



BEAUTY OF
SIGHT

A LIONS EYE BANK

2023



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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ON THE COVER

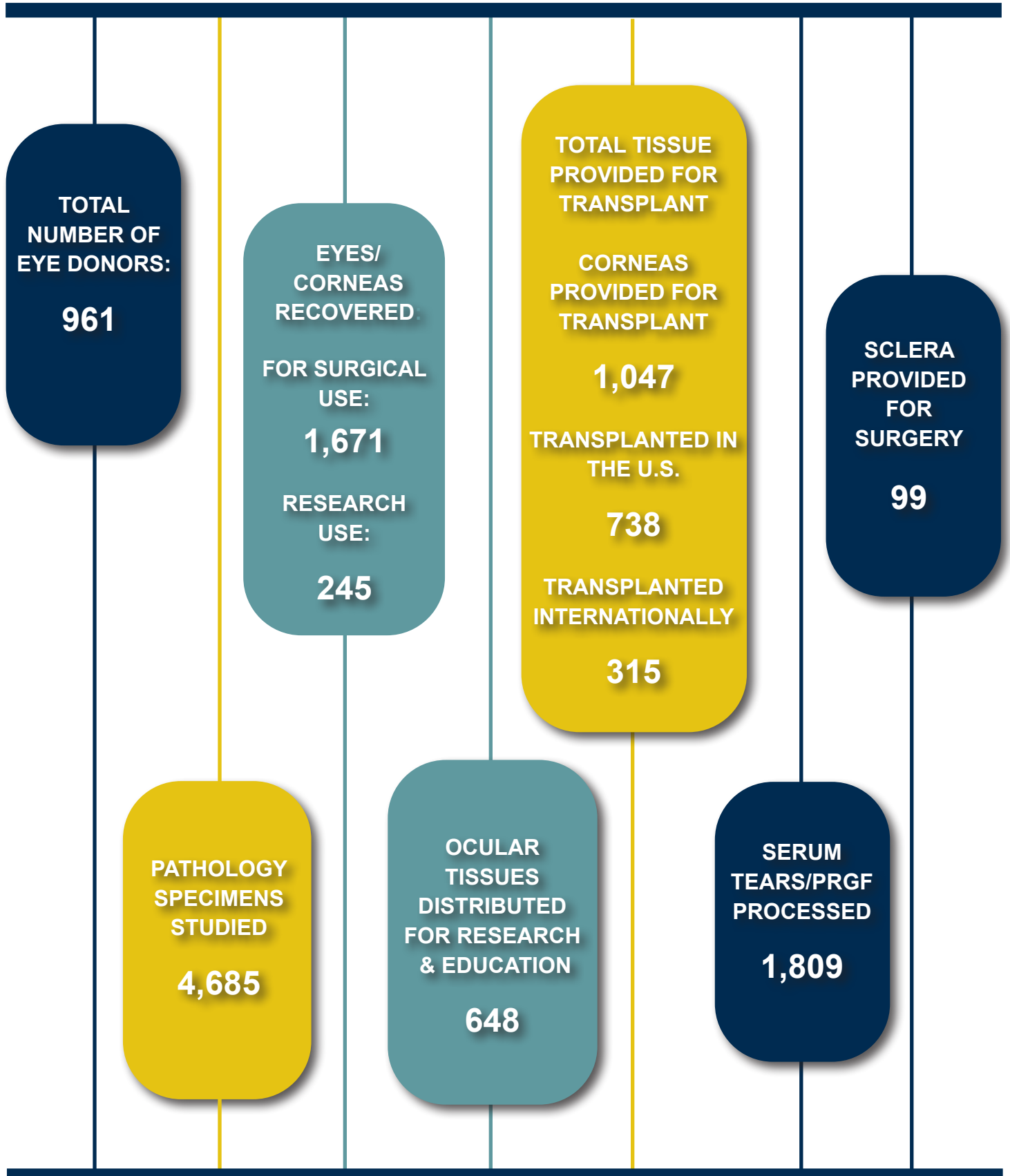


A life-changing accident that required him to receive a corneal transplant as a teenager, taught Logan Daily the importance of donation.

Years later, when a highway tragedy took his life, his mother ensured that his legacy would live on through organ, eye and tissue donation. Five years later she continues to fulfill his altruistic spirit, impacting thousands of lives through donation.

2022 - 2023

STATUS REPORT



PRESIDENT REPORT

I am pleased to present the year in review, highlighting the accomplishments of the Board of Directors during my presidency, the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Throughout this term, the Board focused on strategic initiatives to enhance our organization's visibility, expand our international impact, and streamline our identity to better reflect our mission and reach.

Marketing Campaign and Rebranding

As many of you know, our most visible achievement was our rebranding from Florida Lions Eye Bank to Beauty of Sight. This change came about when, in preparation for a capital campaign aimed at raising funds for our new facility, the Board approved a marketing outreach effort in South Florida to enhance our organization's visibility. An unintended yet valuable outcome of this initiative was the recognition of confusion between Florida Lions Eye Bank and our foundation, Beauty of Sight Foundation. To address this, the Board invested time in researching the branding of both organizations. After consulting with a professional, extensive research, and stakeholder surveys, the Board decided to rebrand Florida Lions Eye Bank to Beauty of Sight, aligning with our organization's expanded mission. This rebranding effort also included the creation of a new logo.

International Cornea Program Growth

Under the leadership of Executive Director Elizabeth Fout, supported by the Board, Beauty of Sight witnessed significant success in expanding our international cornea program. This initiative, aimed at restoring sight worldwide, led to the expansion of our wet lab training program internationally. Notably, our participation in the ophthalmology conference in Argentina allowed us to train over 60 surgeons from Central and South America on new surgical techniques using corneas donated for research and training. This, I should note, underscores the importance of eye donation for research and education purposes. Every donor whose eye tissue is used for research and training plays an integral part in our mission of creating a world without blindness. The Board of Directors and I wish to recognize these generous donors and their priceless gifts that will have a lasting impact on the medical community for years to come.



Building Expansion Construction Firm Selection

Our commitment to growth is reflected in the progress made with our new building plans. Our chosen architectural firm, Wolfberg Alvarez, finalized the building plans and submitted all necessary documents for permitting with the City of Miami. Furthermore, the building committee diligently prepared an RFP,

conducted interviews with construction management firms, and selected Miller Construction to lead the building of our much-anticipated new facility.

Patient Financial Assistance Program Expansion

This year the Board expanded the Serum Tears/PRGF Financial Assistance Program, providing over 102 patients with autologous serum eye drops either completely free or at a reduced cost. This program reflects our dedication to supporting individuals in need and ensuring access to essential eye care resources.

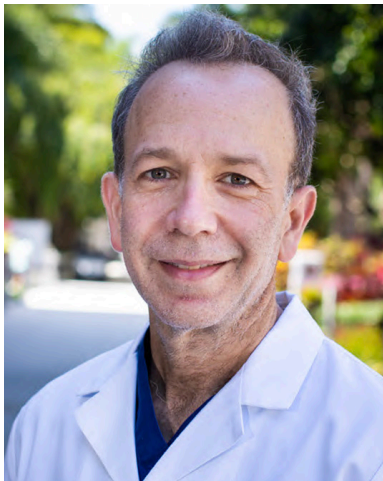
Corporate Fundraising and Development Position Creation

Recognizing the importance of corporate fundraising, the Board also directed efforts toward broadening our financial base. Additionally, we established a Director of Development position to further strengthen our organization's capacity for sustainable growth and enhanced philanthropic support.

In conclusion, the decision to rebrand as Beauty of Sight signifies our organization's multifaceted nature. We've long said, "We're more than just an eye bank." Now, we are proud to have an identity that mirrors the breadth and scope of our work. The initiatives undertaken in the past fiscal year reflect our commitment to expanding our international presence, increasing financial assistance programs, conducting wet labs globally, focusing on corporate fundraising, and strategically enhancing our organizational structure. Beauty of Sight looks forward to the continued support and collaboration of our valued members and stakeholders as we embark on the journey of continued growth and service to those in need.

Helene Thompson, PCC

MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT



The year 2023 was tremendously successful for the Florida Lions Eye Bank now known as Beauty of Sight. While eye banking and the distribution of corneal tissue is the core mission of the operation, managing a specialty specific ophthalmic pathology laboratory, conducting and funding research in ocular disease, providing serum tears and PRGF for patients with severe dry eye, developing and patenting new devices for eye banking and surgery as well as teaching doctors, residents, medical students and technicians throughout the United States and internationally are also key components to our mission. While we are located in Florida with a lifelong relationship with the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, our global impact is palpable and increasing in scope. As a result after over 60 years operating under the FLEB moniker, and careful consideration it was felt that the name Beauty of Sight was a more fitting name to describe our organization and the wide array of sight saving services that we provide.

The eye bank provided 1053 corneas for transplant, with 738 dedicated to patients in Florida and 315 sent internationally to countries including Argentina, Panama, the Cayman Islands, Peru, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and South Africa amongst others. We have seen an increase in the amount of processed tissue that we provide including DSAEK and DMEK which allows our surgeons to provide personalized surgery that can lead to a more rapid return of vision so that patients can return to their routine daily activities in an expeditious fashion. In addition to corneal tissue, we provided similar numbers of sclera and corneal patch tissue for patients undergoing enucleation and glaucoma filtration surgery respectively.

Beauty of Sight's serum tears program continues to grow and evolve. The process of drawing a patient's blood, centrifuging it so as to separate the serum, adding saline and placing it in a convenient eye dropper bottle allows individuals with severe, often debilitating,

dry eyes to function and flourish in their daily lives. PRGF is a similar process in which the blood is further processed so as to provide a wider array of growth factors to the patients who may have more severe dry eye symptoms. This year the program was able to provide serum tears/PRGF to over 1800 patients with severe ocular surface dysfunction. Additionally, for patients with limited finances, Beauty of Sight has been able

to help subsidize these sight saving services to those who might otherwise be unable to procure them.

The pathology laboratory received and examined over 4500 ocular specimens during 2023. Beauty of Sight operates one of very few specialty specific ophthalmic pathology laboratories in the world. This allows us to diagnose and help treat thousands of patients both locally and internationally. Ophthalmic pathology education is the cornerstone of ophthalmic training. Our laboratory presently is responsible for the training of visiting medical students, residents, dedicated ocular pathology fellows and masters students at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Additionally, teaching is provided nationally to residents and fellows at other universities and internationally to physicians on six continents.

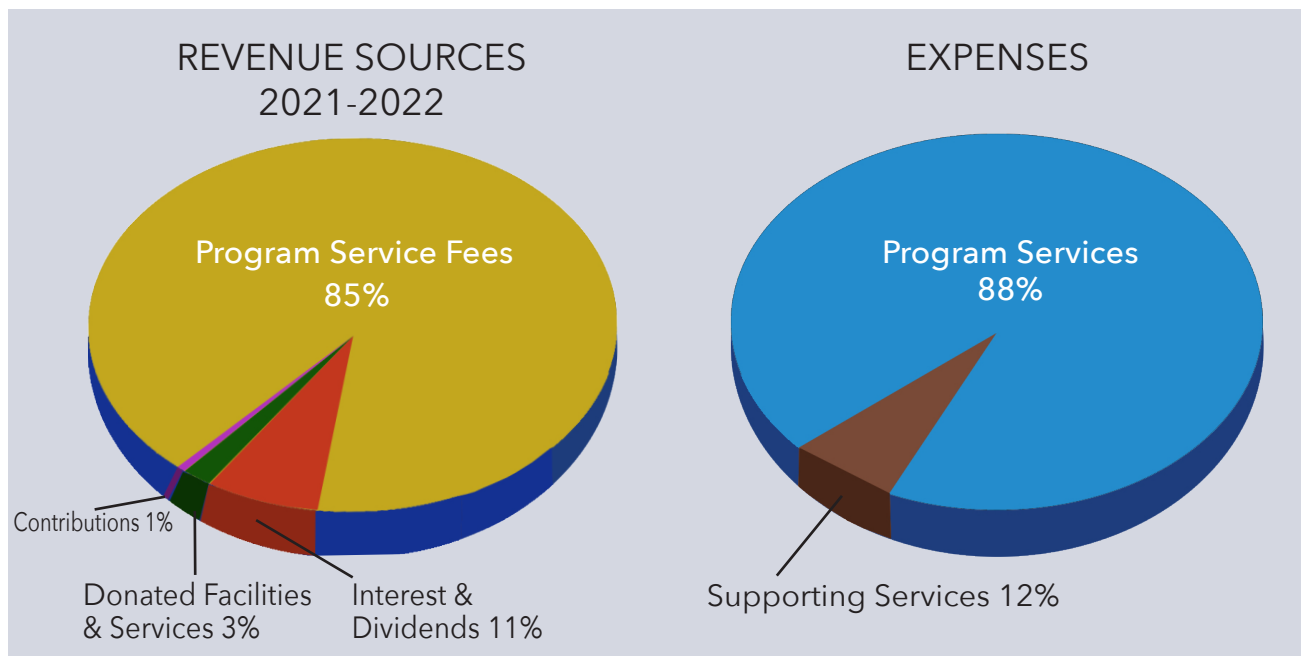
In order to continue to provide the wide array of services we are embarking on a capital campaign to raise funds for a building to house our growing organization. We have outgrown our present facility and it is imperative that we obtain more space as we have become limited in our ability to perform our daily operations.

I urge every one of you to help us, to the best of your abilities, help raise the funds needed to construct our new home so that we can continue to provide our sight saving services to the thousands of patients that we are able to serve on a yearly basis.

Sander R. Dubovy, MD

FINANCIAL REPORT

	FY 2022	FY 2023
REVENUES & GAINS		
Program Service Fees	\$3,849,115	\$3,822,108
Contributions		
General Public	\$14,388	\$32,339
Bequests	\$ 1,908	\$0
Lions Clubs	\$15,548	\$9,333
Donated Facilities and Services	\$131,562	\$136,235
Interest & Dividends	\$379,184	\$503,148
Net unrealized and realized gain (loss) of long-term investments	\$(2,683,565)	\$1,268,136
Total Revenues and Gains	\$1,708,140	\$5,771,299
EXPENSES		
Program Services		
Medical Services	\$3,891,841	\$3,808,322
Research Grants	\$304,481	\$160,242
Supporting Services		
Management and General	\$255,267	\$259,846
Development	\$178,271	\$299,645
Total Expenses	\$4,629,860	\$4,528,055
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$(2,921,720)	\$1,246,244



FEATURE STORY

A Tragedy Turns into Donor Heroes

On a warm North Carolina day in 2004, 16-year-old Logan Daily was away from home at summer school and was on a field with other teenage boys playing a game of paintball. As the game ended, Logan was removing the protective goggles that safeguarded his face and eyes. Just at that moment, a small speeding round ball of paint hit his left eye.

When Logan's mother, Trina Long, learned of the accident she hurried to him from Florida. Finding her son with both eyes wrapped in gauze, Logan informed her that only his left eye was damaged. "Logan enjoyed most outdoor activities, with hunting and fishing being his favorites."

As the weeks went by, several ophthalmologists recommended corneal transplant from a donor as the best opportunity to restore sight in Logan's eye. After consulting with multiple doctors, Trina took Logan to see Dr. Francis Price in Indianapolis, Indiana, where the surgery was successful. Throughout his adult years, Logan wore sunglasses to shield his eye from bright sunlight, but otherwise continued in his life pursuing an education, a career, and raising two sons.

Something Dr. Price said after the surgery resonated with Trina and Logan. "He said that the corneal that is now in Logan's eye came from a seventy-year-old gentleman who became a donor. Logan and I exchanged a knowing glance, sharing our appreciation for the selfless gift. After that we both became donors. We never forgot."



Trina Long

The proudest moments of Logan's life are when he became a father to his two boys, who are now 11 and 16 years old.

On October 14, 2019 everything changed when a driver failed to yield the right of way at a traffic light, claiming Logan's life eight days before his 31st birthday. Trina remembered the corneal transplant that saved Logan's eye. She knew that he would want to help the lives of others. By being a donor, Logan changed the lives of 543 people through eye and tissue donation. His right cornea was recovered by Beauty of Sight and was used to restore sight in a 21-year-old in Miami, Florida.

Witnessing the profound impact of donation, Trina began volunteering at Legacy Donor Services Foundation (LDSF), South Florida's local tissue bank. As a volunteer, she shared Logan's story with individuals and groups. Then, when a position opened at LDSF, Trina applied. She is now the Regional Program Manager managing hospitals in St. Lucie and Palm Beach Counties for tissue donation.

"My job is to spread the word of the positive impact of donation through speaking opportunities at organizations, corporations, or community events. My other role is a donor mom, where I share how organs, eyes and tissue provide the gift of life to others bringing about positive change, not only in one's life but also in the lives of their family, friends, and the entire community," she said.

- Continued on the next page



The day we are born our journey of life begins.

One of the mysteries in life is that we do not know when we will pass on. Some are very young when they pass on and others are very old.

The good news is that we can save and improve other peoples lives after we pass on by being an organ, eye and tissue donor.

*The text and art is from an activity booklet **Donor Heroes Are Superheroes** made to give a positive impact to children in donor families.*

FEATURE STORY

A Tragedy Turns into Donor Heroes

Continued from the last page

When working with donor families, Trina recognized the need for children to understand donation. On October 17, 2022, Trina and her team launched the Donor Heroes are Superheroes, a children's activity booklet that educates children about organ, eye and tissue donation. This initiative not only aims to educate children about donation but also serves as a tool for families coping with the loss of a donor loved one, helping them grasp the significance and impact of donation.

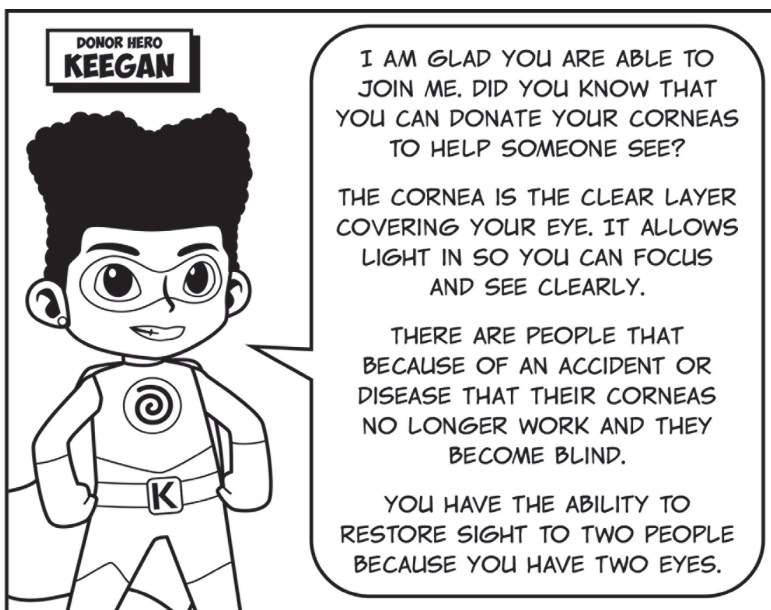
The first edition of the booklet showcases six real-life donor heroes, with Trina's own son Logan, featured as the first superhero.

Copies of the Donors Heroes booklets quickly led to many organizations and hundreds of individuals promoting donation at cost. A Spanish edition is available and other languages will soon be printed. All the funds donated to the nonprofit, Logan's UnparALLEled Legacy, Inc., operating as Donor Heroes, will support future editions and scholarships for children whose loved ones saved and improved lives through organ, eye, and tissue donation, enabling them to pursue education at vocational schools, colleges and universities.

The Donor Heroes need-based scholarship offers a beacon of hope, designed to alleviate the financial burdens associated with continuing education. This scholarship does not require testing performance or minimum GPA for eligibility. The application period will run from January 1 to March 31 each year. To be eligible, applicants must be under 25 years old and either a high school senior or enrolled in a college, university or trade school. This year, five applicants received scholarships on April 30, 2024. For more information on the Donor Heroes Scholarships go to DonorHeroes.org.

"You never know when you may need a donor or when you may have the opportunity to become a donor."

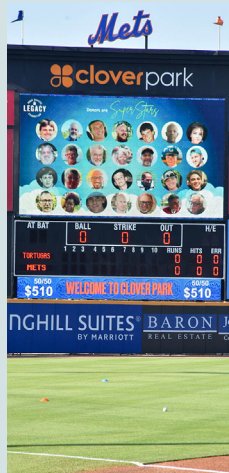
- Trina Long



FEATURE STORY

A Tragedy Turns into Donor Heroes

Donor Heroes Bring Children to the Baseball Park



Legacy Donor Services Foundation (Legacy) hosted the popular **Make the Save, Save a Life** at Clover Park in Port St. Lucie, home of New York Mets Spring Training. Legacy supports Donor Heroes' mission and with the joint collaboration with the St. Lucie Mets, the proceeds generated from this event are awarded to Donor Heroes. Some of the special children attending: (to left) Julianna singing the National Anthem, whose aunt is a tissue donor who saved eight burn patients with her gifts. (Below) Gabriel, the 9-year-old boy that threw the first pitch is on the National Waiting List for a heart transplant.



The Legacy mascot "Diego" enters Clover Park before the game. Codi Stewart an employee of Legacy is wearing the costume.



The baseball players had special shirts for the evening. On their back reads: Donors Are Superstars.



(Boy at right) Gabriel Sherrer, 9, threw the first pitch. He is on the National Waiting List for a heart transplant.



RESEARCH



Vision Restored: A Journey of Innovation and Hope Supported by Beauty of Sight

Antonio Vento, a 14-year-old with a passion for video games, faced a significant obstacle due to severe vision impairment resulting from a rare genetic condition called dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (DEB).

This condition, characterized by extreme skin fragility leading to blistering upon minor friction or trauma, affects approximately 3.3 million individuals across the globe. Antonio's DEB manifested severely, impacting not only his skin but also impairing his vision.

Under the care of Dr. Alfonso Sabater, M.D., Ph.D., at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, and with the support of the Beauty of Sight foundation, Antonio underwent groundbreaking treatments to address his ocular complications. Traditional surgeries initially cleared scar tissue obstructing his vision, but the condition persisted due to the underlying genetic mutation preventing proper collagen production. Seeking alternative therapies, Dr. Sabater collaborated with dermatologists and pharmaceutical experts to adapt a promising skin therapy for ocular use.

The innovative treatment involved the application of a specialized eye drop, designed to promote the synthesis of Collagen 7, a crucial protein lacking in Antonio's body. This approach marked the first instance of such gene therapy targeting ocular surface cells. Following rigorous testing for safety and efficacy and special approval by the Food and Drug Administration, Antonio became the first recipient of this transformative therapy, administered after surgical intervention to clear scar tissue from his corneas.

RESEARCH

Antonio's journey was more than restoration of vision, it also brought medical expertise, innovation and unwavering hope in the face of rare genetic conditions.

The results were remarkable. Antonio's vision gradually improved, allowing him to resume activities like playing video games and reading with newfound clarity. Dr. Sabater's unwavering dedication to Antonio's case, coupled with the collaborative efforts of the healthcare team and financial support from the Beauty of Sight Foundation, facilitated this breakthrough. Antonio's mother, acknowledging the transformative impact of the treatment, described it as both a divine and scientific miracle.

While initially apprehensive about being the first to undergo this pioneering therapy, Antonio's mother encourages other families facing similar genetic conditions to consider the potential benefits of genetic therapies. Dr. Sabater and the team at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute continue to explore the broader applicability of this treatment, envisioning future clinical trials to extend its benefits to more patients with genetic ocular disorders.

In essence, Antonio's journey represents not just a restoration of vision but a testament to the convergence of medical expertise, innovation and unwavering hope in the face of rare genetic conditions.

At Beauty of Sight, we look forward to continuing to support research projects such as this one that benefits new treatments and ultimately cure eye diseases for future generations.





OUR GRATITUDE TO ALL WHO HAVE

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Carlos G. Agudelo

Dolores B. Allen

Seena R. Amsel

Valerie Anderson

Gerardo Basail

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Lake Placid Lions Club
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Lions of Distric 35N INC Administrative

Marco Island Lions Club
Marco Island Lions Foundation Inc
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Miami Five Stars Lions Club
Miami Lakes Lions Club
Miami Lautaro Lions Club
Ocala Lions Club
Ormond Beach Lions Club Foundation
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Pembroke Pines Weston Lions Club
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IN MEMORY OF

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Charles Pinkerton, PDG	Kate E. Little
David Jealous	Miguel Seguera
Elaine Tidwell	Ofelia Fernandez

Orazio Vigorito

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Together

Beauty of Sight, formerly known as Florida Lions Eye Bank, continues its mission after 62 years: to provide the highest quality ophthalmic services and pioneering ground-breaking research.

Known throughout the world, we recover and distribute eye tissue for sight-saving transplant surgery. In the last decade we have grown into processing tissue for specialized layer corneal transplants, preparing personalized serum eye drops for patients throughout Florida, operating the only dedicated ocular pathology lab in the state and spearheading innovative ophthalmic research.

Now, Beauty of Sight is building a new world-class facility just two blocks from our home and continues our cooperative effort between the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and the Lions Clubs of Florida.

JOIN US IN BUILDING OUR FUTURE
TOGETHER AND HELP US
AS WE CREATE A WORLD
WITHOUT BLINDNESS



On the corner of 18th Street and 7th Avenue, the architect of Wolfberg Alvarez & Partners have designed a state-of-the-art six-story 51,333-square-foot building with laboratories, processing rooms, education and training center and research space.

Our new home will allow us to expand our programs, dedicated to restoring sight and accelerating our research on developing new treatments and cures for ophthalmic diseases.

For more information on how you can help support this project contact Executive Director, Elizabeth Fout, at efcaraza@med.miami.edu or call Beauty of Sight at 305-326-6359.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” - Helen Keller

COMMEMORATIVE NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Building Name: \$5,000,000

The building's name will be included on all announcements, invitations, websites, and other collateral materials to reflect and honor the donor's name.

Main Lobby: \$500,000

Primary entrance for all guests, patients, and visitors. Includes seating area, coffee and refreshments alcove and large donor wall.

Phlebotomy Room: \$250,000

First Floor Phlebotomy Room.

Research Center: \$1,000,000

Dedicated to research & innovation and bringing new treatments and cures.

Central Cornea Lab: \$1,000,000

Fifth Floor will be dedicated to processing, evaluating and distribution.

Dry Eye Suite: \$500,000

Fifth Floor will be dedicated to processing and shipping serum tears.

Conference Room: \$250,000

Conference Room on the Fifth Floor will feature glass walls and will seat up to 10 members.

Fifth Floor Reception Area: \$250,000

Each visitor to the Fifth Floor will be greeted by a receptionist with featured wall, Administrative offices and conference room.

Education & Training Center: \$1,000,000

Sixth Floor will provide classroom seating for up to 100 participants for lectures and research presentations. It will reflect and honor the name on all announcements.

Skyline Balcony: \$500,000

The Balcony on the Sixth Floor will face east with stunning views of the Miami skyline. To be used for special events and can seat up to 80 guests.

Southern Balcony: \$250,000

The second balcony on the Sixth Floor will be a covered open-air area adjacent to the Board Conference with views of southern skies of Miami.

Board Room: \$250,000

The Sixth Floor will accommodate Eye Bank.

Naming for Individual Offices

Ten individual directors offices are also available for naming.





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2022-2023

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2022-2023

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