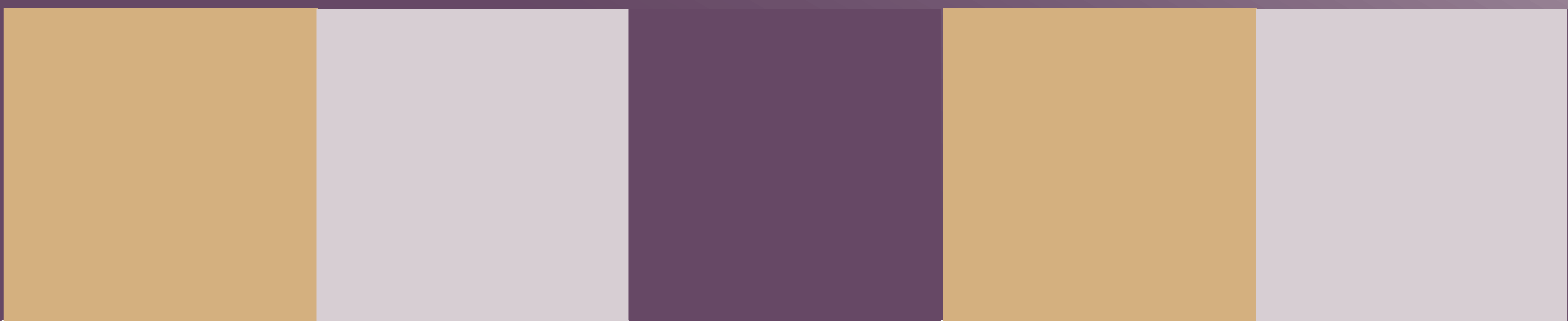


ROCKY MOUNTAIN LIONS EYE BANK

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

Our mission is to fulfill the wishes of eye donors and their families to help another overcome blindness through transplantation and research.





JOHN LOHMEIER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's a privilege to continue serving as the executive director of the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank. I am proud of our history and excited for the future we will share. We started the fiscal year in a great place, with a trusted name and a global reach. We also ended the year on a high note realizing we are part of an enormous network that impacts the lives of thousands of individuals and their families each year. The part we play in helping build better lives for eye tissue recipients is a source of pride and purpose for our staff and donation partners.

Partnering with ophthalmologists has always been a critical link to our success. Our strong relationship with them allowed us to provide quality eye tissue during the height of the pandemic and still today. We know all we do is the result of a collaboration of forces from our board of directors to staff, volunteers, donation partners and financial contributors. One of our most important partnerships is with hospitals and hospices where trained designated requestors talk to families about donation and explain the steps leading to eye tissue donation. Coroners and funeral service professionals are also important partners in the chain of eye tissue donation, so we can provide tissue to the final link – the surgeons who perform the sight-restoring procedures.

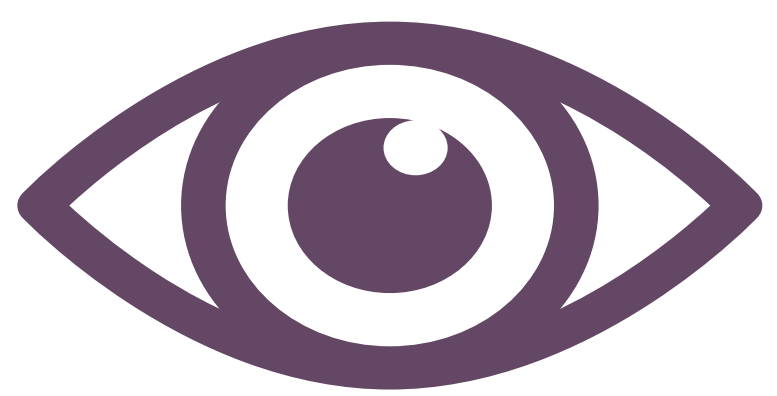
Most importantly, we realize our success is not without the sacrifice of those individuals who make the decision to be eye tissue donors: donors and donor families. And, of course, none of this would be possible without the Lions of Colorado and Wyoming that established RMLEB in 1982. All of this puts us in a great position to begin building the next chapter in our organization's future. We are guided by purpose and must never lose sight of our mission to restore sight.

GENEROUS DONORS

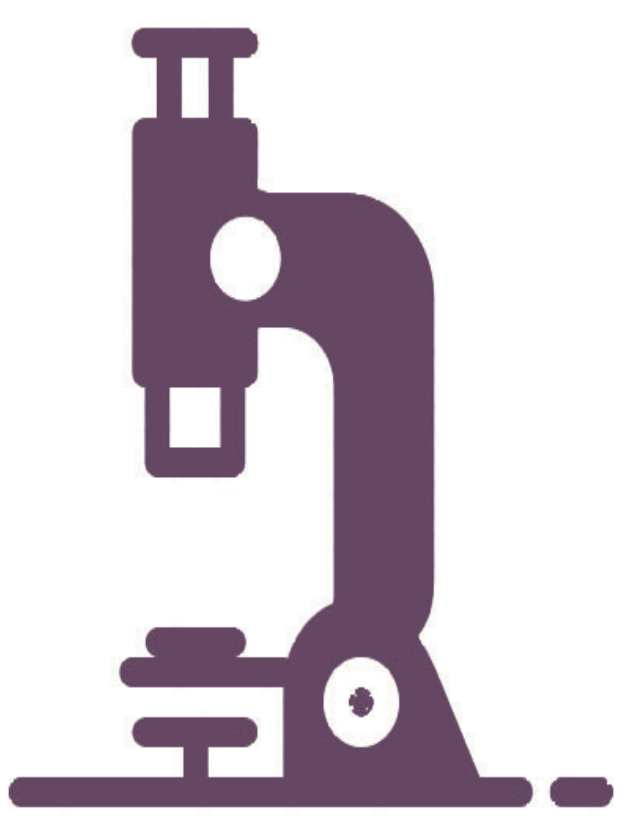


2,450 EYE DONORS GAVE THE GIFT OF SIGHT IN
FY 2021-2022.

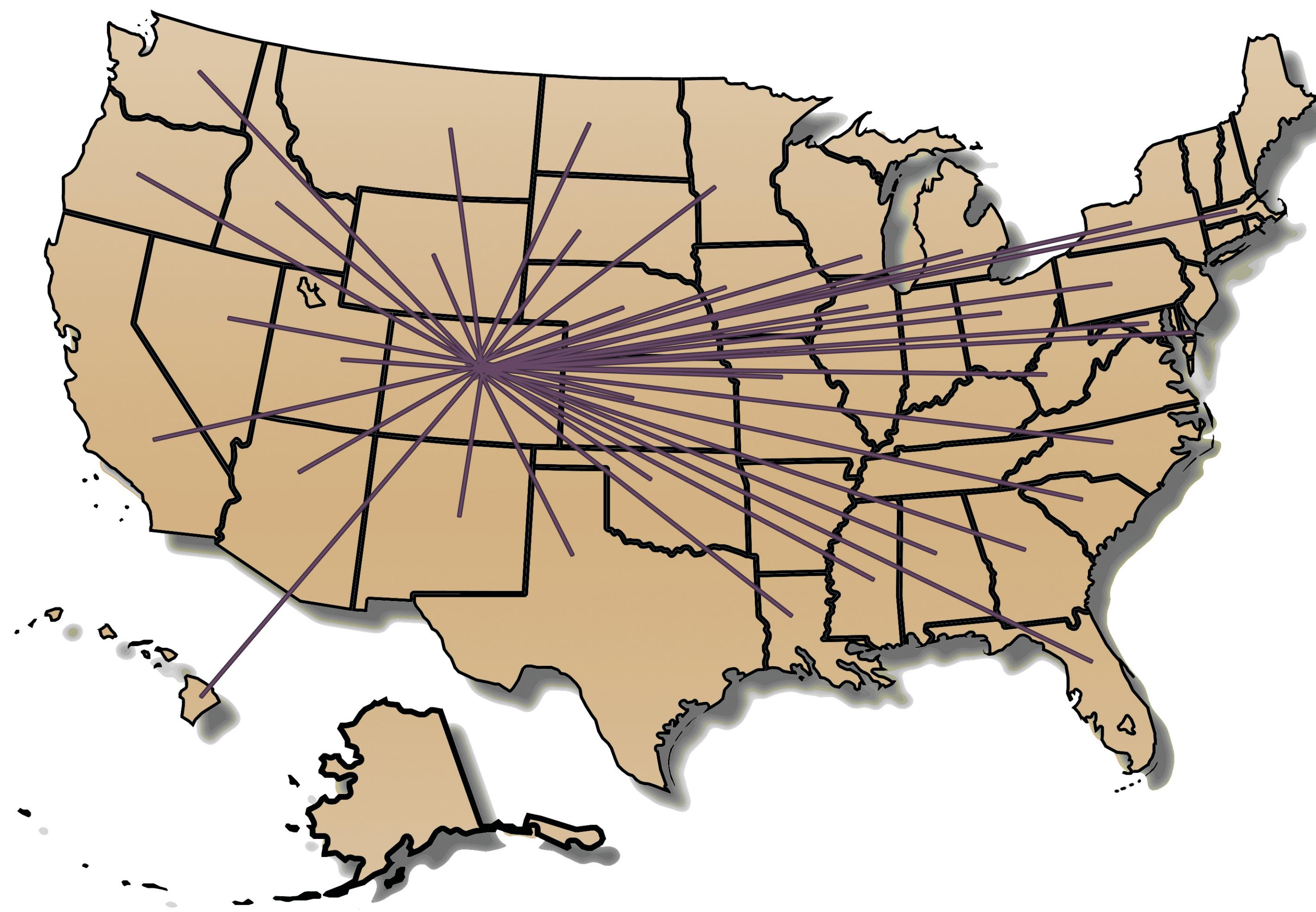
BECAUSE OF THE GENEROUS DONORS OVER OUR 40 YEARS, WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE:



OVER 58,000 EYE TISSUES FOR SIGHT-RESTORATIVE
TRANSPLANTS AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERIES.

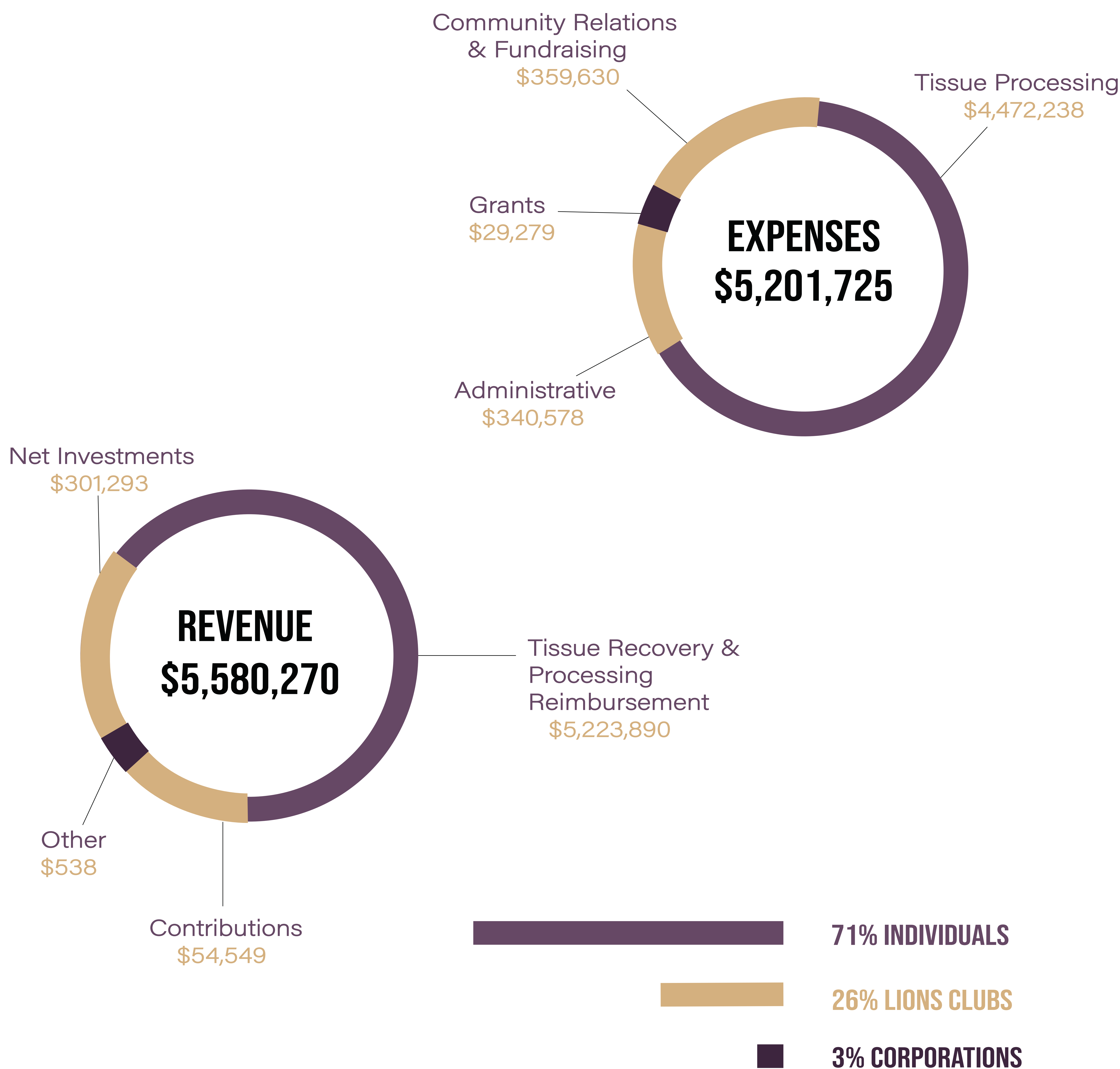


OVER 15,000 EYE TISSUES FOR ADVANCEMENT IN
SURGERY TECHNIQUES AND VALUABLE MEDICAL
RESEARCH.



2021-2022 FINANCIALS

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022



CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS
\$54,549

A SURGEON'S PERSPECTIVE

Eye surgeons link donors to recipients but are part of the larger chain in the gift of sight.

Dr. Michael Chen, Division Chief of Ophthalmology at Denver Health Medical Center, went into medicine because he wanted to help people. He also wanted to travel and see the world. The combination meant he pursued ophthalmology, a medical specialty that is desperately needed around the world.

"I saw much unnecessary blindness and preventable blindness," he said of his time as a volunteer for Unite for Sight in Ghana. Some of this blindness was due to corneal blindness. After his cornea fellowship training, Dr. Chen went on to work at Tenwek Mission Hospital in Kenya for 2 years.

While there, he encountered a patient from South Sudan who had lived through the country's civil war and was bilaterally blinded by corneal scarring. "He seemed to be locked in his world," Dr. Chen said of the patient prior to receiving a corneal transplant.

After the surgery, he was a very different person. "I got to follow him at least a year out after his surgery, and I got to see his personality open up. He was engaged with his surroundings. He was making eye contact with people. That was a big success story."

That story and countless others couldn't have happened without the support of U.S. eye banks. While in Kenya, Dr. Chen worked mostly with the Alabama Eye Bank and the Delaware Valley Eye Bank. Despite their remote location, Dr. Chen said their clinic's eye bank partners were able to get them donor corneas in a matter of a few days.

So great was his experience of working with eye banks that when he arrived at Denver Health and the University of Colorado in December 2021, Dr. Chen knew he wanted to reach out to his local eye bank: the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank.

"I've been very impressed by the support the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank has given us." For over 40 years, RMLEB has provided high-quality eye tissue for transplantation and medical research to partner surgeons like Dr. Chen, locally and around the globe. We take pride in supporting the essential work of eye surgeons.

RMLEB is just one among 66 accredited eye banks in the U.S. The efficiency, robustness and interconnectedness of the U.S. system means donated eye tissue helps restore sight locally, nationally and internationally.

Dr. Chen received corneas while working at Tenwek Mission Hospital in Kenya.

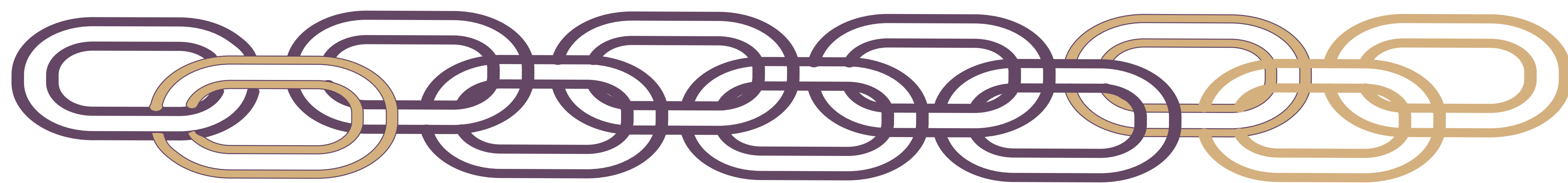
- photo provided by Dr. Chen



Additionally, RMLEB's service area of Colorado and Wyoming remains among the top states in the country for people saying yes to donation, making the gift of sight possible. "We really must thank and be grateful to our societal culture that there are so many willing donors out there."

The eye surgeon who transplants a donor cornea into a recipient is one of the most obvious key connection points between donor and recipient. Dr. Chen calls that direct connection a privilege and an important role of a surgeon.

"The blade is in our hands when the surgery happens; but at the same time, we couldn't do our jobs if it weren't for everybody else in the whole process. When my patients are behind closed doors thanking me after the surgery, I ask them if they realize that there were probably over 50 to 100 people who were involved in this."



The Strong Chain of U.S. Eye Banking

The chain starts with the willingness of donors, but there are many more links between donor and recipient. There may have been family and friends involved in the decision-making. There's the hospital staff who helped facilitate the donation process. The coroner and funeral service professionals were also likely involved.

There's also eye bank staff, researchers improving techniques, those who make financial contributions, regulations and safety of the system and more. Even seemingly unassociated people, like those working at the local utilities, as part of making cornea donation and transplantation possible, according to Dr. Chen. Every link in the chain is integral; not a single link can be taken for granted.

"The gift of sight really is a gift, and it's not to be taken for granted. I'm really appreciative of everyone in this process."



Eagle in Barr Lake State Park,
2020 Circle of Light Photo Project

- photo taken by Jan Hepp-Struck

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LIONS EYE BANK

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2021-2022

PRESIDENT, Lion Carole Kitchell

VICE-PRESIDENT, PDG Jim Rapp

TREASURER, Lion Mike Bussey

SECRETARY, Lion Bruce Heimbuck

DIRECTOR, Lion Brian Ballard

DIRECTOR, PDG John L. Ballagh

DIRECTOR, Lion Wes Dorman

DIRECTOR, Lion Terry Lutts

DIRECTOR, PDG Joe Rall



CONTRIBUTORS

LIONS CLUBS:

Adams County Lioness Club
Akron Lions Club
Big Horn Lions Club
Calhan Lions Club
Canon City Noon Lions Club
Centennial Airport Lions Club
Cheyenne Sunrise Lions Club
Denver Five Points Lions Club
Denver Lions Club Foundation
Denver Westwood Lions Club
Englewood Lions Foundation
Fort Collins Lions Foundation
Fraser River Valley Lions Club
Gillette Lions Club
Glenrock Lions Club
Golden Lions Club
Greeley Lions Club
Highlands Ranch Lions Club
Holyoke Lions Club
Hulett Lions Club
Julesburg Lions Club
Kersey Lions Club
Lafayette Lions Club
Las Animas Lions Club
Lions Club of Estes Park
Littleton Lions Foundation
Longmont Columbine Lions Trust Foundation
Longmont Sunrise Lions Club
Louisville Lions Club
Mountain Lions Club of Red Feather Lakes
Mountain View Lions Club
New Castle Lions Club
Orchard Mesa Lions Club
Pinedale Lions Club
Pueblo Charter Lions Club
Riverton Lions Club
Sterling Lions Club
Surface Creek Valley Lions Club
Torrington Lions Club
Wheatland Lions Club
Woodland Park Pikes Peak Lions Club
Woodlin Lions Club

INDIVIDUALS:

Alice Adair
William & Kathryn Adams
Anonymous (5)
Sheila Faye Arnold
John Ballagh
Brian & Twila Ballard
Ronald E. Bennett
Keith Bentzen
Peter Bock
William & Gladys J Breeden
Mike & Beverly Bussey
William & Karen Call
Raymond & Wilma E. Camren
Cheryl Clark
David Conley
Reva Cookson
Alan Crawley
Patricia Crew
Rene Crothers
Angela Deabler
Pamela Jean DeWall
Ham & Donna Dubois
Frances Dupper
Eric Duprey
Darald & Wanda Dykeman
Douglas & Kathleen Ebert
Melissa Edson
Gary Ekborg
Steven & Patricia Erlanger
Laura J. Froyd
Donna Garner
Marja Gonzales
Wilma Green
Dan G. Griffin
Guinn Charitable Trust
Patricia Hallisey
Carol Hamilton
Julia Hartman
Veta Hartman
Bruce Heimback
Gerhard & Helga Hentschel
Carol Hilgemann
Bill & Virginia Hippe
Daniel M. Hodgkiss
Elizabeth Holland
Ronald Hood

Stephen P. Hopkins
Lynn E. Jacobs
Thomas Jacobson
Elizabeth Irvin
Peter Keppler
Beth Kinsky
Erick Kozlowski
Sheri Levine
Lewis G. Lyon
Michael R. Martin
Wendy McPhillips
Barry Miller
James W. Miller
Burrell Mitchell
Joan Meister
Rich Nelson
Gary & Brenda Nesbitt
Ann R. Nestor
Robert & Diane Peck
Barbara Peckler
Dean Pichler
Joe & Brenda Rall
James & Leslea Rapp
Wilma Reed
Zoe Reese
Kelly Riggins
Lenard & Lynn Rioth
Karen Rodriguez
Donald Schuster
Nicholas Seemiller
Bryan Simmons
Courtney Smith
James Smith
Chuck & Joyce Stevenson
Robert Storrs
David & Denise Swartz
Susan Starr
David Uebel
Esther Vanderhye
Janice E. Waring
West Family Fund
Mary Wilkerson
William & Sharon Wilson
Susan Wine
Michelle Winn
Bob Wyman
Tobey & Susan Yadon

IN MEMORY OF LARRY ANDERSON:

Anonymous
Colorado Springs Downtown Lions Club Foundation
Earl & Candy Enix
Carl Finney
Doran & Pamela Gotschall
Elva Kochris
Jack & Joan Lawson
Timothy & Lana McCaulley
Robert & Donna Selle
Rodger & Patty Woodard

IN MEMORY OF SHARON BRISCOE: James Briscoe

IN MEMORY OF BRENDA BROWN: Kristi Kay Brown

IN MEMORY OF SHAUN PETER CASSIDY: David & Colleen Countryman

IN MEMORY OF JACY HOAGLAND: Daniel & Bernadette Spinuzzi

IN MEMORY OF BILL L.: El Paso County Tri-Lakes Lions Club

IN MEMORY OF STANLEY E. ROBINSON: Erin Robinson

IN MEMORY OF KEN SCHOFIELD: Marjorie Wilder

IN MEMORY OF YULIA SERDYULCOVA: Alejandra Hurtado

IN MEMORY OF JO SILKENSEN: Ralph D. Silkensen

IN MEMORY OF EDNA & LESTER SPEECHLEY: Kathleen Speechley

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES STONE: Randall & Anita Landis-Eigsti

IN MEMORY OF PHYLLISS WATERS: Don Waters

IN MEMORY OF KATHERINE LAVAY WEINMEISTER: Donald A. Weinmeister

IN HONOR OF MY CORNEA DONOR:

Charlotte Jean
Marilyn J. Shedko

CORPORATIONS:

Amazon Smile Foundation
Bright Funds
Colorado Gives Community First Foundation
Mile High United Way
Network For Good
The Benevity Community Impact Fund



1675 AURORA COURT
MAIL STOP F751
AURORA, CO 80045

Our mission is to fulfill the wishes of eye donors and their families to help another overcome blindness through transplantation and research.

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID

DENVER, CO
PERMIT NO. 4655