

the VISIONARY

A PUBLICATION FROM THE CENTRAL OHIO LIONS EYE BANK

Young Eye Donor's Legacy to "Give Back"

Trevor Clark's mother, Stephanie, was so glad to hear that two cornea transplant patients received her son's gift of sight. In her words, "Trevor loved rainbows ever since he was a little boy... To be able to give the gift to see a rainbow, I believe is an awesome birthday (tribute) to my angel."

At the age of 15, Trevor, an avid young outdoorsman, was killed in a hunting accident, leaving behind his parents and two brothers to cope with the terrible loss. But his mother is quick to point out that it's important to focus on the positive, and thus was thrilled to know that two people can now see, thanks to her son.

Trevor is described by his family as "a very loving child of God. Trevor was a son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin, friend, teammate, loyal fisherman and a lover of hunting. He was a talented ball player and champion wrestler. Trevor was just entering his freshman year at Mount Gilead High School. Trevor was a goal setter, a dreamer, and an over-comer who loved to beat the odds" when it came to managing his life on the Autism Spectrum.

The family has initiated a catfishing tournament as a celebration of Trevor's life, and as a way to raise money for a scholarship fund they have established in his memory. The Fishing 4 Purpose Trevor P. Clark Memorial Scholarships are given to seniors graduating from Mount Gilead High School and from Riverdale High School, in Ft. Myers, Florida,



Trevor (center) with his brothers, sharing one of his favorite activities

which he briefly attended. The family expressed their gratefulness to their community for "the calls, visits, prayers, and words of encouragement for strength" they received when Trevor died, and felt that the scholarships would offer an opportunity "to give something back to the children and the community."

As with the scholarships, Trevor's gift of sight also delivers the gift of a brighter future for those who were so fortunate to be the recipients of his youthful legacy.

Allergan Sponsors Eye Bank 2014 Surgeons Forum

The third Annual Eye Bank Surgeons Forum was held in early November, with sponsorship provided by Allergan. Each year the Forum is hosted following the meetings of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the Eye Bank Association of America, as an opportunity for sharing with corneal physicians the latest news in corneal transplantation.

A day-long scientific program at those national meetings provides insight into trends in procedures and techniques, as well as new research findings. Surgeons attending the Forum were also able to learn about local research and Eye Bank news. The evening included dinner, presentations, and lively discussion among the surgeons and Eye Bank representatives.

How to Say “Thank You” for a New Cornea

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

Dear Friends,

In this season of gift-giving and-receiving, it seems appropriate to talk about expressing gratitude. The Gift of Sight is a very personal one, and many cornea transplant patients ask, “How can I thank my donor?” The Eye Bank, of course, does not release names of donors or transplant recipients without express permission. That said, we encourage transplant patients who do wish to correspond to write a letter to their donor’s family, sent in care of the Eye Bank, without identifying information. We edit (if necessary), then share the correspondence with the appropriate donor family member/s. We let them know that they can write back in care of the Eye Bank, as well.

Many times the patient will not receive a response (and may not be expecting one), but we still believe the letter can have great significance for the family. Transplant recipients tell us the realization that their cornea came from someone

else’s loss is powerful and moving to them. Writing may be emotionally difficult, and some patients understandably say that they are unable to put their gratitude into words, while others may be eager to convey their thanks. Receiving a letter can be very meaningful to a donor’s family; there can be great comfort in knowing that someone is seeing again thanks to their loved one’s Gift of Sight. Donor family members also sometimes initiate correspondence, which is handled by the Eye Bank in much the same manner.

Speaking of thanks, I’ll take this moment to tell you how fortunate and grateful we feel to have your generous support this year. Our vision is to open greater opportunities for sight restoration, and your help makes a difference – it changes lives! Please have a safe and joyful holiday season, and may the New Year bring you happiness and peace.

Phyllis

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Donations given from from July through October, 2014. 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.

Transplants Deliver New Clarity and Color

The distortion of his vision led Joe Grubb's optometrist to recommend that he see a cornea specialist. In addition to a cataract, Dr. Thomas Litzinger diagnosed Grubb with Fuch's Dystrophy, a disease that gradually progresses to cause cloudy or hazy corneas, obstructing vision.

As a retired pharmacist, Mr. Grubb understood the medical aspects of his disease and the advantages of having corneal transplants to clear his vision. The detail-oriented work of a pharmacist required him to be able to read prescriptions carefully. His anticipation of the transplants was hopeful, and not fearful, he says.

The transplants, performed in July and September of 2013, "made a great difference," according to Mr. Grubb. Because the dystrophy was gradual, it wasn't until after the transplants that he realized just how bad his vision had become. This is a common observation made by patients with his corneal disease.

Two days after his first transplant, he couldn't believe the difference he saw on his computer screen. There was now "a distinctness, a clarity. The color red was bright, clear, crisp, and very well-defined." The blurriness of the computer



screen improved greatly. Previously, it would get so bad that "sometimes I'd just give up reading."

Mr. Grubb also noticed the difference when driving at night. The Fuch's Dystrophy had caused glare around lights. After his transplants, "light was more distinct. There was less of a star-like appearance" to oncoming headlights.

With his improved vision, Mr. Grubb is now enjoying his retirement and spending time with his four children and his

Introducing... Newest Eye Bank Staffer

The Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank is pleased to welcome Lisa Perko, M.Ed., to our growing staff. Lisa will join existing staff member Cristina DeLaSerda as a Hospital Education Coordinator. Commenting on her new position, Lisa says, "I am grateful to be representing the eye bank and educating Designated Requestors to further eye donations. It is exciting to be a part of a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to restore, improve, and preserve vision and I am thrilled to help contribute to this mission."

Lisa's hometown is a small suburb located outside Cleveland, "but Columbus has already been so welcoming for me."

Asked to introduce herself to our readers, she shares that "I have a background in public health with a passion to educate our communities through various forms of health education. I am a huge Cleveland sports fan and of course a proud supporter of our Ohio State Buckeyes. In any of my spare time I can usually be found in the outdoors exploring nature, reading, or doing arts and crafts. I am very appreciative for the opportunity to work with the Eye Bank, and look forward to learning everything about the eye donation, education, and research world!"



Donor Registration Goes Mobile

The Eye Bank will soon be able to help register eye, organ, and tissue donors in Ohio, thanks to a mobile device being provided for that purpose by the state's Second Chance Trust Fund. Ohio residents can use it to enter the registry with a swipe of their drivers' licenses. This alternative to registration at the

BMV when renewing licenses will help us reach more Ohioans at various public events, and will have the added advantage of permitting potential registrants to talk with us and learn more about eye donation while considering that decision.



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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Save the Date to Swing for Sight!

Start planning your foursomes – the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank will be hosting a Golf Tournament on October 12, 2015 (yes, 2015)! The Tournament will be held at Pinnacle Golf Course in Grove City. The Tournament is planned

to include lunch, dinner, and an auction. Proceeds from the event will help further the Eye Bank's sight restoring mission. For additional information or to register a foursome, contact the Eye Bank at 614/545-2066.



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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.

Special thanks to Old Trail Printing for donating the printing of the newsletter

- Saying "Thanks"
- Eye Bank Staff Expanding
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- Legacy of a Young Eye Donor



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