

Photo by cornea transplant recipient, Tyler Mudd



ROCKY MOUNTAIN LIONS EYE BANK

*We Will Make it Through*

Interim Report to the Lions of  
Multiple District 6 and District 15



A Project of the Lions of Colorado and Wyoming

# A Message from the President

I think that Charles Dickens was a man ahead of himself when he wrote *A Tale of Two Cities*. “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” But I think I would change it to “it was the different of times, not the worst of times.” It sure is different in our world right now and it is different at your Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank.

We started off the year on a trajectory to have another record year. And while we have definitely had to adjust our thoughts and our operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the eye bank’s executive director, John Lohmeier, has been proactive in helping RMLEB navigate through these difficult times. We are in a good place to ride this out and get back to doing the work that your eye bank does best and continue facilitating high quality donation and sight saving services, which we are known for delivering each and every time. We will make it through these times and your support as the Lions of Wyoming and Colorado will be a key factor in this recovery.

Things at your Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank continue to grow and develop even in this different time. The new tissue procurement lab is finished and is now being used which helps RMLEB better honor donor wishes. The new clean room we have planned for several years will be

online soon and will greatly enhance the services we can provide for fellow eye banks, surgeons and transplant recipients. Whether it is the processing of eye tissue for European regulatory standards or the cultivation of research material for continual and cutting-edge eye research, your RMLEB is viewed as a leader in the eye bank industry.

*“We will make it through these times and your support as the Lions of Wyoming and Colorado will be a key factor in this recovery.”*

We continue to have a highly dedicated and trained staff that delivers each and every day. They have really stepped it up in this difficult time and are to be commended for the work they are doing in different

times. They make it work every day.

While we talk about what is happening at your Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank, it is you the Lions in Wyoming and Colorado that are the face of the eye bank in your communities. You are the ones telling our story and making it work for us each and every day. Whether it is encouraging donation, identifying a person needing eye bank help or supporting your Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank with your personal or club donations, you make the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank work. Please keep it up; together we are giving the gift of sight. Thank you.

Lion Bruce Heimbeck  
President, RMLEB Board of Directors



# Impact of Our Sight-Saving Mission

July 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020



**2,017**

Donors Gave the Gift of Sight



**2,040**

Eye Tissues Used in Sight-Restorative  
Transplants and Ocular Reconstruction



**376**

Eye Tissues Used by RMLEB  
or Other Research Centers for  
Training/Education and Ways to  
Overcome Blindness

# RMLEB in the Time of COVID-19

Before the outbreak, the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank was recovering an average of seven eye donors per day. By mid-April, this had dropped to about seven donors per week. While all cornea transplants either restore or preserve sight, most are considered elective procedures. As hospitals and surgery centers prepared for the full force of the COVID-19 outbreak, elective procedures were put on hold...and, as a result, so was much of the eye bank's work.

Still, the eye bank had to ensure ocular tissues were available in case of any emergency corneal transplants or immediate research needs, so it operated at a minimal level. Each death from every hospital in its two-state service area still must be screened for donation eligibility. RMLEB staff considers each potential donor against a set of medical standards. In the face of the pandemic, these standards have been continually updated as more data about the virus comes to light. The eye bank has worked tirelessly with the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) and the Food and Drug Administration to ensure eye donors are being screened safely and that the staff is

taking appropriate precautions to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

As elective procedures begin again, the eye bank is slowly ramping up operations. As it does so, it now faces supply shortages. Items such as gowns, gloves, and masks are scarcer. Back-orders are common and delays in delivery can be long. Last week, the eye bank began rationing its supply of chemical surgical scrub, used to clean the technician's hands and arms before putting on sterile surgical garb.



RMLEB technicians prepare corneal tissue for transplant in the lab.

Nonetheless, with an eye toward fulfilling their mission and keeping everyone as safe as possible, the RMLEB team has rallied to make it work. It's all very new and even more newness is in all our futures. As things begin slowly moving toward a new normal, the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank will rely on its team of talented staff, and the Lions who support them, for their dedication to the mission of fulfilling the wishes of eye donors to help another overcome blindness.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN LIONS EYE BANK

Share the circle of light

# Financial Health

## \*Revenue & Expenses

<b>Support and Revenue</b>	9 Months/FYTD July 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020	Budgeted (9 Months)
Processing Fees	5,090,831	4,591,494
Interest/Other Revenue	157,693	107,100
Memorials/Gifts	88,901	50,997
Lions Contributions	29,615	18,747
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>5,367,040</b>	<b>4,768,338</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	9 Months/FYTD July 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020	Budgeted (9 Months)
Tissue Processing	1,624,700	1,639,918
Personnel	2,306,842	2,447,730
Public & Professional Relations	159,512	188,828
Depreciation/Amortization	64,288	107,550
Administration	51,641	51,159
Grants, Eye Surgery Fund	20,033	30,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>4,227,016</b>	<b>4,465,185</b>

<b>EXCESS REVENUE</b>	<b>1,140,024</b>	<b>303,153</b>
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## \*Balance Sheet

March 31, 2020

### Assets

### Liabilities & Fund Balances

Cash & Cash Equivalents	1,339,553	Liabilities	253,058
Investments	9,700,055	Fund Balances	12,199,186
Accounts Receivable/Prepays	622,588	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>12,452,244</b>
Fixed Assets	671,919		
Other Assets/Inventory	118,129		
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>12,452,244</b>		

\*All financial statements unaudited at the time of publication.



# Lions Club Support

The Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank is one of over 50 Lions Eye Banks sponsored by Lions Clubs in nine countries. A joint project of the Lions of Multiple District 6 and District 15, RMLEB has been on the forefront of eye banking for 38 years.

Financial support from Lions Clubs are a demonstration of Lions' commitment to sight-restoration through their sponsored eye bank. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the following clubs for their support.

Percentage of Clubs That Made a Contribution to RMLEB	Current Fiscal Year (9 mo)	Last Fiscal Year
Colorado	22%	25%
Wyoming	8%	34%

For the period July 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020

## Multiple District 6 Clubs

Aurora Lions Club  
Bennett Watkins Lions Club  
Canon City Noon Lions Club  
Centennial Airport Lions Club  
Collbran Lions Club  
Colorado City - Rye Lions Club  
Denver Lions Club  
El Paso County Tri-Lakes Lions Club  
Fort Collins Lions Club  
Fraser River Valley Lions Club  
Golden Lions Club  
Greeley Noon Lions Club  
Holyoke Lions Club  
Limon Lions Club  
Lions Club of Estes Park  
Littleton Lions Foundation  
Loveland Lions Club  
Lyons Lions Club  
Mountain Lions Club of Red Feather Lakes

Nederland Lions Club  
Orchard Mesa Lions Club  
Pueblo Charter Lions Club  
Redlands Lions Club  
Rock Star Lions  
Sterling Lions Club  
Westwood Lions Club  
Woodlin Lions Club  
Yuma Lions Club

## District 15 Clubs

Big Horn Lions Club  
Byron Lions Club  
Cheyenne Sunrise Lions Club  
Dubois Lions Club  
Laramie Plains Lions Club  
Pinedale Lions Club  
Sheridan Sundowners Lions Club  
Ten Sleep/Hyattville Lions Club

We also wish to thank the many individual Lions who make personal contributions to RMLEB in addition to their club's gifts.