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.
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
President, PDG Jim Rapp
Vice-President, Lion Wes Dorman
Treasurer, Lion Mike Bussey
Secretary, Lion Brian Ballard
Director, Lion Bruce Heimbuck
Director, Lion Carole Kitchell
Director, Lion Terry Lutts
Director, PDG Joe Rall
Director, Lion Glenn Stanko
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.
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 and 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 Medjugorje 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 Medjugorie 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,
Rosemarie
CONTRIBUTORS*

LIONS CLUBS
Akron Lions Club
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
Denver Five Points Lions Club
Denver Lions Club Foundation
Denver Park Hill Lions Club
El Paso County Tri-Lakes Lions Club
Fort Collins Lions Foundation
Fraser River Valley Lions Club
Golden Lions Club
Highlands Ranch Lions Club
Holyoke Lions Club
Julesburg Lions Club Fund
Kersey Lions Club
Lamar Lions Club
Lander Lions Club
Laramie Plains Lions Club
Limon Lions Club
Lions Club of Estes Park
Lions of District 6-NE
Lions of Wyoming Foundation
Littleton Lions Foundation
Longmont - Columbine Lions Club
Louisville Lions Club
Loveland Lions Club
Montrose Lions Club
Mountain Lions Club of Red Feather Lakes
Nederland Lions Club
New Castle Lions Club
Orchard Mesa Lions Club
Redlands Lions Club
Riverton Lions Club
Security Lions Club
Sheridan Sundowners Lions Club
Steamboat Ski Town Lions Club
Sterling Lions Club
Surface Creek Valley Lions Club
Wheatland Lions Club
Woodland Park Pikes Peak Lions Club
Woodlin Lions Club

INDIVIDUALS
Anonymous (4)
Alice Adair
William & Kathryn Adams
G Dale Argotsinger
Shauna & Pamela Atkins-Greager
John Ballagh
Brian & Twila Ballard
Nancy & William Berg
Peter Bock
Betsy Bohanna
Charles Booms
James Briggs

*Contributions processed and received between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023*
INDIVIDUALS

Mary Brown
Dorothy Burrowes
Mike & Beverly Bussey
Ken & Cathy Callison
Kanithdar Chittivej
Patricia Connor
Bob and Joanne Cook
Linda & Ian Davies
Angela Deabler
Roy Donaldson
Eric Duprey
Gregory Dyekman
Gary & Wendi Ekborg
Juanita Ferguson
Martha Fisher
David Foxhoven
Laura Froyd
Kurtis Gries
Dan Griffin
Carol Hamilton
Bonnie Harrison
Julia Hartman
Bruce Heimbuck & Gail Heimbuck
Bill & Virginia Hippe
Elizabeth Holland
Robert & Marjorie Hollembeak
Bev Hood
John Howard
Lynn & Connie Jacobs
Thomas Jacobson
Basil Katsaros
Peter Keppler
Edwin Krebs
Donald & Susan Kuskie
Colette Lavery

Dale Leighty
Bruce & Eileen Leland
Lewis & Linda Lyon
Diane Maurer
Jerry McClintock
Joan Meister
Jeffrey Milheiser
Barry Miller
Richard Nelson
Gary & Brenda Nesbitt
Ann Nestor
Carl Nordin
Caroline O’Neill-Hierath
Patricia Pitney
Jimmie & Diane Porter
Joe & Brenda Rall
James & Leslea Rapp
Mary Lou Ray
Zoe Reese
Karen Rodriguez
Don Rosenbock
Reginald Sanderson
Randy Savoren
Vira & Uraiwan Sawatdi
Alice Schneider
Donald Schuster
Ralph Silkensen
James Smith
Glenn Stanko & Kathy Stanko
Chuck & Joyce Stevenson
Robert Storrs
Lydia Swize
Michael Taravella
Gordon & Donna Thorne
David Uebel
**INDIVIDUALS**

Loree Vanderhye
Tom Varcalli
David & Marcia Walker
Sondra Welsh
Todd & Melissa Wesswick
Kathy Westover
James White
Susan Wine
Bob Wyman
Tobey & Susan Ydon

**ORGANIZATIONS**

Amazon Smile Foundation
Colorado Gives Community First Foundation
Guinn Charitable Trust
Hughes Charitable Foundation
Mile High United Way
Network for Good (Facebook Donations)
Truston Lee Fisher Trust

**In Memory of Alice Frosheiser:** Marjorie Wilder

**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

**In Memory of John Winn:** Michelle Winn

**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 Lavy Marts Weinmeister:** Donald Weinmeister

**In Memory of Kenneth Grubenhoff:** Lois Gould

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In Memory of Robert Slonecker:
Randal & Glenda Bang
DW & JL Boehmer
Larry & Jodene Boerner
James & Annette Bornhoft
Janice & Kenneth Bornhoft
Pamela Bornhoft
Kathy Brammer
Dale & Linda Brekel
Carol Brom
Christina Byczkowski
John & Denice Byczkowski
David & Glenda Conley
Stephen & Shirlene Cramer
Ronald & Alexes Ertle
Patricia & Darrel Fenton
Jodie Harless
Wayne & Michelle Hawkins
Doug & Diana Kaufman
Lambrecht & CO CPAs
Stephen & Jennifer Mitchell
Gary & Melanie Northup
Wayne & Barbara Ogley
Mark O’neill
Roger & Renee Pimple
Marilyn Slonecker

In Memory of Homer Hill:
Beverly & Daniel Brent
Choices
Mary Elmshauser
Esther Enderson
Charles & Barbara Feit
Ken & Carol Fuchs
Darrell & Donna Gibson
Faye Harding
Dennis & Kay Hicks
Ronnie & Cathy Hill
Larry & Sandra Kitzel
Bill & Pat Martin
Leesa & Troy McCue
Ted Peterson
Lorrie Query
Earl & Mary Ann Saffer
Margaret Schmidt
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