Lamphades & Lighting
Laurel Lions Club–Humanitarian Lion Pat and POG
James E. Davis

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Lion Atlee Fogle
Lion Mark & Nancy Green
Lion Norman Imaoka
Max Rice
Michelle Quirk
PCT Ann E. Reiver & POG
Dave & Sandy Jones
PDG
Jim & Patricia Davis
Philadelphia Phillies
Seven Stars Inn
The Grand Opera House
Windsor Suites
Woodcrest Country Club

Trophies Donated by:
Paul’s Custom Awards & Trophies
Barrington, New Jersey
A Remarkable Man Celebrates his 100th Birthday

“I remember my first Lions Club meeting. I was warmly welcomed. Instantly, I felt like I belonged. With these hands, if I could help somebody else who was less fortunate, it would be easy for me to do.”

That’s William Hansen, remembering when he joined Haddonfield Lions Club in southern New Jersey. It was 41 years ago, and Bill was 59 years young. Yes, your math is correct. Bill Hansen, PDDG (Past Deputy District Governor), was born in 1917—and so was Lionel. He became a centenarian on March 27, 2017.

Those who know Bill hardly give his age a second thought. If something needs to be done, he is always one of the first volunteers—and he never allows you to treat him differently. Bill is quick to prepare for the task at hand, gathering materials and asking questions—but never asking when the day will end. He is a self-contained volunteer who usually keeps a folding chair, water and snacks in the trunk of his car, ready to settle in and dedicate the day to one of his favored charities.

During his life of service, Bill adopted many favorite charities. Whether through his Lions Club or otherwise, he continues to be instrumental in improving the lives of countless members of his community. Many plaques and proclamations bear witness to his community service on behalf of a myriad of religious, youth, civic, educational and community-based nonprofit groups. “I’ve never sought personal reward or acknowledgement,” says Bill. “I am lucky and had success in life. I just wanted to help people in need and be of service to my family, church and community.”

Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley (LEBDV), the regional corneal transplant bank serving the Delaware Valley since 1957, is one of Bill’s charities. For the Eye Bank’s annual Gift of Sight Charity Golf outing, Bill has raised tens of thousands of dollars to help those who cannot afford a corneal transplant. “Like the Eye Bank, if someone needs a corneal transplant to live a good life, I will raise funds so they can get the surgery they need to help themselves and their family,” says Bill.

“Bill has been a valued Trustee of LEBDV since 1992,” says Jim Quick, LEBDV President/CEO. “His fundraising helps ensure LEBDV has adequate resources to advance its mission. Bill also creates awareness of our organization. His personality, passion and perseverance all drive him to be a tremendous advocate on behalf of LEBDV and his other favorite charities. He is a fantastic role model!”

Bill was born in Newark, New Jersey, and moved to Jersey City at age five. He was the oldest of five siblings—three boys and twin girls. Bill recalls, “My grandmother and aunt helped raise us kids; they were my guiding light. My father was a very hard worker who took such good care of my mother who was not well. I can say the most important lesson I learned in life was my father’s love for my mother. His love for her impressed me. I knew that is how I would be with my future wife.”

And that he was. When Bill’s wife of 67 years, Dorothy Rich, became ill for several years, he remembered his parents’ devotion to each other. “I kept my pledge to take care of her lovingly in sickness and in health until she died in 2005,” recalls Bill, smiling. Bill credits his longevity and love of life to his wife. “Dorothy and I never missed an opportunity to do something with my future wife.”

Bill enjoys the company of younger people. And he has some advice for them: “Always be honest and straightforward. Participate in school and community activities. Join your local Leo or Lions Clubs. It is one of the best ways to become successful in life and have a positive impact in the lives of people around the world.”

By the Numbers

**Revenues for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016**

- **Tissue Distribution**: 88%
- **Investment Income**: 6%
- **Contributions**: 6%

**Expenses for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016**

- **Program**: 87%
- **Fundraising**: 5%
- **Management**: 8%
forSight
News & Updates from
Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley

UPCOMING EVENTS

23rd Annual Gift of Sight Charity Golf Classic
August 25, 2017
Woodcrest Country Club | Cherry Hill, NJ

60th Anniversary Celebration
November 18, 2017
The Union League of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

3rd Annual Recipient Luncheon
March 17, 2018
Philadelphia, PA

Join Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley’s community by liking our Facebook page and following us on Twitter.

www.facebook.com/lebdv
@LionsEyeBankDV

Learn more by visiting our website at www.lebdv.org.

Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley
401 North 3rd Street, Suite #305
Philadelphia, PA 19123
(215) 563-1679

The 2017 forSight Newsletter was edited by Jerilyn Giardino.
Providing the gift of sight in the Delaware Valley
Since 1957

Cameron
Cornea Recipient

Peyton with his parents
Cornea Recipient

Nick
Cornea Recipient
Our Mission: Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley is committed to enhancing a person's quality of life by restoring or improving vision through corneal transplantation, medical research and education.

Our Vision: Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley will be the region's recognized leader in the procurement and processing of the highest-quality ocular tissue.

Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley
401 N. 3rd Street, Suite 305
Philadelphia, PA 19123-4101

Toll Free Phone Number:
1-800-743-6667
Local: 215-563-1679
Fax: 215-563-3081

www.lebdv.org

The Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley is recognized as a non-profit organization and has 501(c)(3) tax status. Our tax identification number is 23-1513659. As such, all contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law. A copy of our official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.
Who We Are

Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley, a nonprofit organization, provides area residents with the highest-quality and safest corneal tissue available. More than 1,000 people have their sight restored through corneal transplantation in the tri-state area each year, and many more benefit from medical research and education made possible by donated eye tissue. Since 1957, the Eye Bank has helped coordinate more than 43,000 surgeries. Working diligently—24 hours a day, 365 days a year—the Eye Bank is committed to making the corneal transplant process as easy as possible for all of our recipients.

Restoring Sight, Restoring Lives
Meet Kacey

At four months old, Kacey needed a cornea transplant in each of her eyes. Because healthy eyes and vision play such a critical role in how an infant learns, it is important to correct vision problems as early as possible to prevent delays in development. Kacey is one of the many cornea recipients who benefited from the Eye Bank’s Gratis Tissue Program, which supports patients who are unable to afford a sight-restoring transplant due to limited income or inadequate insurance. The Gratis Tissue Program made it possible for Kacey and for hundreds of other people in the Delaware Valley and beyond to receive the Gift of Sight and an improved quality of life.

Requests for gratis tissue continue to increase. Please consider making a contribution to the Eye Bank’s Endowment Fund, which supports the Gratis Tissue Program.

Facts About Donation and Transplantation

What is a cornea transplant?
A cornea transplant is a surgical procedure to replace a diseased or damaged cornea with a healthy donated cornea. Corneal transplantation is the most frequently performed transplant procedure with a 95% success rate.

Who can be an eye donor?
Most people can! Age, eye color, blood type or how well your eyesight is does not affect whether or not you can become an eye donor.

How soon after a donation must a cornea be transplanted?
Recovery of the donor eye tissue takes place within hours of death. The preservation medium used in the US keeps the cornea’s cells alive for 14 days after recovery, but most transplants occur within a week of recovery.

Easy Ways to Donate

Donate Online
www.LEBDV.org

Phone
1-800-743-6667

Mail a Check
By sending in a check with the form at right

Through the generosity of financial supporters and the ultimate gift of donors and their families, Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley has helped restore the Gift of Sight to tens of thousands of people.
60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 18, 2017
The Union League of Philadelphia
11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

JOIN US IN HONORING:

Joe Bilson, Chief Executive Officer
Wills Eye Hospital - Philadelphia, PA
Executive Director of the Board of Directors of City Trusts

Howard Nathan, President/Chief Executive Officer
Gift of Life Donor Program - Philadelphia, PA

Gene Polgar, Past International Director of Lions Clubs International
Former President/Chief Operating Officer
Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley

Irving Raber, M.D., FRCS(C)
Ophthalmic Partners - Bala Cynwyd, PA/Philadelphia, PA/Marlton, NJ
Medical Advisory Board - Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley

Proceeds from the 60th Anniversary Celebration benefit sight saving projects in the United States and abroad.
SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING SIXTY YEARS OF SERVICE SAVING SIGHT.

NOVEMBER 18, 2017