Connecting Matters

Connecting matters. Over the past 39 years, making connections has been at the core of the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank (RMLEB) and led to our worldwide recognition as a leader in eye banking. We are dedicated to making connections that matter and know partnerships are the key to our future.

We recognize the only way to further our mission of fulfilling the wishes of eye donors is to cultivate partnerships that lead to growth as an organization. Our effective connections with hospitals, hospices, driver services offices, funeral directors, coroners, surgeons and other donation partners allow us to provide nearly 2,500 sight-restorative transplants to recipients each year.

Deciding to donate on behalf of a loved one or helping fulfill the wish of a registered eye donor is a life-changing act for families, and we don’t take that act lightly. We offer donor families and eye tissue recipients the opportunity to connect by writing letters to each other. We can then share their stories to connect with the community and potentially transform the way some people think about eye, organ and tissue donation.

We also remain connected to the Lions Clubs of Colorado and Wyoming that established RMLEB in 1982. Their continued support has helped create an organization that has restored sight to thousands of individuals locally, throughout the United States and around the world. Without them and their generosity, we would not be able to provide the gift of sight to thousands more in need.

“I know the importance of my role as a Designated Tissue Requestor. I am the one who speaks to donor families about donating eye tissue on behalf of their loved one. I try to explain to them how their loved one can cure someone’s blindness and leave a lasting legacy.” – From a hospice nurse and Designated Tissue Requestor

“I took a lot of strength for me and lots and lots of tears to get through writing this letter. I miss my brother terribly but knowing you can now see because of him gives me some strength.” – From a donor family to an eye tissue recipient

“The gift of sight is truly a gift from the heart.” – From an eye tissue recipient to a donor family

“I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you who chose to give me the gift of sight. I know this may have been done at a tough time when you were grieving the loss of your loved one. I hope knowing how much I value your selfless gift will help you as you continue in the grief process.” – From an eye tissue recipient to a donor family

“I am inviting you to share with us how my daughter’s gift of life made a difference for you and your loved ones.” – From a donor family to an eye tissue recipient

“You lost your sight when you were so young. I know the sadness of losing your sight. It was a blow from which you never fully recovered. Now you can see and enjoy the beautiful things around you that others take for granted.” – From a donor to an eye tissue recipient

“I am forever grateful for the gift of sight you gave me. Thank you so much.” – From an eye tissue recipient to a donor family

“Your letter is a treasure I will cherish forever.” – From a donor family to an eye tissue recipient

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“How do you say thank you to someone who gave you your life back? I can see perfectly now. Praise the Lord.” – From an eye tissue recipient to a donor family

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Your continued support through contributions helps us continue our sight-saving mission of carrying out the wishes of eye donors and their families to help others overcome blindness.

In the past fiscal year:

- **2,632** eye donors gave the gift of sight.
- **2,288** eye tissues were used in sight-restorative transplants and reconstruction.
- **254** eye tissues were used by RMLEB or other research centers to advance surgery techniques and innovations to fight blindness.

For a complete list of contributors, visit www.corneas.org/Annual-Report