

the VISIONARY

A PUBLICATION FROM THE CENTRAL OHIO LIONS EYE BANK

Seventh Annual EYE BANK NIGHT with the Clippers

About 300 Friends of the Eye Bank attended the June 14th event, the seventh annual occasion that was begun the year the Huntington Ball Park first opened. Corneal recipient Abby David took to the field to throw out the First Pitch. She was accompanied to the game by her husband, aunt, mother, and nine-year-old triplet sons. An eye injury sustained by Mrs. David developed into a painful, nasty infection, which wasn't resolved by her trip to an urgent care facility. Believing that you should "never mess around with the eye," and



fearing she would permanently lose her vision landed her under the care of corneal specialist Tom Dingle, M.D., who determined that the only remedy would be a corneal transplant. Mrs. David, a trained speech therapist, is a co-founder of the non-profit Helping Hands, which provides education and therapy for autistic children. Post-transplant, her vision is 20/25. However, she still sees triple (but only when she looks at her boys).



Clockwise from top: Abby David preparing for the First Pitch; Cornea recipient Abby David, second adult from left, before her First Pitch, with her husband, aunt, mother, and triplet boys; Dr. Tom Dingle and Family; One of David Triplets getting ball signed; Dr. John Stechschulte with Dr. Alan Rehmar and his wife; the crowd at Huntington Stadium.

A Look Back and a Leap Forward

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

Dear Friends,

Not long ago I ran across a very old letter (from the late 1970s, if memory serves) in which an Eye Bank director explained to a hospital liaison that, basically, if a patient was free of infectious disease and fit our age parameters, then s/he could be an eye donor. Oh, how much simpler life must have been! So much has changed, evolved, improved – and there are advancements in eye banking that were unheard of even a decade ago. The organizations themselves have undergone reorganizations and created new affiliations as a result of broader changing healthcare delivery. Even the Lions Clubs in Ohio are undertaking a re-districting, which will doubtless have an impact on the Eye Bank.

As we review the development of the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank, we must credit our Medical Director

Emeritus, Richard Lembach, M.D., who for 25 years has made sure that the quality of our work meets exacting standards and that our technical capabilities stay at the forefront of medical advancements. And as we look forward, we welcome the new leadership of Medical Director John Stechsulte, M.D., who took on this selfless responsibility in February. With support of the Eye Bank's Friends, it's exciting to contemplate where we go from here, as we build on the tremendous progress over the 42 years of the Eye Bank's existence. We are grateful for the physicians and for all of our Friends who have helped us make this progress. You are a vital part of our vision!

Have a safe, healthy summer,
Phyllis

Thanks to All Our Generous Supporters

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Shirley Jacobs
In memory of Roger E Moore
Bette Maxine Butcher
In memory of Danny Schlater
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In memory of Gib Shanley
James Bittengle
In memory of Lion Ronald G Van Atta - Newark Lions Club
Bryce Peterson Family
In memory of each of my donors
Beth K Hammerstein

In Honor of

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In honor of Dr Tom Litzinger
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Donations given from from November 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015. 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.

Richard Lembach, M.D., Named Medical Director Emeritus

The Eye Bank's Board of Trustees in February voted to bestow the title of Medical Director Emeritus on Richard Lembach, M.D. After 25 years as the Eye Bank's Medical Director, Dr. Lembach announced that he was stepping down. Semi-retired (he is Professor Emeritus in the OSU Department of Ophthalmology), he is no longer performing surgeries, and he strongly believes that the Medical Director needs to be an active surgeon. Dr. Lembach oversaw the establishment and evolution of the Eye Bank's quality assurance program during his tenure. He shepherded the Eye Bank's entrance into the world of advanced technologies for corneal preparation, making the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank among the very first in the nation to adopt them. He has been an active member of the Board of Trustees, including serving multiple terms as chairman. He has also been involved in eight accreditation inspections and attended decades of conferences required for Medical Director status. The Eye Bank's Lions Board presented Dr.



New Medical Director John Stechschulte, M.D.



Medical Director Emeritus, Richard Lembach, M.D.

Lembach with the Melvin Jones Award in 1996, and in 2013, at the celebration of the Eye Bank's 40th anniversary, he was recognized with the Eye Bank's Lifetime Achievement Award. A daily presence in the Eye Bank, in person or by phone, Dr. Lembach has been a mentor and advisor to staff, upholding as our primary considerations both the transplant recipient's health and the importance of sensitivity to the donor's family. The Medical Directorship is a voluntary position – one that Dr. Lembach always performed as a labor of love and a commitment to his community.

Letters from Donors

You can often hear and read our comments about the benefits of eye donation, but no one tells it as well as those who have had the experience and want to share it... Cornea transplant patients are often eager to express their gratitude for their renewed sight. They are aware of the bittersweet nature of transplantation, and mindful that their surgery was made possible thanks to an eye donor. We wanted to share with our readers a few excerpts from some of the letters that we have recently received. We've left off patients' names to protect the privacy of cornea recipients.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the corneal transplant. Before the transplant, I could no longer drive my car, read and do the simple everyday things we all take for granted. I am so blessed to be given one of the greatest gifts anyone could ever receive."

"I want to offer my sincerest thank you for the immense gift you have given me. Not only can I see clearly, but it's the best vision I have ever had. Over the last several years, my vision had deteriorated to the point where I could hardly function at home or at work. Not only did your gift restore my sight fully, but I am still able to support myself and live independently. For that I am also very grateful. When I see my children, grandchildren, family and my little puppy, I am truly blessed that there was someone willing to give me the gift of sight."

"I take a walk pretty much every day. My new cornea allows me to see the beauty all around – trees, a stream that runs through the neighborhood, birds, flowers, deer, and the occasional family cat out for a stroll. I have become a donor myself. I hope that any part of me needed once I no longer need my body will help to bring "new life" to others, just as an eye donor has done for me. I am thankful every day for this second lease on sight."

New at the Eye Bank

Early this year, an ad hoc Technology Committee was established by the Eye Bank's Board of Trustees. Trustee Victor Paini was appointed committee chairman, charged with assessing available software for upgrading the Eye Bank's IT. After reviewing the options and seeing a demonstration, the committee unanimously agreed that the iTransplant software would best be of service. A comprehensive system, this software will integrate nearly all functions of the Eye Bank – technical, educational, quality assurance, administrative, and business. It will boost efficiency, promote consistency, and save time across the operations of the organization. The Eye Bank staff has been working with the software's programmers for several months to prepare and learn the system, which “went live” in May.

Also new this year is the addition of another Hospital Education Coordinator to our staff. Lisa Perko holds a Masters in Community Health Education, and comes to us from the Lupus Foundation. Lisa and her existing counterpart, Cristina DeLaSerda, provide our critical link to area hospitals.

Date to Remember!

EYE BANK'S GOLF TOURNAMENT

New this year is the Eye Bank's golf tournament, “Swinging for Sight,” which will take place on Monday, October 12th, at the Pinnacle Golf Club. We are now accepting reservations for foursomes.

For additional information, please call Rusty at 614/545-2066.

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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CENTRAL OHIO LIONS
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

- Annual Clippers Event Features Mom of Triplets
 - Eye Bank Appoints New Medical Director
 - New Software Opens New Opportunities
- Special thanks to Old Trail Printing for donating the printing of the newsletter



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