

# *the* VISIONARY

A PUBLICATION FROM THE CENTRAL OHIO LIONS EYE BANK

## Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank Celebrates 40 Years

CELEBRATING  
40 YEARS

1973  
2013

On October 10, 2013, the Eye Bank hosted the celebration of 40 years serving the community, with a dinner held at the Hilton at Easton, in Columbus. More than 80 attendees came together to share memories, dine, and recognize outstanding contributors to the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank's success.

The evening was delightfully emceed by 10TV's Colleen Marshall, who related to the audience her own family's experience of receiving help from the Lions. Featured speakers included the Eye Bank's Medical Director, Richard Lembach, M.D., Associate Medical Director and Board Chairman John Stechsulte, M.D., and cornea transplant recipient James Tetz, DDS.

Those in attendance included hospital representatives, Lions, Trustees, Lions Board

members, volunteers, physicians, funeral directors, and Eye Bank staff. Special "Past, Present, and Future" awards were presented by Dr. Lembach to the Lions of Districts 13F, J, and K. Funeral director Jeff Hardwick was recognized for Outstanding Community Service, and Riverside Methodist Hospital was given the "Insight Award" by former Lions Board Chairman Melody Brent, for its highly-successful, long-standing Eye Donor Program. Board Treasurer PDG Jay Carey presented "Philanthropic Support" awards to Old Trail Printing for donated services and to Al Tucker, who serves on the Eye Bank's Development Advisory Board. A "Lifetime Achievement Award" was given to Richard Lembach, M.D., by Dr. Stechsulte and Executive Director Phyllis McNabb, who also presented the "Crystal Vision Award" to Trustee and legal counsel Bob Rupp. Dr. Lembach, Ms. McNabb, and Dr. Stechsulte spoke of the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank's past achievements, present status, and anticipated future challenges and opportunities, respectively.



Left to right: Dr. John Stechsulte, Associate Medical Director and Chairman of the Eye Bank's Board of Trustees. Colleen Marshall of WCMH 10TV emceed the evening.

# Connecting a Young Donor's Gift of Sight to Patients

*A message from Phyllis McNabb, executive director, Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank*

Dear Friends,

Not long ago, I had a call from the mother of a recent 18-year-old eye donor. She was wondering whether her son's corneas had been transplanted. She was hoping to find something positive, in the face of her grief. Her son's death was sudden and unexpected. It was a comfort, she said, to know that two people had benefitted by receiving cornea transplants thanks to his gift of sight. She knew that her son wanted to be a donor and she was glad that he had been able to help others. The family was still reeling from their loss. As we talked, she revealed that he was the younger of two sons who were about three years apart in age. This was something I related to, since I also have two sons, three years apart. Losing one of them is unfathomable. I thought to myself that there are no words to express the combination of sympathy and fear that was going through my mind. She said that there were no words to describe what she was going through - but that knowing her child's gift had made a life-changing difference to two vision-impaired patients gave her a bit of hope. After the conversation ended, it occurred to me that this child's eye donation had been a gift on more than

one level. I picked up my phone again, and called my younger son; I needed to hear his voice. I needed to tell him, yet again, that I love him. Putting down the phone a second time, I saw it: there was a bright ray from this gift of sight that connected the selfless act of the donor not only to two cornea transplant recipients, but also to the donor's mother, me, and my own child. It was transcendent.

For more than 40 years the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank has been the bridge between eye donors and cornea transplant recipients; between blindness and restored vision. Although technology, regulations, and practices have changed dramatically, our core mission has endured the passage of years and the evolution of the means by which it is accomplished. To restore, improve, and preserve vision remains our goal. Connecting eye donors with cornea transplant recipients, educating physicians, and enhancing eye research are the three objectives that help us realize that goal. And quality is always the standard by which we measure our work. This year we celebrated the first 40 years of dedication to our mission; now we commence the challenging and exciting prospect of the next forty.

## Thanks to All Our Generous Supporters

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#### In Memoriam

In memory of Sandy Bowling  
*David E Bowling*  
In memory of Homer E Bosold  
*Irene D Bosold*  
In memory of Homer L Dillahunt  
*Robert & Natalie Beidler*  
*Warren & Betty Copenhofer Family*  
*(Dave,Ann, Janet,JT & their families)*  
*Janice M Shroyer*  
*Thomas & Margaret Thompson*  
In Memory of Marie Ickes  
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In memory of PDG Gene James & Diane District 13J  
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In memory of Ted King Jr  
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In memory of Harley J Sherrill  
*Doris H Sherrill*  
In memory of Woody Woodworth  
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### In Honor of

In Honor of The Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank 40th Anniversary  
*Robert & Carol Anderson*  
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#### Dr Richard Lembach Education, Research, and Development Fund

Shirley A Jacobs  
James H King  
Mr & Mrs Michael L Reed

**Donations given from from May through October 2013.** As a non-profit organization, the Eye Bank relies on private donations to make services available to those who need us. If you would like to help us give the Gift of Sight with a contribution, please contact the **Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank, 262 Neil Avenue, Suite 140, Columbus, Ohio 43215, 614.545.2057** or visit our Web site at **www.DonateMyEyes.org**.

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Starting at top from left to right: Colleen Marshall of WCMH 10TV emceed the evening; Trustee and Legal Counsel Bob Rupp, who received the "Crystal Vision Award"; Former Lions Board Chairman Melody Brent with Colleen Marshall; Trustee Tyler Schleich (13F), Richard Lembach, M.D., and Trustees Ron Barber (13J) and Lilane Fox (13K) with Lions "Past, Present, and Future" Awards; Phyllis McNabb, Colleen Marshall, John Stechsulte, M.D., and Jeff Hardwick.

## The Financial Impact of Blindness

For patients who receive corneal transplants, the impact of the surgery goes well beyond the economic. But it is worth noting that a recent study conducted by The Lewin Group for the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) concluded that the lifetime benefit of a corneal transplant is overwhelmingly greater than the costs of the surgery. The study compared the medical cost of transplant procedures to the direct and indirect lifetime costs of the alternative – living with blindness or severe vision impairment. With a corneal transplant, an individual avoids the direct expenditures that come with vision loss, such as higher routine medical costs and long-term care costs, and the indirect costs of potential years of lost productivity to both the patients and their family caregivers. Based on the study report, in which researchers used 2012 transplant numbers and census data to estimate 2013 numbers, the EBAA-estimated lifetime value for corneal transplants performed in 2013 by physicians who use corneas provided by the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank is over \$33,000,000. The true amount should be even greater than this estimate, given the anticipated 20% + increase in our number of transplants this year.

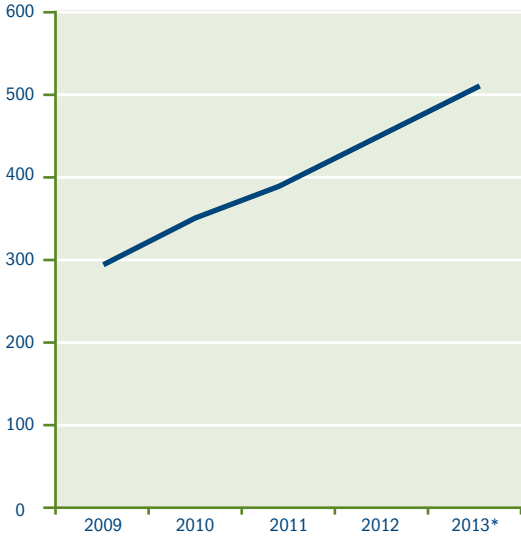
Corneal transplants also result in direct federal and state government savings. This study assumed full retirement at age 65, so the net indirect cost savings is small for these patients, but the per-capita lifetime net medical benefits of \$67,500 for patients age 65 or greater who receive corneal transplants in 2013 will save Medicare, Medicaid and patients a combined \$2.4 billion nationally, and \$14,148,533 in the service area of the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank. (Savings calculations were determined by multiplying the net lifetime benefit by the number of patients we served in 2012.)

Since the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank's founding in 1973, more than 12,000 men, women and children have received corneal transplants to restore vision and relieve pain from injury and disease to the eye. With a success rate greater than 95 percent, the one-hour procedure restores the patient's sight and his or her quality of life. It is the oldest type of transplant, as well as one of the most common and least invasive transplant procedures. The EBAA study proves the value of the procedure and the economic benefit to the patient, family and society.

# 2013 Proving to Be a Record Year

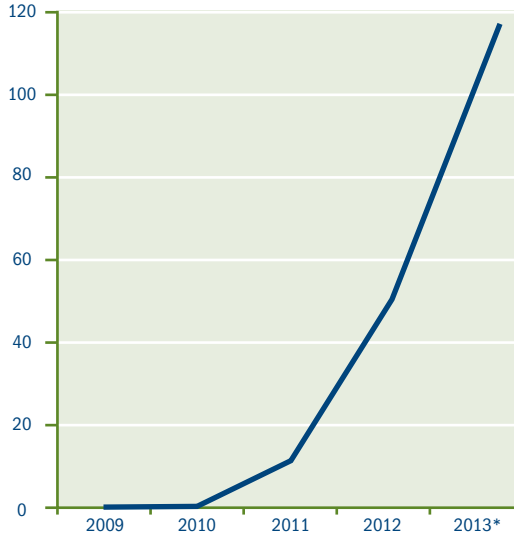
At the end of the first 10 months of 2013, the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank has already surpassed by 15% the number of surgical corneas and sclera provided during 2012. This will mark the Eye Bank's busiest year in recent history.

## PATIENTS SERVED



The graph above indicates the numbers of patients who received any type of surgical eye tissue from the Eye Bank.

## GLAUCOMA SHUNT PATCH GRAFTS



The newest service of the Eye Bank is the preparation of Glaucoma Shunt Patch Grafts. These are devitalized corneas that are thinned and trimmed specifically for use in glaucoma patient surgeries.

\* All 2013 numbers are based on surgeries through October of this year. Final numbers will be higher, as surgeries will be added in November and December.

The Visionary is published by the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank. Please report all changes of address to: Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank, 262 Neil Avenue, Suite 140, Columbus, OH 43215, or email at [info@coleb.org](mailto:info@coleb.org).

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**EYE BANK**  
Be a part of the vision.

enhancing research through quality eye banking services.  
eye donors and transplant recipients, educating physicians, and  
OUR MISSION | To restore, improve, and preserve vision by connecting

Special thanks to Old Trail Printing for donating the printing of the newsletter and to  
Phillips Coney Island for promoting the Eye Bank

- Anniversary Highlights
- Event Photos
- 2013 a Record Year for Surgeries



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