

# *the* VISIONARY

## The Cycle of Generosity

My mother-in-law, Marie Curtin, was the mother of 5 children and always went out of her way to help her children in time of need and was a loving, generous woman who constantly put others first. On June 4, 1990, she passed away, but her generosity did not end. You see, Marie donated her corneas. This act on her part challenged each of us to think about donation as well. Consequently, all her children and their spouses are prepared to be cornea donors in her honor. Little did we know that someday one of us would need to receive that very gift. This is my story...

For years I have been dealing with HSV stromal disease in my right eye. My eyesight had never been good as a child in that eye, but since my left eye was excellent, it compensated for the weakness in the other. However, in the past few years the disease took its toll and my eyesight got progressively worse due to recurrent infections and subsequent scarring. With the eyesight worsening I found it hard to read, drive at night, or be in the bright sun.

In the fall of 2017, a bee flew into my eye while on vacation. It caused a tear in my cornea, and for several months Dr. John Stechschulte (my cornea specialist who has been treating me for years) recommended using a "Band-Aid" contact lens. At first, the tear would heal but after each period of use the tear would reopen.

On January 23, 2018, I experienced severe pain in my right eye followed by excessive drainage. I called Dr. Stechschulte's office and they were able to see me that day. Dr. Stechschulte found I had a perforated cornea and would need an emergency transplant the first thing in the morning. His staff quickly worked on getting prepared for it and was able to secure a cornea from Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank in just a few hours. Without the cornea available that quickly, Dr. Stechschulte said I would have lost my eye. The next day, with extreme skill, he successfully performed a penetrating keratoplasty (a full-thickness cornea transplant) and removed the cataract that had developed over the years.

I do not know who the man was who donated his cornea. I find it very humbling that I can get up each day and have the ability to see due to his generosity. After the surgery I began my search for what I could do to say thank you to him. I thought about being part of the solution as he was. But what part could I do now and not just later?



Lorraine Curtin

My conclusion was that Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank needs two things to complete their mission—corneas and money—to keep corneas healthy and available for patients, and to educate healthcare professionals and help researchers who work in this field. That's when I wrote a check and offered it in honor of Dr. Stechschulte to Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank.

Medical doctors can only do so much with a diseased eye. I had years of appointments, pills, and eyedrops, but the miracle of sight can only happen when someone gives what a doctor cannot create—a cornea. I want the family of the gentleman to know that his gift is letting me do things in life again that are simple yet the most fulfilling: enjoy my days with my husband and grandsons, lead a bible study, or simply be able to drive my car. My eyesight now is better than it has been my whole life. The scarring is gone, and light can come into my eye again. The results were immediate, and my eyesight continues to improve each week. And so I say each day:

-God bless Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank for their work to restore, improve, and preserve sight by connecting eye donors, educating physicians, and enhancing eye research through quality eye banking services.

-God bless Dr. Stechschulte and his staff for their commitment to my medical care and for the utmost kindness they have expressed over the years.

-God bless my husband, my children, my family, and my friends for their love and support.

-And mostly importantly, God bless my anonymous gentleman donor and his family for my gift of sight.

## Dear Friends,

*A message from Jason Brosious, Executive Director, Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank*

Dear Eye Bank Friends:

Happy holidays! We hope your celebrations are filled with family and friends, love, peace...and delicious feasts!

It's hard to believe that this year is coming to an end already. Here at Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank we are committed to caring for those in our community, and in turn we look to the partners in our community to help support our mission. We have had the privilege to work hand-in-hand with our hospital partners in honoring those donors who donate their eyes so others may see. We educate those who care for our community so they are aware of what corneal donation means and how they can help the process.

As an eye bank that remains active in our industry, we are used to working with eye banks and surgeons outside of our typical service area. This year we went a step further, bringing together surgeons from far and wide to discuss the care of our corneal recipients. It is this collegial exchange of ideas along with the difference we make in people's lives that makes eye banking a special line of work.

Lastly in this time of giving we all need to remember those in need. We help provide corneas to restore the sight of those who have lost their sight due to illness or injury, and we do our utmost to provide that cornea regardless if the patient has insurance or not. We are only able to do that because of charitable contributions from those in our community.

Again, we hope your holidays are wonderful.



**Jason Brosious**  
Executive Director / CEO

Best regards,  
Jason



*Jason Brosious with Dr. Michael Nordlund*



*PDG Marty Savage with Mary Bumpus*



# Sparkles and Spirits

To coincide with the upcoming holidays, Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank hosted “Sparkles and Spirits,” a bourbon- and mead-tasting fundraising event on November 15th. We sold out of tickets quickly and were amazed by the generosity of our sponsors!

Diamond Cellar at Easton Town Center not only invited us to hold the event there, but also gifted a portion of their sales that evening to us. Brothers Drake Meadery and Middle West Spirits provided samples of their craft and earned themselves new devotees! Nothing Bundt Cakes donated delicious mini bundt cakes for dessert, and Kilwins of Dublin gave every guest a little box of delectable chocolates to take home. All of our sponsors donated something for the door prize as well.

The event was catered by Catering by Scott, and Scotty’s Diner owner Scott Bast was more than benevolent with his donation.

We’re already starting to plan Sparkles and Spirits 2019 and we hope you’ll join us!





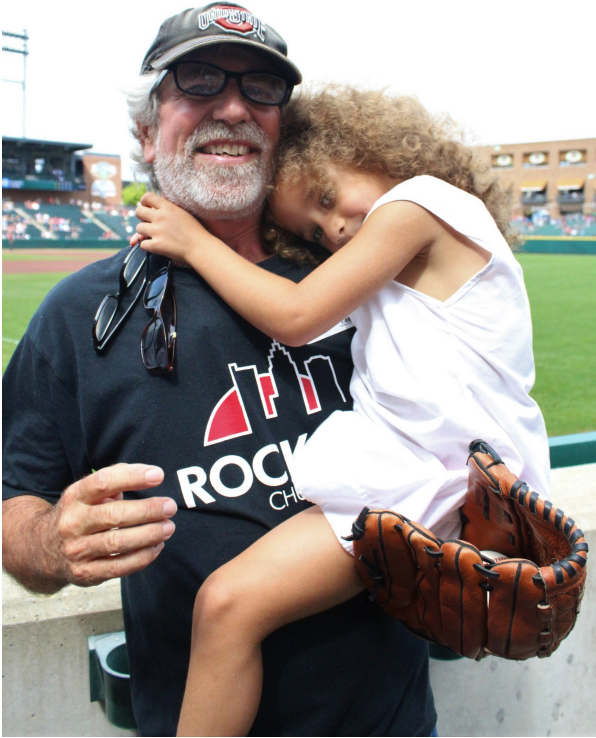
Eye Donation Month 2018 was in November, and the focus was on all individuals who make the gift of sight possible. Eye bank staff, healthcare providers, funeral directors, medical examiners/coroners, hospital administrators, cornea donor families, and cornea recipients are the enduring champions for the millions of people around the world whose lives were transformed through cornea donation and transplantation.

## THE CORNEA: DONOR TO RECIPIENT

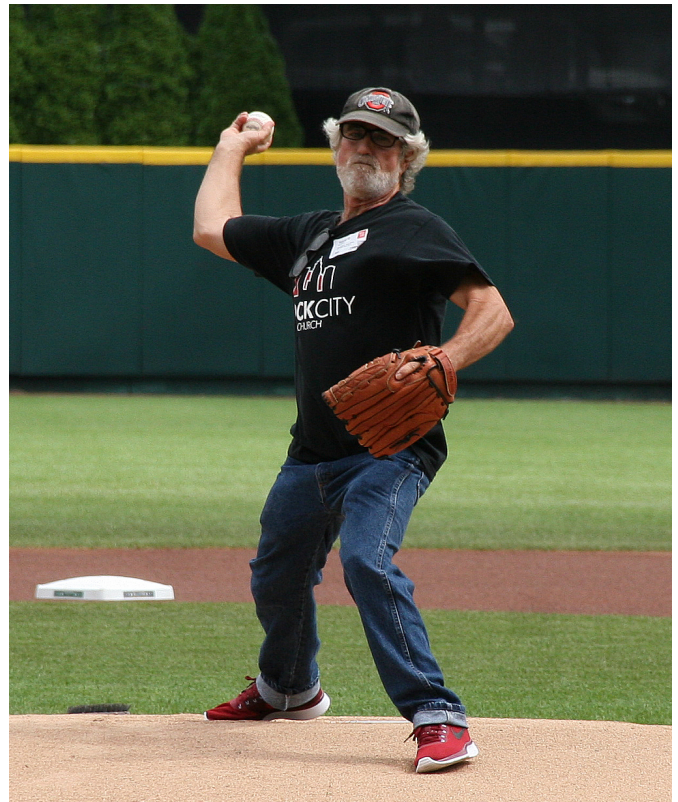




# From Pain to Pitching



*Timmy With Daughter Kylie*



*Timmy Throwing Out First Pitch*

Ask anyone who knows him—Timmy DeMatteis is one friendly guy. This talkative, animated man just doesn't know a stranger. But at one time, Timmy encountered a very unfriendly foe: the frightening possibility that he might lose his left eye. Timmy was born in September 1958 and grew up in the 1960s, a regular kid who played all sports but had a special place in his heart for baseball. His father, "Butch," coached Timmy's St. Timothy School baseball team in Columbus and was also a lefty pitcher at St. Charles Preparatory School in Bexley. Baseball is in Timmy's blood.

Fast forward to 1979, when Timmy worked a construction job. He had a bizarre accident that left a nail lodged in his left eye and required surgery to remove the actual lens from the eye, leaving him with vision that was "just okay," he says. Over the next several years, his vision deteriorated further until Timmy could only see light and shadows out of his left eye. He lived in pain and near-constant prayer, relying on his right eye to do almost all the work.

Timmy's cornea came to the end of its useful life in 2017, and corneal transplantation surgery was scheduled. On February 7, 2018, Dr. John Stechschulte, an ophthalmologist and corneal surgeon at Arena Eye Surgeons and Medical Director for Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank, brought him in for a corneal transplant. Just prior to the surgery, Timmy was anxious and somewhat apprehensive, so he asked Dr. Stechschulte if he could pray over both the doctor's hands and himself. After a fervent appeal to God for wisdom and skill for Dr. Stechschulte and a very genuine and heartfelt appreciation for his donor, Timmy prayed for strength and healing for himself. Later, Dr. Stechschulte remarked that it was the most amazing surgery preparation he had ever experienced.

Dr. Stechschulte performed the cornea transplant with great success using a cornea recovered, processed, and provided by Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank. "I can see out of both eyes again, thanks be to God!" says Timmy. He anticipated better vision, but now looks into his daughter's beautiful eyes, enjoys rainbows, and looks wonderingly at all God has created. In addition to Kylie, who is five years old, Timmy has a son, Brian, who is 27. Timmy, who holds a bachelor's degree in social work, is a self-employed landscape/lawn care provider and a faithful servant in his church, Rock City.

# 2018 Year in Review

2018 saw Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank staff traveling from coast to coast, attending conferences, meeting people, learning new techniques, providing continuing ed hours, listening to distinguished speakers, contributing ideas, and networking throughout the eye banking industry.

You may have seen us at:



**Legacy of Life: Berger Hospital**  
Cristina DeLaSerda,  
Hospital Education Coordinator



**Donate Life Flag-Raising**  
Dublin Methodist Hospital



**OH5, OH6, OH7 District Conventions**



**2018 Donor Memorial Ceremony**  
Jason Brosious, Executive Director

Are you the recipient of a cornea transplant? Go to <http://www.coleb.org/share-your-story/> and let us know how corneal transplantation has changed your life.



# 2018 Year in Review



**Sparkles and Spirits**  
Carolyn Turner and Linda Shapiro



**Eye Bank Night at the Clippers**  
Dr. John Stechschulte and Timmy DeMatteis



Creating  
BETTER  
Leaders



**OHIO COUNCIL**  
FOR HOME CARE & HOSPICE



*As a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, the Eye Bank relies on our community to help fund our vision restoration initiatives. The generous contributions we receive from financial donors help us to provide the best care for our patients.*

# Thanks to All Our Generous Supporters

## Private Gifts

Harold & Monica Anderson  
David Armstrong  
Janice Barnes  
James Barritt  
Timothy S. Bates Harold  
Block  
Lorraine Curtin  
Robert Curtin  
Timmy DeMatteis  
Dominic DiGiacomo  
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Clint Turner

## Corporate/Other

Arena Eye Surgeons  
Arlington Optical  
Battelle  
The Catholic Foundation  
Chi Thai  
DMS  
Fidelity Charitable  
Kroger  
Mount Carmel Health Systems  
The Network for Good  
Ohio Health  
Tat Ristorante Di Famiglia  
Thrivent  
Tommy's Diner  
The United Way

## In Honor of

**Dr. Richard Erdey**  
— (By David McKittrick)

**Diane Argabrite-Thurston**  
— (By Craig & Susanne Douthitt)  
— (By Stan and Gloria Pursley)

**Dr. John Stechschulte**  
— (Dr. Bob Bowers)

## Lions Donations

Alexander Leo's Club  
Amanda Lions Club  
Athens Lions Club  
Baltimore Lions Club  
Beavercreek Lions Club  
Bellefontaine Lions  
Belpre Lions Club  
Beverly Lions Club  
Bexly Lions Club  
Carroll Lions Club  
Centerburg Lions Club  
Chauncey Dover Lions Club  
Chillicothe Evening Lions  
Columbus Beechcroft Lions  
Columbus Northeast Lions  
Columbus Northern Lions  
Dublin Lions Club  
Fairborn Lions Club  
Frankfort Lions Club  
Gahanna Lions Club  
Glenford Lions Club  
Good Hope Lions Club  
Green Camp Lions Club  
Grove City Noon Lions  
Heath Lions Club  
Hebron Lions Club

## In Memory of

**Raymond J. Zeiter**  
— (By O'nise Parker)

Hillsboro Lions Club  
Ironton Lions Club  
Jackson Lions Club  
Lancaster Tarhe Lions Club  
LaRue Lions Club  
Leesburg Lions Club  
Licking Valley Lions Club  
Lynchburg Lions Club  
Marietta Noon Lions Club  
Martinsville Lions Club  
Marysville Evening Lions Club  
Mount Gilead Lions Club  
Mt. Vernon Lions Club  
New Albany Lions Club  
Newark Lions Club  
Old Fort Lions Club  
Pataskala Lions Club  
Pickerington Lions Club  
Plain City Lions Club  
Pleasant Lions Club  
Port William Lions Club  
Prospect Lions Club  
Southeast Lions Club  
Spring Valley Lions Club  
Summit Station Lions Club  
Sunbury Lions Club  
Thornville Lions Club  
Warsaw Lions Club  
Waverly Lions Club  
West Lafayette Lions Club  
West Muskingum Lions Club  
Worthington Noon Lions Club  
Xenia Lions Club

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## 2018-19 Board of Directors

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**Dr. Mike Harrington**



CENTRAL OHIO LIONS  
**EYE BANK**  
Be a part of the vision.

Donations given from January 2018 through November 2018. 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 website at [www.DonateMyEyes.org](http://www.DonateMyEyes.org).

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.

- The Cycle of Generosity  
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