

2022 - 2023

Annual Report



Share the circle of light



A project of the Lions of
Colorado & Wyoming



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN LIONS
EYE BANK**

Share the circle of light

OUR MISSION

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



GENEROUS DONORS



2,305 EYE DONORS GAVE THE GIFT OF SIGHT IN
FY 2022-2023.

BECAUSE OF THE GENEROUS DONORS OVER OUR 40 YEARS, WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE:
(SINCE INCEPTION NUMBERS, THROUGH JUNE 2023)



OVER **60,000** EYE TISSUES FOR SIGHT-RESTORATIVE
TRANSPLANTS AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERIES.



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

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Advocating for donors and donor families is at the heart of everything we do at Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank (RMLEB). Advocating for donors — those who decided to give the gift of sight after their death — means doing everything we can to get their precious gift to a recipient in need. That's what the donor and donor families expect of us. If we don't do it, it's possible that no one else will. Advocating on behalf of the donor is a foundation for our mission, which is to fulfill the wishes of eye donors and their families to help another overcome blindness through transplantation and research.

At RMLEB, we are all advocates for the donor and donor families: in every position, in every part of the organization. Here are some examples from start to finish.

Our donor recovery coordinators often encounter roadblocks in coordinating the procurement of the donation. For every donor they must find a way around the roadblocks and be persistent in what they do.

Our recovery technicians in the field may encounter challenges getting to the donor for procurement. This can happen traveling on the way to or even within the facility where procurement needs to occur.

For every donor they must do everything possible to get to the recovery site to procure within a limited time frame. Our laboratory staff may find a defect in part of a tissue when they are examining it under the microscope. For every donor they must make the extra effort to identify alternative ways the tissue could be utilized for transplant or research.

Our eligibility staff assesses infectious disease testing, medical history, and screening interviews to make sure tissue is safe for a recipient. For every donor they must consider all the finite criteria requirements before determining if we can't use the tissue for transplant.

Our distribution staff has a short time-frame in which to place transplantable corneas. It's not easy since they are working with surgeons around the world. For every donor they make every call possible to find a recipient in need.

Even RMLEB job roles that don't have direct contact with donors, tissues, or surgeons are advocating for donors and donor families in what they do.

Every day, identifying job candidates who have the right skill set for open positions at RMLEB and hiring those who are going to do the best job possible, our

human resources and management team is advocating for donors and donor families.

Every day, going above and beyond in trying to find supplies when there are back orders or pandemic shortages, our executive assistant is advocating for donors and donor families.

Every day, ensuring we are following the standards set for us by the FDA and Eye Bank Association of America, our quality assurance team advocates for donors and donor families.

Every day, by serving as a connecting point between the scientific side of the organization and the story of courageous and altruistic people in all walks of life and death who decide to be a donor, our community and professional relations staff advocate for donors and donor families.

Our accounting and administrative staff advocate for donors by helping make sure all our staff are taken care of and have what they need. From employee compensation and benefits, to recouping reimbursement fees so we can continue fulfilling the mission, every day they advocate for donors and donor families.

You.

You, as a person with an interest

in helping another overcome blindness...

You, as a partner with us in the donation, transplantation, and research process...

You, as a staff member at an organization where interactions or policies may impact the success of a donation...

...when called upon, I challenge you to ask yourself, are you doing everything you can to be an advocate?

Are your actions helping to facilitate the wish of the eye donor, to restore sight through their gift of donation?

Read further for things you can do...



JOHN LOHMEIER,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WAYS YOU CAN HELP



Are you a registered donor? If so, make sure loved ones are aware. This way, when they are informed by the hospital of your decision, they will already know.



If you know anyone renewing their driver license or gathering one for the first time, there may be an opportunity presented to be a donor. Inform them about this and encourage them to consider registering.



Volunteering is a great way to advocate for those in need of eye, organ, or tissue donation. Connect with us at corneas.org/Contact to get involved!



Follow RMLEB on social media and share posts to increase awareness within your network.



Make a financial contribution to the non-profit RMLEB.



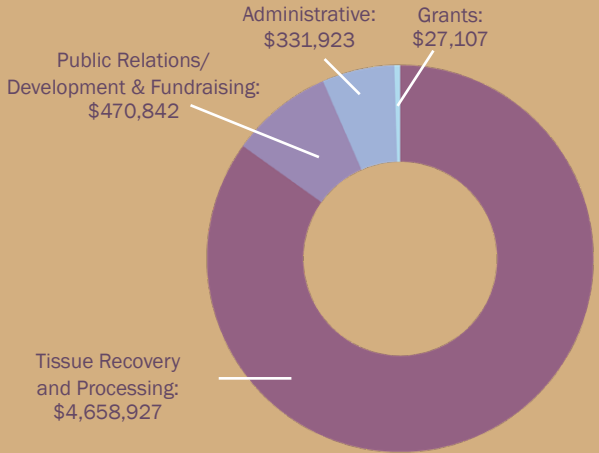
Include RMLEB in your estate planning!

2022 - 2023 FINANCIALS

EXPENSES

Tissue Recovery and Processing:
\$4,658,927
Public Relations/Development &
Fundraising: \$470,842
Administrative: \$331,923
Grants: \$27,107

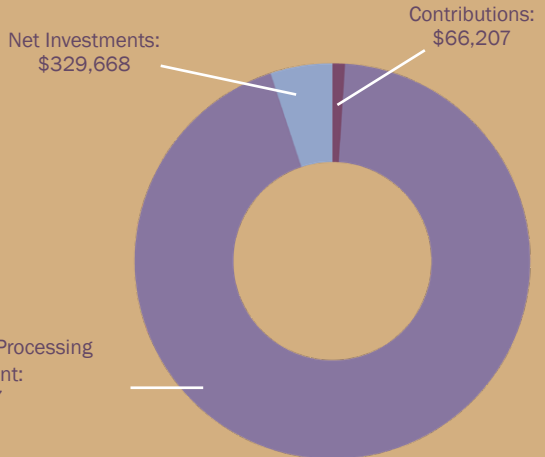
TOTAL: \$5,488,799



REVENUE

Contributions: \$66,207
Tissue Recovery and Processing
Reimbursement: \$6,108,787
Net Investments: \$329,668

TOTAL: \$6,504,662



ROCKY MOUNTAIN LIONS EYE BANK BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 2022-2023

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WHAT'S NEW AT RMLEB?

This year, the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank got a new fridge! The new Helmer Refrigerator was installed, validated, and verified for use to store tissue for transplant, quarantine tissue, research/training tissue, blood specimens, and media.

It is required that eye tissue is kept in a refrigerated monitored environment within the range of 2-8 degrees Celsius.



THE IMPACT DONATION HAS...

One of the many, and possibly unknown on-going projects at the Eye Bank, is the donor - recipient letters. Handled by one of our community and professional relations coordinators, the open communication has given recipients the opportunity to thank their donor's families, and for donor families to experience healing, and witness firsthand who their loved one was able to significantly impact.



Letter from Cornea Transplant Recipient

Your loved one is a miracle worker. Words can not express the appreciation I have for them. I received the gift of a healthy Cornea on 7-6-22. I now have a healthy eye and great vision.

Thank you could never be enough.

Please know that I and my entire family are keeping your loved one + entire family in our Prayers daily -

The enclosed Rose pedal was blessed by The Blessed Virgin Mary herself at one of the 4 apparitions I was Blessed to attend in Medugorje 5 weeks before my transplant. I Pray it brings you comfort, Peace & healing-





Response from Cornea Donor's Family

Hello,

Thank you so much for your beautiful card and heartfelt words. It brought us much joy and comfort to know that Joey's cornea was able to save your vision.

Joey was my nephew and he was a very interesting and unique person. He was born in the Philippines but spent his youth and young adulthood in Australia before moving to America in his 20s. His immediate family still lives in Australia and the Philippines.

Joey worked in the hospitality industry and loved good food and the finer things in life. He also loved to travel, and he saw and experienced many exotic places during his lifetime.

I have a very strong Catholic faith and was absolutely amazed that you do too. I have also been to Medjugorje and loved receiving the rose petal. I felt like it was a sign from Joey that he is at peace.

Your card was such a blessing to receive and brought tears to all our eyes. We will keep you in our prayers as well and wish you much health, happiness, and continued great vision.

Warmly,

Rose-Marie
Rosemarie



CONTRIBUTORS*

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Arvada Lions Club
Basalt Lions Club
Big Horn Lions Club
Calhan Lions Club
Cañon City Noon Lions Club
Centennial Airport Lions Club
Cheyenne Sunrise Lions Club
Colorado Lions Foundation
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Golden Lions Club
Highlands Ranch Lions Club
Holyoke Lions Club
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Kersey Lions Club
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Limon Lions Club
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Montrose Lions Club

Mountain Lions Club of Red Feather Lakes
Nederland Lions Club
New Castle Lions Club
Orchard Mesa Lions Club
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Sheridan Sundowners Lions Club
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G Dale Argotsinger
Shauna & Pamela Atkins-Greager
John Ballagh
Brian & Twila Ballard
Nancy & William Berg
Peter Bock
Betsy Bohanna
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****Contributions processed and received
between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023***

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Colorado Gives Community First
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Guinn Charitable Trust
Hughes Charitable Foundation
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Donations)
Truston Lee Fisher Trust

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In Memory of All Donors and their Families: Barbara Seemiller

In Memory of Kelley Meyer: Debora Meyer

In Memory of her Husband, Orville Tomky, a Lion for 50+ years: Karen Tomky

In Memory of James Brundige: Cindy Brundige

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In Memory of Lester & Edna Speechley: Kathleen Speechley

In Memory of Shaun Peter Cassidy: David & Colleen Countryman

In Memory of Son Timothy Dean Julseth: Carmen Julseth

In Memory of Jacy Hoagland: Daniel & Bernadette Spinuzzi

In Memory of LaVay Marts Weinmeister: Donald Weinmeister

In Memory of Kenneth Grubenhoff: Lois Gould

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July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023

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

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