

FLORIDA LIONS EYE BANK NEWSIGHT

BASCOM PALMER EYE INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
SUMMER 2016



FLORIDA LIONS EYE BANK

Since 1962
Restoring The Beauty of Sight

A Major Project of the Lions of Florida



Donor Appreciation Event Honors Beauty of Sight

It was the perfect setting to say "thank you." At the enchanting Flamingo Gardens in Davie, family members of the 1,086 eye donors from 2015 joined Florida Lions Eye Bank to celebrate the Beauty of Sight. On this sunny Saturday, the crowd of hundreds gathered to memorialize the selfless gifts their loved ones gave to others through cornea donation.

The celebration was cheerful, but reflective. Arts and crafts tables were available so adults and children alike could create custom butterfly-shaped ornaments in memory of their loved ones. These ornaments were displayed on

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Donors' Beauty of Sight Honored at Picnic - *From Page 1*

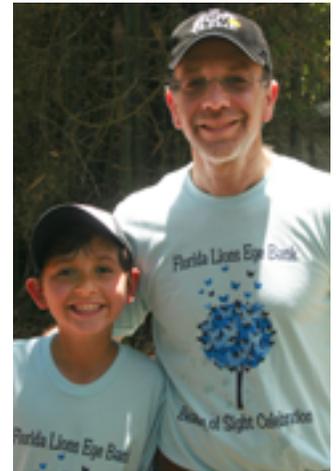
a memorial tree for all guests to see, signifying the transformation possible through donation.

In addition to arts and crafts, donor families enjoyed music, games, face painting, a photo booth and lunch. Attendees also spent time strolling around the extensive garden grounds, featuring animal exhibits, koi ponds and native trees.

The Beauty of Sight Celebration concluded with a lovely and symbolic butterfly release. Each donor family received a butterfly to set free, and in unison, hundreds of painted ladies fluttered toward the sun.

Florida Lions Eye Bank's annual Beauty of Sight Celebration takes place in the spring, and acknowledges the selfless gifts given by eye donors and their families the previous year. Due to the generosity of the cornea donors honored, the beauty of sight was restored to more than 1,200 cornea transplant recipients in 2015.

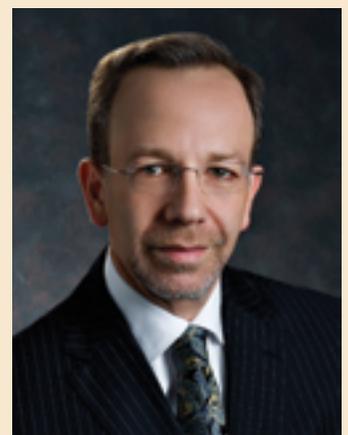
More pictures of this event are available on the Florida Lions Eye Bank Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FloridaLionsEyeBank



Dr. Dubovy Named to Eye Bank Association's Medical Board

Sander R. Dubovy, M.D., Medical Director of Florida Lions Eye Bank, has been appointed to the Medical Advisory Board (MAB) of the Eye Bank Association for America.

The MAB is the most prestigious committee of the Eye Bank Association of America, the organization responsible for regulating eye banks across the nation. During his two year-term, Dr. Dubovy will assist in the oversight of medical standards and procedures, ensuring safe and ethical practices in eye banking. Dr. Dubovy serves alongside 35 other individuals on a knowledgeable team of eye bankers and physicians. His appointment begins July 1 2016.



Remembering the Founder and First Medical Director of Florida Lions Eye Bank

Dr. Victor T. Curtin, founder and first Medical Director of Florida Lions Eye Bank, passed away on March 9, 2016. Curtin was a world-renowned physician and professor emeritus of ophthalmology at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, where he served on the faculty for 57 years. Curtin was the first faculty member recruited to the University of Miami School of Medicine by Dr. Edward Norton in 1959. Together, they would create one of the world's foremost ophthalmic teaching, research and patient care centers.

Curtin was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts and graduated from Phillips Academy Andover. He earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard University and medical degrees from Harvard Medical School. He completed a residency in ophthalmology at Cornell University Medical College, where he met Dr. Norton, and developed an interest in retinal diseases and ophthalmic pathology.

Together, Drs. Curtin and Norton founded Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, which opened to the public in 1962. Recognizing that corne-



Victor T. Curtin, M.D., 1925-2016

al transplantation and ophthalmic pathology would be critical to the institute's success, Curtin established Florida Lions Eye Bank and Ocular Pathology Laboratory in partnership with Lions Clubs of Florida. He served as its medical director for 39 years. Today, Florida Lions Eye Bank continues to fulfill Curtin's vision of providing corneal tissue for transplantation, while the ocular pathology laboratory has processed more than 100,000 tissue specimens

and is one of only 10 such facilities in the nation. In 1986, the University of Miami School of Medicine established the Victor T. Curtin Chair in Ophthalmology. Curtin was the first recipient of the chair that supports research in ocular pathology. The chair is now held by Sander R. Dubovy, M.D., medical director of Florida Lions Eye Bank and director of the Ocular Pathology Laboratory.

A memorial tribute for Dr. Victor T. Curtin was held at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute on June 17 2016. Dr. Curtin is survived by his wife of 63 years and four children.



In 2015, Mary Lou & Victor Curtin, Kathy Corser, Executive Director Elizabeth Fout Caraza.



Dr. Edward Norton and Dr. Victor Curtin



Mary Lou & Victor Curtin with Pearl Goldberg, the first eye bank executive director.



Dr. Curtin (sitting at left) with Lions



Dr. Sander Dubovy (third from left) with Dr. Curtin's family at the Memorial Tribute.

Newly Installed Eye Bank Board of Directors

The stars aligned for the installation of the 2016-17 Board of Directors, beginning the next chapter of Florida Lions Eye Bank's mission to restore the beauty of sight. Incoming President and former Treasurer Larry Schiff and the new board were sworn in by Past President Juan Tejera, and pledged to pursue the goals of the coming year. Held at the Signature Grand in Davie, the event also included an annual report from Medical Director Sander R. Dubovy, M.D, and an awards ceremony emceed by Geoff Wade, CC.

The honorees of this year's awards included eye bank executive assistant Elina Hackworth recognized for her 33 years of dedicated service. Past President Bill Arthur bestowed Ms. Hackworth, the longest-standing eye bank employee, with the Ross Carr Award in acknowledgment of her career. Geoff Wade, CC, presented the Jimmy Nelson Award for outstanding club to the Delray Beach Lions Club; James Brauss, OD, graciously accepted it. Past President Stacey Jones conferred a Certificate of Appreciation from Lions Clubs International to Jean-Marie Parel, PhD, director of the Ophthalmic Biophysics Center. Dr. Parel's tireless work over the decades has benefited Florida Lions Eye Bank, and helped restore the beauty of sight to many people in need.

The gala also included dinner, live music, a raffle, and a silent auction fundraiser.



(L-R) Medical Director Sander Dubovy, M.D., President Larry Schiff and Executive Director Elizabeth Fout Caraza.



(L-R) Technical Director Jorge Pena, M.D. and wife, Mary; Marilyn and Jean-Marie Parel, Ph.D.



(L-R) Sandra and Dr. Jim Brauss, Tony Burges, PDG.



(L-R) Colleen Pinkerton, PDG, supporter Linda Lubitz and new President Larry Schiff.

ctors Pledges to Restore Beauty of Sight



Bill Arthur, Elina Hackworth, recipient of the Ross Carr Award.



(L) Geoff Wade, CC, James Brauss, accepting the Jimmy Nelson award for the Delray Beach Lions Club.



(L-R) Wells Fargo representatives Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Gruchacz, Alfred Santamaria.



(L-R) President Larry Schiff, Ken Engstrom, 2nd VDGE, Stacey Jones, PID, Jean-Marie Parel, PhD, Antonio Montes, Juan Tejera, PDG.



(L-R) James Brauss, Lino de la Hera, PDG and Antonio Montes.



Members of the 2016-17 Board include (L-R) Dean Hess, PDG, Bill Arthur, Jerry Skufe, PDG, Alfred Santamaria, Tony Burgos, PDG, Antonio Montes, Betty Barrera, VDGE, Geoff Wade, CC, Elbio Gimenez, 2nd VDGE, George Letakis, PDG, Ken Engstrom, 2nd VDGE, President Larry Schiff and Past President Juan Tejera, PCC.

LIONS EVENT

Lions Gather at Spring Open House

Lions from all over South Florida visited Florida Lions Eye Bank on April 2 to enjoy an Open House tour and celebration. The mid-morning event included presentations by Medical Director Sander Dubovy, M.D., corneal surgeon Victor Perez, M.D., and Executive Director Elizabeth Fout-Caraza. Florida Lions Eye Bank staff led tours of the eye bank facilities, the ocular pathology laboratory and the Ophthalmic Biophysics Center.

The tour groups met back at the Retter Patio for fellowship, music and a delicious barbecue lunch.



Jean-Marie Parel, Director of the Ophthalmic Biophysics Center.



Appreciative Patient's Estate to Support Research

In spring 2016, Florida Lions Eye Bank received a generous donation from the estate of a corneal transplant recipient. Elizabeth T. Hughes, who received a corneal transplant using tissue provided by Florida Lions Eye Bank, named the eye bank in her will as one of four not-for-profit organizations to receive a bequest from her estate.

Ms. Hughes' remarkable generosity was the culmination of what can only be described as a remarkable life. Born in 1912, Elizabeth T. Hughes served in World War II, becoming a distinguished veteran of the United States Coast Guard. She graduated from Louisburg College and worked in accounting. Ms. Hughes enjoyed sewing, woodworking, horticulture and volunteerism. She passed away in

2015, shortly after her 102nd birthday.

Florida Lions Eye Bank is overwhelmed with gratitude for Ms. Hughes' exceptional gift. The bequest of nearly \$250,000 will allow Florida Lions Eye Bank to continue to provide much-needed services to the medical research community. The Florida Lions Eye Bank research program provides tissue at no cost to ophthalmic researchers, and \$250,000 in grants annually to vision-related research.

We encourage supporters to name the Florida Lions Eye Bank as an organization that will receive a portion of your estate upon your passing. Your gift will also continue to grow through our fund.

Contact Executive Director Elizabeth Fout-Caraza for more information.

JANUARY 1 - JUNE 30, 2016

Donations Received

Thank You For Your Generosity

General

Mr. Roberto Aguilera	Mr. William E. Davis	Ms. Coralia S. Jimenez	Estate of Edna J. Priest
Ms. Margaret Almond	Mrs. Phyllis Delizza	Ms. Helen Kastenbaum	Ms. Emily N. Ratner
Ms. Maria T. Alvarez	Sander Dubovy, M.D.	Ms. Nancy Kranz	Mr. Marc Rehm
Amazon Smile Foundation	Mr. John Erskine	Mr. Luke Leitz	Ms. Irene O. Reyes
American Society of Ophthalmic Registered Nurses of Florida	Mrs. Velia Focaracci	Mr. William Lillycrop	Mrs. Leonor Rodriguez
Mr. Wesley Andersen	Mr. Joe Garcia, Jr.	Mrs. Mary M. Locher	Mr. Custodio Romero
Ms. Norma Avellana	Mr. Adolfo Garza	Mrs. Janice R. Lowe	Mrs. Claire Rosenblatt
Mr. Edward Baker	Dr. Kenneth F. Golden	Mrs. Linda Lubitz-Boone	Mr. Scott Sankey
Mr. Michael Beni	Mr. James A. Graves	Mr. William F. Lyons	Mrs. Elaine Solas
Mrs. Sandra Borok	Ms. Helga R. Gutmann	Barbara McNinney	Ms. Leona Spector
Mrs. Felice Caiazza	Mr. Henry J. Halko	Mrs. Gladys Miguel	Ms. Betty Lou Steen-Clarke
Mrs. Hedia D. Cantor	Mr. and Mrs. Michael Harmelin	Mrs. Lillian R. Murray	Mr. Robert K. Sutton
Mr. Milton Carpenter	Mr. W. T. Harmon	Mrs. Ofelia M. Nibot	Ms. Claudene A. Talbott
Mr. John Choto	Mr. Clyde Hart	Mr. Dave Niemuth	Mr. William Thode
Mr. Jose R. Cojulun	Ms. Mary S. Hartzell	Mrs. Evelyn R. Owens	Mr. Luis Torregrosa
Mrs. Caridad Cordero	Estate of Florence Herwitz	Mrs. Linda Parras	Mrs. Elayne Wasserman
Mrs. Kathy Corser	Estate of Elizabeth Hughes	Lion and Mrs. Lou M. Penzi, Jr.	Ms. Kristin Wegel
Mr. Elio Cruz	Mrs. Margaret Hinely	Mrs. Caroline S. Pfeiffer	Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
	Ms. M. Ellen Jensen	Mrs. Gloria Plastow	Mr. William W. Whiting
			Mrs. Rhoda Winters

Lions & Lions Clubs

Aventura North Miami Beach Lions Club	Lion Marshall Ruff PDG	Mount Dora Lions Club
Belle Glade Lions Club	Lion Page H. Ferrell	Naples Nites Lions Club
Bellevue Noon Lions Club	Lion Ron J. Shayne	North Fort Myers Noon
Boca Raton Lions Club	Lion Rosa Aleman	North Port Lions Club
Bradenton Lions Club	Miami Buena Vista-Biltmore Lions Club	Oviedo Winter Springs Lions Club
Coral Way Colombian Lions Club	Miami Colombian Lions Club	Palm Bay Happy Lions Club
Florida E-Lions	Miami Dade Interamerican Lions Club	Sebastian Lions Club
Fort Pierce Lions Club	Miami Interamerican Ecuador Lions Club	South Florida Maritime Lions Club
Ft. Lauderdale Lions Club	Miami Lakes Lions Club	The Lake Sumter Lions Charities
Hollywood Colombian American Lions Club	Miami Lautaro Lions Club	The Lutz-Land O Lakes Foundation
Key Biscayne Lions Club	Miami Lions Club	University City Lions Foundation, Inc.
Key Largo Lions Club	Miami Managua Lions Club	West Miami Sunshine Lions Club
Lake Placid Lions Club	Miami Peruvian Lions Club	West Palm Beach Lions Club
Lake Wales Lions Club	Middleburg Black Creek Lions Foundation	Wildwood Sumter County Lions Club
Lake Worth Lions Club	Moore Haven Lions Club	Zephyrhills Lions Club



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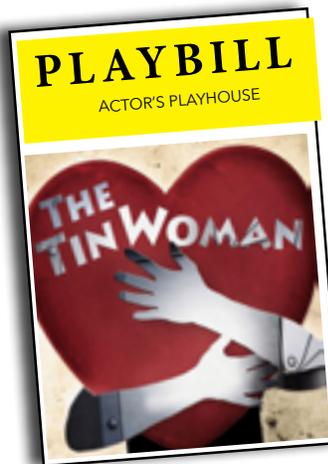
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Florida Lions Eye Bank Supports Community Theater Production

Florida Lions Eye Bank, in partnership with Life Alliance Organ Recovery Agency and UMTB Donor Services tissue bank, sponsored a production of *The Tin Woman* at the Actors' Playhouse in Coral Gables in the spring of 2016.

The play, written by Sean Grennan and directed by David Arisco, chronicles the story of a young woman named Joy experiencing guilt and depression following a lifesaving heart transplant. In order to make sense of her feelings, Joy reaches out to the donor's family, who are coming to terms with the untimely death of their young adult son. The themes the play explores are somber, reflective, and at times, humorous. It was well-received by the community and reviewed by the *New Times* and the *Miami Herald*.

Each of the three sponsoring organizations – Florida Lions Eye Bank, LAORA and UMTB Donor Services – contributed to the production of the play. A benefit of this joint sponsorship was the opportunity to talk with the play's cast, crew and audience about organ, eye, and tis-



sue donation. Twice a week during the run of the show, after Friday evening and Sunday matinee performances, a representative from one of the three sponsoring organizations hosted a Q&A session about donation. Florida Lions Eye Bank staff gave four of these talkbacks, reaching an audience of hundreds.

A table was set up in the lobby of the theater to share literature from each of the three sponsoring organizations, as well as brochures from the Miami Transplant Institute and Donate Life Florida. The table was staffed by volunteers for every performance for the duration of the show. Theatergoers had the opportunity to ask questions about donation, and register to be an organ, eye, and tissue donor on-site.