

Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank

# 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



A project of the Lions of Colorado and Wyoming



[www.corneas.org](http://www.corneas.org)

# Vision & Mission



## WHY WE EXIST

We exist to restore hope where hope may have been lost.

## MISSION

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

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**JOHN LOHMEIER**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

As I reflect on the past year, I am both proud and humbled by the life-changing work we continue to do at the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank (RMLEB). Our success is made possible by a dedicated and compassionate network—medical professionals, donor families, eye bank staff, and surgeons—along with key partners including hospitals, funeral homes, coroners, and medical examiners. Together, we honor the wishes of individuals and families who decide to give the gift of sight through transplantation and research. We must never forget the very foundation for everything we do, the selfless and altruistic decision to help another by choosing to be a donor.

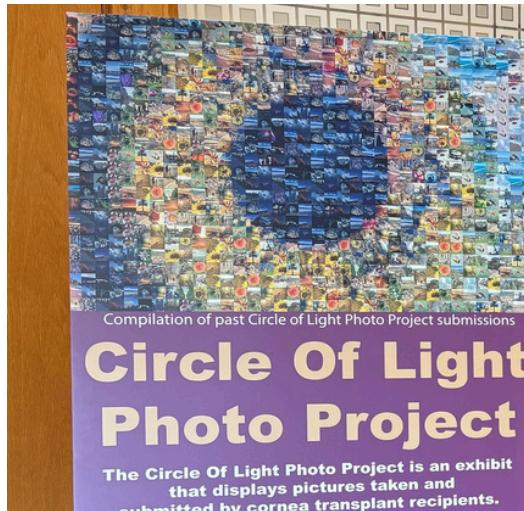
One of the most powerful reminders the decision to donate has comes from the heartfelt letters exchanged between donor families and transplant recipients. These personal connections speak to the emotional depth of our mission and the hope that can be restored through each donation. They remind us not only why we do what we do, but also how lucky we are to be able to play a part in the donation-transplant process to restore sight.

Over the past year, RMLEB staff procured, qualified, and matched eye tissue to help restore sight to **2,211 individuals worldwide**. Our reputation for excellence in what we do is directly attributable to our highly committed and capable staff. It takes very special and dedicated people working hard 24 hours a day 7 days per week to make any of this happen.

We are also pleased to report that RMLEB remains in a strong financial position. This reflects our commitment to responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us. We are deeply grateful for the continued support from Lions clubs, donor families, cornea recipients, and friends in the community who contribute in their own way to make our work possible.

Looking ahead, I am confident in the direction we're headed. With a passionate and skilled staff, the continued support of our partners, and trust from the community and the individuals who choose to help another through eye donation, RMLEB will remain a leader among eye banks.

Thank you for being part of this vital mission.



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN LIONS EYE BANK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## 2024 - 2025

**01** **Lion Glenn Stanko**

MD-6 At Large  
President

**02** **PDG Ted Wenckus**

D-15 At Large  
Vice President

**03** **PCC Dr. Ron Smith**

D-6 SE  
Treasurer

**04** **PDG Joe Rall**

MD-6 At Large  
Secretary

**05** **Lion Brian Ballard**

D-15 At Large  
Director

**06** **PDG Gwen Balk**

D 6-C  
Director

**07** **Lion Bruce Heimbuck**

D-15 At Large  
Director

**08** **PDG David Merritt**

D 6-W  
Director

**09** **Lion Carole Kitchell**

D 6-NE  
Director



# 2,396

eye donors gave the  
Gift of Sight in FY  
2024-2025

Over  
**17,000**

eye tissues for  
advancement in surgery  
techniques and valuable  
medical research.

# 70,000

eye tissues for sight-restorative transplants and  
reconstructive surgeries.



# 127,396

Miles Driven By  
Staff in Colorado

## 2024-2025 Highlights

# 29,246

Miles Driven By  
Staff in Wyoming

# 4,712

Tissues  
Donated

# 2,211

Tissues Placed for  
Sight-Restoring  
Transplants

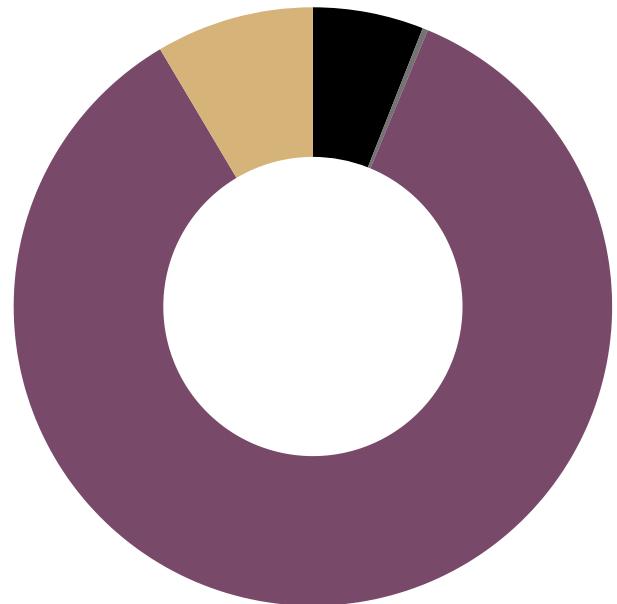
# 420

Tissues Placed in  
Research/Training



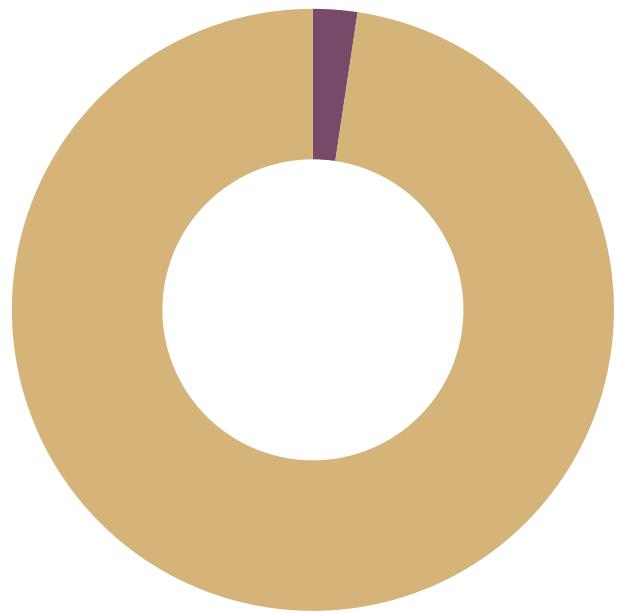
# Financials

Administration	\$362,558
Surgery	\$17,633
Tissue Recovery/Processing	\$5,164,729
Community Relations/Fundraising	\$517,072
Total Expenses	\$6,061,992



● Administration      ● Tissue Recovery/Processing  
● Grants      ● Community Relations/Fundraising

Tissue Reimbursement	\$6,139,492
Contributions	\$149,250
Total Operations Revenue	\$6,288,742
Net Investments (unrealized)	\$1,477,000



● Tissue Reimbursement  
● Contributions



Help us continue our sight-saving mission of carrying out the wishes of eye donors and their families to help others overcome blindness.

# 2024-2025 CONTRIBUTORS

## Lions Clubs

Akron Lions Club  
Big Horn Lions Club  
Broomfield Lions Club  
Brush Lions Club  
Calhan Lions Club  
Canon City Noon Lions Club  
Centennial Airport Lions Club  
Cheyenne Sunrise Lions Club  
Colbran Lions Club  
Colorado Lions Foundation Bingo  
Denver Lions Club Foundation  
Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation  
El Paso County Tri-Lakes Lions Club  
Englewood Lions Foundation  
Fort Collins Lions Foundation  
Fraser River Valley Lions Club  
Fruita Lions Club  
Haxtun Lions Club  
Highlands Ranch Lions Club  
Holyoke Lions Club  
Idalia Lions Club  
Julesburg Lions Club Fund  
Lafayette Lions Club  
Lamar Lions Club  
Lingle Ft Laramie Lions Club  
Littleton Lions Foundation  
Loveland Lions Club  
Meeker Lions Club  
Montrose Lions Club  
Mountain Lions Club of Red Feather Lakes  
Nederland Lions Club  
Orchard Mesa Lions Club  
Pinedale Lions Club  
Riverton Lions Club  
Saratoga Lions Club  
Security Lions Club  
Thornton Lions Club  
Wiley Lions Club  
Woodland Park Pikes Peak Lions Club

## Individuals

Anonymous  
Barbara Peckler  
Barbara Seemiller  
Basil Katsaros  
Basil Katsaros & Paula vonLindern  
Betty Moellenberg  
Bev Hood  
Bill & Virginia Hippe  
Bill and Donna Lykins  
Bob Wyman  
Brian & Twila Ballard  
Bruce & Gail Heimbuck  
Carole Kitchell  
Colleen Countryman  
Connie Sullivan  
Dan Griffin  
Daniel & Bernadette Spinuzzi  
David & Colleen Countryman  
David & Susan Gray  
David Merritt  
David Uebel  
Diane Collopy  
Diane Maurer  
Donald Schuster  
Ed & Blanche Stoller  
Edwin Krebs  
Elizabeth Holland  
Eric Duprey  
Gary & Brenda Nesbitt  
Gary & Carol Andrews  
Gary & Melanie Northup  
Gary & Wendi Ekborg  
Gary Crum  
Gregory Dyekman  
James & Leslea Rapp  
James Briggs  
James Navratil  
James White  
Jane Anderson

Jeffrey Milheiser  
Joan Meister  
Joe & Brenda Rall  
John & Anna Buckingham  
John & Kimberlee Horst  
John Howard  
John Lohmeier  
Joyce Radcliffe  
Julia Hartman

## Funds/Foundations

Colorado Gives Community First Foundation  
Hughes Charitable Foundation  
PayPal Giving Fund  
Robert C. Dickinson Rev. Trust  
The Harland and MaryAnn Ranney - Gifting Fund

## In Memory/Honor Of

Keith Bentzen, In honor of Dr. Amiel  
Gary and Carol Andrews, In Memory of Ken Moellenberg  
Betty Moellenberg, In Memory of Ken Moellenberg  
Bill and Donna Lykins, In Memory of Lois Painter  
Patricia Stoller, In Memory of Lois Painter  
Ed and Blanche Stoller, In Memory of Lois Painter  
Gary and Janet Uken, In Memory of Lois Painter  
Gary & Melanie Northup, In memory of Michael Clynes  
Susan Wine, Jack Clarke Wine, III  
John and Anna Buckingham, Kenneth Buckingham  
Gary Crum, Lion Earl Crum  
Connie Sullivan, Lion Patsy Osburn  
Brad and Leslie Vickers, Morgan Vickers



**Help us continue our sight-saving mission of carrying out the wishes of eye donors and their families to help others overcome blindness.**

[https://www.corneas.org/Make-a-  
Contribution-to-RMLEB](https://www.corneas.org/Make-a- Contribution-to-RMLEB)

