

# in FOCUS

Spring | Summer 2006

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## in FOCUS



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### Corneal Transplant Allows Artist to See Nature's Bright Colors

When Nancy learned that her sister had a hereditary corneal disease called Fuch's corneal dystrophy, she asked her eye doctor to check for symptoms of the disease in her own eyes. Nancy learned that she also had the disease, and that in time she would most likely need a corneal transplant like the one her sister had recently received.

Fuch's dystrophy affects the inner layer, or endothelial cells, of the cornea and causes vision distortion and clouding of the cornea. The cornea swells and takes on water, causing pain and severe visual impairment. The disease can be treated with topical ointments or drops, but if it progresses and interferes with daily life a corneal transplant is often needed.

The idea of losing vision to an eye disease frightened Nancy because a large part of her life depends on her visual acuity. Nancy is a watercolor artist who relies on her vision to translate what she sees into vibrant and expressive paintings. She also works as a para educator teaching art to gifted students.

In February of 2004, Nancy underwent a corneal transplant to correct her severely impaired vision. Having recently reached the two-year anniversary of her transplant, her vision has improved tremendously and will continue to heal. Nancy has been able to continue teaching art classes and has returned to her watercolor paintings.



Corneal transplant recipient, Nancy Oakes.

She is thankful to her donor and their family, and also to the Heartland Lions Eye Banks for helping to provide her with the gift of sight. Thanks to her transplant, Nancy can continue to teach others to see nature's beauty and capture those visions in artwork.

Nancy's artwork is featured as part of our 2006 National Eye Donor Month campaign. Her colorful paintings serve as an expression of joy from a

cornea transplant recipient who has regained sight and a large part of her daily life. To learn more about National Eye Donor Month and how you can request a copy of our promotional poster featuring Nancy's watercolor painting, please turn to page 4 of this newsletter.

## From the Executive Director's Desk



Ronald Walkenbach, Ph.D.

### The Healing Power of Organ and Tissue Donation

Statistics show that most Americans perceive organ and tissue donation as a good thing that benefits transplant recipients. Certainly, many recipients do benefit from receiving life-giving or enhancing transplants from donors.

As the recipient of four corneal transplants over the last 33 years, rarely does a day go by that I don't stop and think about how different my life would be if it hadn't been for the donors and all the people who helped to make those transplants become realities. Conversations with many organ and/or tissue recipients show that my gratitude is characteristic, and should surprise no one.

What *has* been surprising during my years with the Heartland Lions Eye Banks is the tremendous appreciation that has been expressed by the families of the organ and tissue donors. The Eye Bank routinely sends letters to both the donor family and recipients shortly after the transplants, with an invitation to contact us with any questions or comments about their experience. We receive an occasional return letter from a grateful recipient, but donor families send us ten times as many letters as recipients!

Although each donor family letter is different, almost all have the common thread that the donation process has allowed them to know that a part of their loved one is still here, helping people, and that this knowledge is very comforting.

Thank you for helping the organ and tissue banking community help enrich the lives of the recipients, and ease the loss of the donor families.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald Walkenbach". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ronald J. Walkenbach, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

## Calendar of Events : Spring/Summer 2006

**March 2006, National Eye Donor Month:** Join the Eye Bank in celebrating National Eye Donor Month in March. For more information on the observance, please turn to page 4.

**March 6-13:** Lawrence Memorial Hospital will have a display celebrating National Eye Donor Month. Be sure to stop by to learn more about the gift of sight!

**April 2006, National Donate Life Month:** This month, organ and tissue banks across the country will be celebrating the gifts of life and sight with transplant recipients and donor families. Additionally, the Kansas City VA Hospital will be participating in several events throughout the month of April to celebrate National Donate Life Month. Please visit our web site, [www.hleb.org](http://www.hleb.org) for additional details.

**April 8:** Joplin Life Fair at St. John's Hospital's Hammond Center. Stop by the Heartland Lions Eye Banks' booth to learn more about eye donation. For more information contact Darian Weaver at 417-624-2494.

**April 13:** Join the Eye Bank and Midwest Transplant Network for our annual Gift of Life Celebration in Joplin, MO at Freeman Health Center. For more information please contact Darian Weaver at 417-624-2494.

**April 19:** The Heartland Lions Eye Banks, Midwest Transplant Network and Heartland Regional Medical Center will honor the memory of organ, tissue and eye donors with at their Celebration of Life and Tree Planting Ceremony. The service will be held at 3:00 p.m. at Heartland Regional Medical Center. For more information please contact Dawn Wolff at 816-454-5454 ext. 105.

**April 20:** The Heartland Lions Eye Banks, Midwest Transplant Network and the University of Kansas Hospital will honor the memory of organ, tissue and eye donors with at their Celebration of Life Ceremony. Please visit our web site, [www.hleb.org](http://www.hleb.org), for more upcoming details

**April 29:** The Eye Bank and Midwest Transplant Network will be holding their annual Celebration of Life Tree Planting Ceremony in Columbia, MO. For more information please contact Lela Hall at 573-443-1471 ext. 239.

The Heartland Lions Eye Banks will participate in the Kansas City Trauma Education Consortium. Eye donation will be discussed as a part of *Topics in Trauma End of Life Issues*. The event will be held at University of Kansas Hospital.

## Champion of Donation : Leigh Hammer

Effingham County Coroner, Leigh Hammer, has committed her time and effort to building strong relationships with the Heartland Lions Eye Bank and area organ procurement agencies to aid in the support of donation. Hammer works to make sure that as many families as possible within the coroner's jurisdiction receive the opportunity to donate. Because of her dedication to saving sight and life through donation, Leigh is truly a "champion of donation."

Before she was appointed as county coroner in May 2003 and later elected to her position in 2004, Hammer worked as a registered nurse in the home health and hospice setting. Today she continues her nursing work as a nurse consultant in group home settings. Hammer's background as a R.N. has given her a unique view on organ and tissue donation. She's seen first-hand, the positive effect that donation can have on patients who are in need of an organ or tissue transplant. "Because of my background in nursing, I feel that I am able to see the full circle of donation," said Hammer.



*Effingham County Coroner,  
Leigh Hammer.*

Hammer recalled one of her first nursing patients, an elderly woman named Rosie who suffered from glaucoma. The disease had taken its toll on Rosie's vision and she relied heavily on the nursing staff to accomplish daily tasks. Rosie hoped that one day there would be a cure for her debilitating disease. Today, when Hammer works to help facilitate eye tissue donation, she not only thinks about those needing a cornea transplant. She also considers the research value that eye donation can have in helping those like Rosie who are waiting for a cure for blinding eye diseases.

For Hammer, the key aspect in coordinating the needs of both the Coroner's Office and the Eye Bank in order to facilitate donation is open communication. In addition to keeping lines of communication open, she believes it is important for all parties involved in the donation process to act with honesty and integrity. Finally, remembering the greater purpose of donation as a life-enhancing and life-saving act also helps to put the process in perspective.

When approaching the deceased's family to discuss the options of organ and tissue donation, Hammer feels that there are multiple roles that she must fulfill. First, she must play the role of an educator about donation to let the family know of their options and to answer questions they might have. She must also play the role of a counselor who remains sympathetic to the family and their loss. Finally, Hammer believes that it is important to be patient with the family and give them time to consider the option of donation.

The Heartland Lions Eye Banks would like to thank Leigh for all of her hard work and dedication to preserving and restoring sight! We look forward to working with her to spread the message of organ and tissue donation for years to come.

## Illinois First Person Consent Legislation Goes into Effect

Thanks to Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White's Task Force on Donor Authorization, the state of Illinois began using a First-Person Consent Organ/Tissue Donor Registry on January 1, 2006. Previously, the state's registry documented a person's wishes regarding organ and tissue donation but did not constitute legal consent to be a donor. Therefore, prior to donation family consent was needed for the donation to occur. Under the new legislation that has created the Illinois First-Person Consent Organ/Tissue Donor Registry, a person's decision to be an organ/tissue donor will be legally binding.

According to the Illinois Secretary of State's office, the new law is expected to save more than 100 lives annually. Without first-

person consent enacted, the state estimates that one in five people who agreed to become organ/tissue donors had their wishes overruled by family members in the consent process.

Family consent will still be required for persons under age 18, as they cannot legally enter into a contract in Illinois. Because those 18 and under won't be eligible to join the registry, the Secretary of State's office encourages families and schools to talk about donation.

For more information about the new registry and to join online please, visit [www.lifegoeson.com](http://www.lifegoeson.com).

## Springfield, MO, Surgeons Offer Expertise in Corneal Transplantation

The Heartland Lions Eye Banks' Springfield, Missouri office has been lucky enough to work with three corneal surgeons who are at the forefront of implementing new ways to preserve and restore sight to patients in their area. Dr. Shachar Tauber, Dr. Craig Peterson and Dr. Robert Michaels, all of St. John's Clinic- Eye Specialists, are leaders in their field who are providing unparalleled treatment to patients suffering from a variety of ocular diseases and vision conditions.



*R to L: Dr. Craig Peterson, Dr. Robert Michaels and Dr. Shachar Tauber*

Before joining St. John's Clinic- Eye Specialists in September 2004, Dr. Tauber served as Medical Director at the Yale-New Haven Eye Laser Center, as well as assistant professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Science at Yale. While at the Yale-New Haven Eye Laser Center, Dr. Tauber became one of the first surgeons world-wide to implant an AlphaCor artificial cornea.

Today, Dr. Tauber is one of the first surgeons in our area to implement a new corneal transplantation method called Descemet's Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty, or DSAEK. This new technique involves the transplantation of the posterior portion of the donor cornea that contains the endothelial cells, rather than the whole thickness of the tissue. Dr. Tauber hopes that this new form of transplantation surgery will greatly reduce the healing time associated with the traditional method of corneal transplant surgery.

For many years, the Eye Bank has enjoyed a strong relationship with both Dr. Peterson and Dr. Michaels. Dr. Peterson, has played a large role in assisting the Eye Bank's Springfield branch as its Medical Director. His guidance and assistance have been key to our growth in the area. Dr. Michaels has also been a strong supporter of our Eye Bank and has worked closely with us on many occasions. We thank these three talented surgeons for their commitment to the Eye Bank and we look forward to working with them as they continue to restore sight!

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## Share The Vision of Eye Donation in March During National Eye Donor Month

Each year, more than 46,000 Americans receive a cornea transplant to help regain sight that has been lost to an eye disease, disorder or injury. Through the generous and selfless gift of eye donation, the Heartland Lions Eye Banks can help to assist in the sight restoration process, bringing vision to five people each day.

During the month of March 2006, the Heartland Lions Eye Banks encourage you to take an active role in helping to educate others about the importance of eye donation. Encourage those around you to consider pledging to become a donor. Let them know that the simplest way to pledge their donation is to join their state's donor registry system. A list of all state donor registries is available online at [www.shareyourlife.org](http://www.shareyourlife.org).

The Eye Bank has also developed educational posters and materials for use during March, including our National Eye

Donor Month poster. This year, our design features a watercolor painting by cornea transplant recipient, Nancy Oakes. For more information on Nancy and how regaining sight has allowed her to continue her artwork, please see the cover story.

If you are interested in receiving any of these educational materials please contact your local Hospital Development staff member listed on the back page of this newsletter, or visit [www.hleb.org](http://www.hleb.org) to download a printable copy of our poster pictured to the right.



## Top Online Organ and Tissue Donation Resources

### National Coalition on Donation

[www.shareyourlife.org](http://www.shareyourlife.org)

Learn more about organ and tissue donation and find links to each state's donor registry.

### Dept. of Health & Human Services

[www.organdonor.gov](http://www.organdonor.gov)

Get info on national events and breaking news about the Organ Donation Breakthrough Collaborative.

### Eye Bank Association of America

[www.restore sight.org](http://www.restore sight.org)

Here you'll find lots of resources on eye donation and how eye banks work to restore sight.

### The Gift of a Lifetime

[www.organtransplants.org](http://www.organtransplants.org)

An educational site that provides great multimedia presentations of real-life transplant recipients.

## Meet Our Medical Directors : Dr. Berdy

For more than 10 years St. Louis-based Ophthalmologist, Dr. Gregg Berdy, has provided the Heartland Lions Eye Banks with consultation and oversight in medical aspects of our organization's operations. Dr. Berdy's partnership with the Eye Bank and our St. Louis branch laboratory, in particular, is a valued one that has helped guide us through a time of growth and expansion.



Medical Director Dr. Gregg Berdy

Dr. Berdy's extensive background in both clinical and research settings have made him a recognized leader in his field. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Duke University and a subsequent Medical Degree from St. Louis University. After completing his residency at St. Louis University, Dr. Berdy went on to work in clinical fellowships at both the University of Michigan's Kellogg Eye Center and Harvard University's Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. During his training in Boston, Dr. Berdy conducted research on treating inflammation, dry eye and ocular allergic diseases.

In 1990, Dr. Berdy returned to the St. Louis area, and shortly after opened his own practice, Ophthalmology Associates in Creve Coeur. Here, Dr. Berdy cares for patients suffering from minor eye problems and more complex diseases such as glaucoma, cataracts and corneal dystrophies. In his practice Dr. Berdy utilizes a variety of both surgical and non-surgical treatments, including laser vision correction, to help preserve and restore patients eyesight.

It was through Dr. Berdy's work as a corneal transplant surgeon that he first developed a relationship with the Heartland Lions Eye Banks. After requesting tissue from the Eye Bank for his transplant surgeries, Dr. Berdy's support of HLEB soon led to working with us in a new capacity as a Medical Director in 1992. Additionally, from 1994-2000, Dr. Berdy sat on Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation's Board of Directors.

During his time with the Eye Bank, Dr. Berdy has been able to provide guidance and direction in a time of growth for our branches and eye banking system. He has also helped to oversee new ways of ensuring that safe tissue is always available to corneal surgeons who request it through the development of our web-based tissue request portal.

Dr. Berdy has thoroughly enjoyed working with the both the Eye Banks' personnel and the Lions Club members who help us in our efforts to preserve and restore sight. "These are people with vision and a mission who work exceedingly hard," said Dr. Berdy, "I'd like to thank and acknowledge them for all that they do." We're honored to have Dr. Berdy on board at the Heartland Lions Eye Banks and look forward to working with him for years to come!

# Hospital Statistics :: January 2005 - December 2005

Hospital Name	Transplants	Donors	Hospital Name	Transplants	Donors
Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital (IL)	3	4	Lindsborg Community Hospital (KS)	2	2
Allen County Hospital (KS)	4	6	Logan County Hospital (KS)	0	2
Atchison Hospital (KS)	5	6	Maude Norton Memorial Hospital (KS)	4	3
Audrain Medical Center (MO)	14	15	McCune Brooks Hospital (MO)	4	2
Bates County Memorial Hospital (MO)	0	1	Meadowbrook Rehabilitation Hospital (KS)	0	1
BJC Missouri Hospice	1	1	Memorial Hospital/ Abilene (KS)	0	1
Boone Hospital Center (MO)	30	36	Memorial Hospital/ McPherson (KS)	2	2
Boone Hospital Home Care	0	1	Memorial Medical Center (IL)	56	51
Bothwell Regional Health Center (MO)	20	17	Mercy Health - Ft. Scott (KS)	4	5
Callaway Community Hospital (MO)	1	2	Mercy Health - Independence (KS)	7	5
Cameron Regional Medical Center (MO)	0	1	Mercy Health Center-College Campus (KS)	7	12
Capital Region Medical Center (MO)	9	15	Miami County Medical Center Inc. (KS)	1	2
Carlinville Hospital (IL)	5	3	Missouri Rehabilitation Center (MO)	1	1
Carroll County Memorial Hospital (MO)	2	1	Mitchell County Community Hospital (KS)	2	3
Cass Medical Center (MO)	10	8	Moberly Regional Medical Center (MO)	7	5
Cedar County Memorial Hospital (MO)	4	2	Morton County Hospital (KS)	2	1
Central Kansas Medical Center-Grt Bend (KS)	6	5	Mt. Carmel Medical Center (KS)	20	12
Citizens Medical Center (KS)	3	3	Neosho Memorial Hospital (KS)	2	3
Citizens Memorial Hospice (MO)	0	1	Ness County Hospital District #2 (KS)	2	1
Citizens Memorial Hospital (MO)	8	4	Nevada Regional Medical Center (MO)	6	3
Clara Barton Hospital (KS)	2	2	Newman Regional Health (KS)	16	12
Clay County Hospital (IL)	0	1	Newton Medical Center (KS)	14	9
Cloud County Health Center (KS)	2	1	Northeast Regional Medical Center (MO)	2	4
Coffey County Hospital (KS)	4	3	Norton County Hospital (KS)	8	6
Coffeyville Regional Medical Center (KS)	2	2	Olathe Medical Center Inc. (KS)	27	30
Columbia Regional Hospital (MO)	4	3	Osborne County Memorial Hospital (KS)	2	1
Community Hospices of America - Springfield (MO)	6	3	Ozarks Medical Center (MO)	14	12
Community Hospices of America (MO)	2	2	Pana Community Hospital (IL)	1	1
Community Hospices of America-Central (MO)	0	1	Paris Community Hospital (IL)	0	2
Community Memorial Hospital (KS)	2	3	Passavant Memorial Area Hospital (IL)	9	9
Cooper County Memorial Hospital (MO)	7	6	Pershing Memorial Hospital (MO)	4	5
Cox Health - Monett (MO)	4	3	Phelps County Regional Medical Center (MO)	22	17
Cox Health - North (MO)	4	6	Phillips County Hospital (KS)	5	4
Cox Health - South (MO)	88	93	Pike County Memorial Hospital (MO)	2	3
Cox Health - Walnut Lawn (MO)	1	1	Pratt Regional Medical Center (KS)	0	2
Crawford Memorial Hospital (IL)	2	2	Primrose Place Health Care (MO)	0	1
Cushing Memorial Hospital (KS)	2	2	Providence Medical Center (KS)	20	21
Decatur County Hospital/Cedar Living Center (KS)	2	2	Putnam County Memorial Hospital (MO)	2	1
Doctor's Hospital (MO)	2	2	Ransom Memorial Hospital (KS)	4	3
Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center (KS)	0	1	Rawlins County Health Center (KS)	2	2
Edwards County Hospital (KS)	0	1	Ray County Memorial Hospital (MO)	2	1
Ellett Memorial Hospital (MO)	2	2	Republic County Hospital (KS)	0	1
Ellinwood District Hospital (KS)	2	1	Rice County Hospital District # 1 (KS)	2	1
Excelsior Springs Medical Center (MO)	0	3	Richland Memorial Hospital (IL)	4	3
Fayette County Hospital (IL)	2	1	Riverways of Ozarks Medical Center Hospice Home Care	0	1
Fitzgibbon Hospital (MO)	8	11	Russell Regional Hospital (KS)	2	2
Fredonia Regional Hospital (KS)	2	1	Sabetha Community Hospital (KS)	1	2
Freeman Health Systems - East (MO)	4	5	Sac-Osage Hospital (MO)	0	1
Freeman Health Systems - Neosho (MO)	6	4	Salem Township Hospital (IL)	2	1
Freeman Health Systems - West (MO)	49	49	Samaritan Memorial Hospital (MO)	4	2
Geary Community Hospital (KS)	9	9	Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center (IL)	22	15
Golden Valley Memorial Hospital (MO)	0	4	Select Specialty Hospital / Topeka (KS)	0	1
Goodland Regional Medical Center (KS)	4	3	Shelby Memorial Hospital (IL)	2	1
Greenwood County Hospital (KS)	4	2	Sheridan County Hospital (KS)	0	1
Hamilton County Hospital (KS)	2	1	Skaggs Community Health Center (MO)	18	18
Hands of Hope Hospice (MO)	2	1	Smith County Memorial Hospital (KS)	4	4
Hannibal Regional Hospital (MO)	9	9	Southwest Medical Center (KS)	7	5
Hays Medical Center (KS)	6	8	Specialty Hospital of Mid-America (KS)	2	1
Heartland Regional Medical Center (MO)	52	50	St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital (IL)	6	7
Hedrick Medical Center (MO)	0	1	St. Catherine Hospital (KS)	12	15
Herington Municipal Hospital (KS)	2	2	St. Francis Hospital- Litchfield (IL)	5	6
Hermann Area Hospital District (MO)	6	3	St. Francis Hospital- Maryville (MO)	4	3
Hillsboro Community Medical Center (KS)	2	2	St. John Hospital (KS)	2	2
Holton Community Hospital (KS)	0	2	St. John's Hospice Care - Springfield (MO)	5	8
Hospice Care of Illinois (IL)	4	2	St. John's Hospital - Lebanon (MO)	8	7
Hospice of Northeast Missouri	2	1	St. John's Hospital - Springfield (MO)	77	81
Hospital District #1 of Crawford County (KS)	2	3	St. John's Hospital (IL)	68	66
Hutchinson Hospital (KS)	14	18	St. John's Hospital Hospice Program (IL)	0	1
Jefferson Memorial Hospital (MO)	15	14	St. John's Mercy Hospital (MO)	15	15
Jewell County Hospital (KS)	1	1	St. John's Mercy Medical Center (MO)	2	1
John Knox Village Care Center (MO)	0	1	St. John's Regional Medical Center (MO)	41	48
Kansas City Hospice (MO)	7	5	St. Joseph Memorial Hospital (KS)	1	1
Kansas City VA Medical Center (MO)	6	4	St. Luke Hospital (KS)	0	2
Kiowa County Memorial Hospital (KS)	0	1	St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital/Centralia (IL)	7	8
Labette County Medical Center (KS)	0	4	St. Mary's Health Center/JC (MO)	21	26
Lafayette Regional Health Center (MO)	2	2	St. Vincent Memorial Hospital (IL)	11	6
Lake Regional Hospital (MO)	23	21	Stafford District Hospital (KS)	0	2
Lane County Hospital (KS)	3	2	Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital (KS)	0	4
Lawrence County Memorial Hospital (IL)	0	2	Texas County Memorial Hospital (MO)	8	4
Lawrence Memorial Hospital (KS)	22	20	Thomas H. Boyd Memorial Hospital (IL)	4	2
Lincoln County Hospital (KS)	2	1	U. S. General Leonard Wood Army Hospital (MO)	3	2
			University Hospital and Clinics (MO)	55	49
			University of Kansas Hospital (KS)	48	67
			Wamego City Hospital (KS)	5	4
			Western Missouri Medical Center (MO)	13	11
			Western Plains Regional Hospital (KS)	11	11
			Wilson County Hospital (KS)	0	1
			Wright Memorial Hospital (MO)	4	3

## Eye Care Assistance Program Gives New Hope to Columbia, MO Woman

Each year, hundreds of Missourians lose sight because they simply cannot afford to treat their vision problem. The Eye Bank's parent organization, the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation, offers an Eye Care Assistance program to help uninsured individuals who are just over the poverty level and do not qualify for government assistance. The Foundation's program pays for diagnostic testing and minor eye care procedures for people like Columbia, MO, resident Donna Cullimore, who would otherwise not be able to afford treatment.

As a single mom, Donna works very hard to provide for her 15-year-old son. For the past 13 years she has operated her own business where she cleans houses for families in Columbia. While this job gave her the flexibility she needed to care for her son it did not provide enough money for more than life's essentials, making health insurance out of the question.

In late 2005, Donna suddenly started seeing black spots in her field of vision. The spots were so significant that she had to call a friend to drive her to the hospital. Luckily, Donna's friend was a local Lion, familiar with the Foundation's Eye Care Assistance program. After contacting the Foundation and filling out some simple paperwork, Donna was admitted the program and received an examination at the Mason Eye Institute in Columbia.

Donna's exam at Mason determined that the retina had detached from her right eye causing small tears. Surgery was needed in order for Donna to keep her vision. Donna had laser surgery the following business day and has since had better vision in the eye. While she is still seeking follow up care, she has been able to keep her eyesight in her eye. Her doctor told her that if she had not come to the Eye Clinic when she did she would have lost her vision in her eye completely.

Donna is not alone in her inability to pay for her medical care; there are thousands of Missourians in need of assistance. The Eye Care Assistance Program fills a large gap in the need for affordable health care. Currently, there are 14 active patients in the Eye Care Assistance Program. The average cost per patient is \$880 a year. There are many more people throughout the state that need help through the Eye Care Assistance Program. Do you know someone who needs assistance and could benefit from our program? Please call us at (573) 443-1471 or visit the Foundation's web site at [www.mlerf.org](http://www.mlerf.org).



*Donna is grateful the ECA program for saving her sight!*

## Thank you!

The Heartland Lions Eye Banks would like to thank all of our partners who work with us to help give the gift of sight to corneal transplant recipients. With your help, we were able to provide tissue for 1,917 cornea transplants during the past fiscal year.

With your support we can continue to preserve and restore sight!





## in FOCUS

is a publication of the Heartland Lions Eye Banks

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## **Celebrate Life and Sight**



**National Donate Life Month**  
**April 2006**