

the VISIONARY

A PUBLICATION FROM THE CENTRAL OHIO LIONS EYE BANK

a donor story

Gift of Sight From one Teen to Another

It has been eight years since Candy Bolin lost her son, Chris. But his memory is a constant presence in her life, and in the lives of many others who were touched by the young man. Although he was only 17 when an auto accident claimed his life, Chris had already told his mom he wanted to be a donor. She faithfully honored that wish.

A high school junior, Chris was active in sports and played baseball, football, and basketball. Among his other loves were boxing and spending time with his many friends.

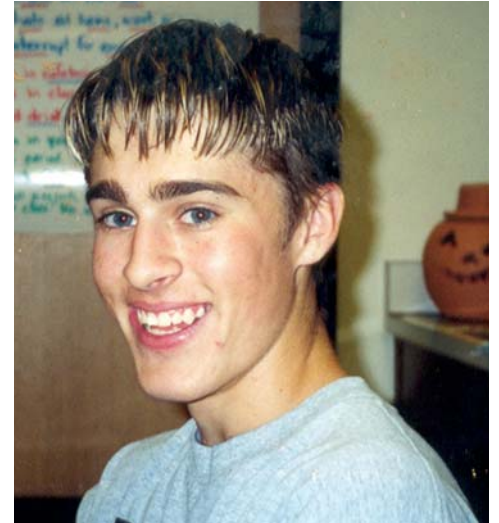
“He had a way of making people feel better about themselves. He was a shoulder to lean on, a friend to count on, and the one who was strong when strength was hard to find,” his mom remembers.

Twelve weeks after Chris’ death, his family received a letter from a recipient

of one of his donated corneas. They were surprised to learn that his precious gift of sight had been transplanted in another 17-year-old, who was also a junior, a lover of sports, and shared his first name. This Chris had been blind in one eye since he was six years old, and “playing sports is very hard for me,” his letter said. After his new cornea transplant, he wrote to Chris Bolin’s family, “I am very proud to say thank you for helping me. I can’t tell your family thanks for what you did for me enough.”

“That letter was like salve to a wound when I first read it, and still today it brings a sense of comfort to me,” says his mom. “I honestly believe that Chris chose this recipient.”

On a Web site that she created to honor her son are numerous pictures of him. The smile she describes as “contagious” is evident. In one of the



Chris Bolin

photos Chris is shown donating blood during a school blood drive. When he died, he was a tissue donor as well as an eye donor. His giving nature improved the quality of many lives.

After eight years, his mother says her son’s loss is “really no less painful.” But she joins countless others whose healing was made possible through his kindness, and she still holds dear the many gifts Chris left behind.

Eye Bank Receives Gift of \$10,000 from 2008 Eye Ball

The Eye Bank recently received a very generous check from The Eye Center Foundation for a portion of the proceeds from the 2008 Eye Ball. The \$10,000 gift came at an excellent time for the organization, according to Executive Director Phyllis McNabb, because, she says, “we had just had an old microscope fail, and we needed to replace it quickly. Fortunately, the check made it possible for us to do that, and to avoid any disruption in our work flow.”

The Eye Bank was a participant on the Eye Ball steering committee, and worked to promote and support the event. Dr.

Alice Epitropoulos, who was the Eye Ball’s organizer, said, “it was an honor for The Eye Center committee to work closely with the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank for last year’s very successful fund-raiser.” She emphasized the fact that, “together our efforts have enhanced the Eye Bank’s sight-restoring mission as well as The Eye Center Foundation’s educational outreach program.” The 2009 Eye Ball is planned for August 29th, and this year is being organized by Drs. Lisa Borkowski and Carrie Lembach.

*The 2008
Eye Ball*

Quality, Experience, Service Essential for Renewing Sight

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

Dear Friends:

I am so pleased to report that last year we were able to provide over 400 vision-impaired patients with new corneas! We recently surveyed our transplant surgeons and were thrilled to receive excellent marks for our service, the quality of the corneas we provide, the professionalism of our staff, and our emergency response time. Although we are always striving to improve, it was great to hear that we are successful in our mission. I am proud of the work ethic employed by our staff and of their constant focus on quality!

I want to thank two of our Trustees who are completing terms on our Board this summer. Norman Cupps served on the Nominations Committee of the Board, and has given to us his perspective, dedication, and sense of service as a long-time Lion. Fred Milford has been invaluable as a member of our Board's Finance and Audit Committees, and we are fortunate that he will continue to offer his sage advice and great sense of humor to them. At the same time, we mourn the passing of former Trustee Chris Heigel (please see the article on his Lifetime Achievement Award, in this issue).

We are excited to add the expertise of another staff member trained to perform specialized procedures, as well as two newly-certified technicians. Our certified staff and our

“For over 35 years, we have demonstrated our commitment to our community with state-of-the-art technology, highly-developed proficiency, and an unrelenting quest for excellence.”

Eye Bank Association of America accreditation are two ways in which the Eye Bank invests in the ongoing quality of our service to our patients. As a full-service eye bank, we handle and monitor every step of an eye donation case, from the hospital referral through eye recovery, laboratory processing, and the delivery of a healthy cornea to the surgical facility for transplantation. We know that seamless oversight of these functions by a singular, experienced eye bank produces the best and safest opportunity for offering new vision to our corneal transplant patients.

For over 35 years, we have demonstrated our commitment to our community with state-of-the-art technology, highly-developed proficiency, and an unrelenting quest for excellence. Our Medical Director, Richard Lembach, M.D., expects nothing less and dedicates countless hours of his own in pursuit of those goals.

Our future plans will build on the positive reputation and expertise we have worked so hard and long to achieve. We thank you, the Friends of the Eye Bank, for supporting this work, and for always being an important part of our vision. Have a wonderful spring and summer. Travel, garden, picnic, swim – and appreciate the sunny days and beautiful sights of these warmer seasons!

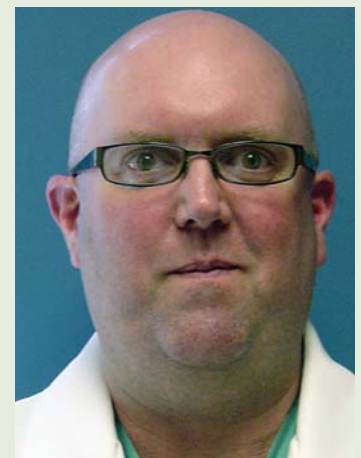
Phyllis

Eye Bank Expands Capacity to Offer Services

The Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank has recently expanded our capacity to provide pre-cut corneas for transplantation. Certified Eye Bank Technician Mike McMasters has been trained and qualified to perform the procedures. The Eye Bank has been preparing corneas for partial-thickness grafts since 2006. Until recently only our Technical Director, Jason Brosious, RN, BSN, CEBT, has been responsible for this procedure. Jason has successfully performed more than 250 cornea pre-cuts, using the microkeratome donated by the Lions of Districts 13F, J, and K. Mike received his CEBT certification and was then sent to the training course to qualify for the specialized work. As this newsletter went to print, another staffer, David Armstrong, also achieved his CEBT. Congratulations, Mike and David!



Technician David Armstrong, CEBT



Technician Mike McMasters, CEBT

Lions Donations Fund New Eye Bank Car

Neither rain nor sleet nor dark of night... might not be the Post Office's motto any more, but it applies under most circumstances to the Eye Bank. Since technical staff travel to recover donor eyes across 45 Ohio counties, 24 hours/day, 365 days/year, a sturdy form of transportation is a necessity. The Lions Board voted to fund the purchase of a new vehicle for this purpose, replacing our well-worn 1985 Blazer. Thanks also to Richard Lembach, M.D. and Bob Rupp – two Trustees whose significant efforts helped make the selection and purchase of the 2008 Hyundai Santa Fe possible.



Eye Bank Medical Director Richard Lembach, M.D. (r) and Technical Director Jason Brosious with new Hyundai Santa Fe purchased for the Eye Bank by the Lions Board.

Eye Bank News

Eye Bank To Participate in NIH Research

Eye researchers at Vision Optimization have received a major grant from the National Institutes of Health, and the Eye Bank will participate in the project's development and use of a portable device for detecting prior eye surgery in donor eyes. The Eye Bank's portion of the grant is \$133,000, over a two-year period beginning in May 2010. The funding will cover specimens, staffing, and supplies provided by the Eye Bank for the research.

Eye Bank Night at Huntington Park - AUGUST 9th

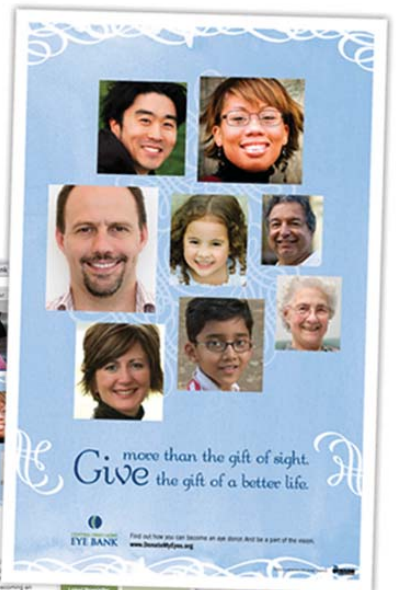
The new Columbus Clippers venue, Huntington Park, will be the site of an Eye Bank Night in its opening season this year on Sunday, August 9th. The ballpark is located across Neil Avenue from The Eye Center. Look for an announcement in your mail in the near future for the details – we hope to see you there!

Many Thanks...

To Old Trail Printing, for donating the printing of the Eye Bank newsletter!

New Eye Bank Posters Now Available

Thanks to the generosity of Grange Insurance, the Eye Bank now has new posters to encourage eye donations. Posters were sent to area ophthalmologists and over 60 hospitals with the intent of spreading the message that eye donors improve the quality of life for cornea transplant patients. The image for the poster was also used to enhance the Web site, www.DonateMyEyes.org. Contact the Eye Bank and we'll be glad to share posters with anyone who wants them for display!



Thanks to all our Generous Supporters

\$10,000 and Above

The Eye Center Foundation/Eye Ball 2008

\$9,999 – \$1,000

Anonymous
Chillicothe Evening Lions
Virginia C. Giggi
Good Hope Lions
Marietta Noon Lions
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\$999 – \$500

Bellbrook Lions
Bexley Lions
Delaware Community Lions
Delaware Lions
Erdey Searcy Eye Group
Fairborn Lions
Gahanna Lions
Grove City Noon Lions
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Ironton Lions
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Licking Valley Lions
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Mary & Ned Parrett
Ruth & Bryce Peterson
Ridgedale Lions
Rona & Steven Tanzer, O.D.
Emma & Wallace Thomen
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Big Walnut Breakfast Lions
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Regina Crawford
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Gallipolis Lions
Green Camp Lions
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Ray Mazzotta
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Pataskala Lions
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Reynoldsburg Lions
Rushville Union Lions
Sunbury Lions
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Thornville Lions
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Waverly Lions
Whitehall Lions
Yellow Springs Lions

\$249 – \$100

Alexander Lions
Amanda Lions
Anonymous
Baltimore Lions
Beavercreek Lions
Bellbrook Lioness
Columbus Beechcroft Lions
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Mildred Clouse
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Groveport Madison Lions
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Jackson Lions
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Phyllis J. Means
Millersport Lioness
Millersport Lions
Mt. Orab Lions
New Albany Lions
Prospect Lions
Reno Lions
John Rowsey
Sardinia-Mowrystown Lioness
Sardinia-Mowrystown Lions
Scenic Hills Lions
Jacqueline & Michael Snodgrass
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Jennifer & Joel Steward
Summit Station Lions
United Way of Muskingum, Perry, & Morgan Counties
Carol & Stewart Willits
Wilmington Lions

\$99 – \$1

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Old Trail Printing

In Memoriam

In Memory of All Donors
Phyllis J. Means
M.P. Thompson
In Memory of Homer Bosold

Irene D. Bosold
In Memory of Carl H. Brown
Shirley G. Brown
In Memory of Nora Denny
Hillsboro Lions Club
In Memory of P. Hedges
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In Memory of Terrance Jacobs
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Ronald J. Seaver
Mr. & Mrs. David Svensen
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Svensen
Mrs. Bonnie Synove
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Walker
In Memory of Robert Rhoades
Hillsboro Lions Club
In Memory of Earl Stober
Alice & Ralph Stacy

In Honor of

In Honor of Glen W. Cole
Susie & Glen Cole
In Honor of Shirley Jacobs
Pickerington Lions
In Honor of Carson Kahle
Doraine & John Kahle
In Honor of Richard Lembach, M.D.
Dorothy Baier
Mildred Anthony
Carl L. Hastie
In Honor of John Stechschulte, M.D.
Dr. & Mrs. V.H. Hinrichs
In Honor of Denny & Jeni Tucker
Carol & Stuart Willits

Donations given from October 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. 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: **Paul Held, Volunteer Services and Development Coordinator, 262 Neil Avenue, Suite 140, Columbus, Ohio 43215, 614.545.2057** or visit our Web site at www.DonateMyEyes.org.

Best Practices for Eye Donor Program Success

The Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank is grateful for the efforts of over 60 hospitals that have Eye Donor Programs in 45 Ohio counties. It is thanks to the help of hospital staff that families are offered the opportunity for eye donation in a timely manner when that request is medically appropriate.

Mount Carmel Health System – including Mount Carmel West in downtown Columbus, Mount Carmel East, and Mount Carmel St. Ann’s in Westerville – has a long-standing, successful Eye Donor Program that adds much value to our ability to provide corneas for transplantation. We interviewed Mount Carmel liaison Jane Climer, RN, their Internal Regulatory Consultant who has administrative oversight for anatomical donations, to discuss the practices that make Mount Carmel’s program exemplary.

Jane has been working with anatomical donations at Mount Carmel since the early 1990s. She has built and maintained the donor program during that time, bringing consistency to the staffs’ efforts across the system. Jane coordinates anatomical donation activities and adds objectivity in developing and applying policies. Her job, she says, includes giving the staff “whatever I can in the way of tools – education, references, and resources.” In that context, she invites the Eye Bank to participate in educational programming, training, and the meetings of Mount Carmel’s Donation Council.

“The agency is the expert, and I take advantage of that,” says Jane. She cites relationships as critical to making the process effective. She works closely with JoAnn Kirby, the Eye Bank’s Hospital Development Coordinator, to bring information and support to the Mount Carmel staff. “I rely on JoAnn for ideas, questions, and to be available to us,” Jane says. She frequently invites JoAnn to teach selected staff



Mount Carmel’s Eye Donor Program Liaison Jane Climer, RN, (left), with Eye Bank Hospital Development Coordinator, JoAnn Kirby.

members – “Designated Requestors” - how to discuss the option of eye donation with families when loved ones die.

JoAnn attributes the program’s positive outcome to “the longevity and consistency of Jane – her experience and dedication. She’s ‘on top’ of things. She wants to make the program work.” In 2008, there were 54 eye donors from the Mount Carmel Health System.

Jane points out that Mount Carmel’s administration supports the program and facilitates the culture of anatomical donation in the hospitals. It can be as simple, she says, as “letting people do what they’ve been trained to do.” Although this sounds easy, it can be challenging in a sizeable institution. As the regulatory point person for the program, Jane has access to various levels of staff and administration and can communicate activities, needs, and successes to key people in the hospital system.

Mount Carmel staff who take the Eye Bank’s training to become Designated Requestors of donor eyes make a huge difference in the hospitals and in the community. They are the individuals who make it possible for corneas to reach those who need the transplants. “Designated Requestors take this very much to heart,” Jane says. “Most feel very adamant about donation. Most all have been touched by donation in some way.”

Jane, too, thinks in personal terms about the results of her work with the Eye Bank. “Imagine how you would feel if you could not see for the rest of your life – what you wouldn’t be able to do. You just can’t put a value on that,” she says.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game... Eye Bank Night at the Clippers

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, August 9th – that’s the date of the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank’s Night at the Clippers! Come enjoy the terrific new Huntington Park, across Neil Avenue from The Eye Center. Game time is 5:05 pm, and we invite you to join us for an evening of fun and a great opportunity to support and promote the Eye Bank. A percentage of the ticket proceeds will go to the Eye Bank, and our mission and work will be featured in various ways throughout the game. Please watch your mail for additional details. We look forward to seeing you there!

Lion Chris Heigel Recognized for Lifetime Achievement

The Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank's 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Lion Chris Heigel on Tuesday, March 4th. Sadly, he passed away later that month, after a tough and tenacious battle with cancer. Chris, a member of the Columbus Southeast Lions Club, served on the Lions Board of the Eye Bank, our Development Advisory Board, and the Board of Trustees.

"Chris is an excellent choice" to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award, said Trustee Norman Cupps.

"He was always a major contributor to the Board of Trustees, as well as serving in other areas of the Eye Bank. He was also always a cheerleader for us," Board

Chairman Brian Turner remarked.

Indeed, Chris was probably best-known for his long-time, passionate advocacy of the Eye Bank to other Lions and to the public. A man of great ideas and enthusiasm, Chris always dared to dream big. His excitement about the ability to restore sight was obvious, and often contagious.

"Chris championed our progress 120%," says Executive Director Phyllis McNabb. "Whether it was raising funds, moving to a new home, or advancing

our technology, Chris was always eager to tackle any project. He strongly believed in the Eye Bank's mission, and was a joy to work with. Meetings will be much too quiet without him!"

...Chris was always eager to tackle any project. He strongly believed in the Eye Bank's mission, and was a joy to work with.

- Phyllis McNabb

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.

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EYE BANK
Be a part of the vision.

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

» Lions Fund New Car Purchase
» Eye Donor Touches Many Lives
» Eye Bank Staff Achievements
» In Memoriam, Chris Heigel

Save the Date!
August 9th, 2009
Eye Bank Night at
the new Clippers
stadium - Huntington
Park



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