



BEAUTY OF
SIGHT
A LIONS EYE BANK

Clear Perspectives

The monthly newsletter from Beauty of Sight

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HONORING MICHAEL'S GIFT OF SIGHT



Michael Ethan Robles loved reading, visiting museums, traveling, and watching old films. He also made a decision that would help others experience the world: he registered to be an organ, tissue, and eye donor at the DMV.

Michael passed away unexpectedly on March 23, 2026, at just 27 years old. When his family was contacted after his passing, they learned of his decision and helped honor his wishes by providing the information needed for donation to proceed. Within a week, both of Michael's corneas had been transplanted.

"During this extremely difficult time, it brings us a small glimpse of joy knowing that Michael continues to make an impact in the lives of others," his sister, Eileen, shared. "I find it incredibly beautiful that, through the gift of his sight, he may give someone else the opportunity to see and experience the things they love."

After Michael's passing, his family discovered that he had an undetected inherited heart condition called arrhythmogenic cardiomyopathy. In his honor, Eileen created The Safe Heart Project to raise awareness of silent heart conditions in young adults.

Through Eileen's work to raise awareness and Michael's gift of sight, his life continues to touch others in ways his family could never have imagined.

You can register as an organ, tissue, and eye donor at [DonateLifeFlorida.org](https://www.donatelife.org).

BEAUTY OF SIGHT CONTRIBUTES TO NATIONAL CORNEAL TRANSPLANT STUDY



Should a donor's history of diabetes affect whether their cornea is used for transplantation? Beauty of Sight was one of 13 U.S. eye banks that provided donor tissue for the Diabetes Endothelial Keratoplasty Study, a multicenter clinical trial designed to investigate that question.

Researchers studied 1,421 eyes undergoing Descemet membrane endothelial keratoplasty (DMEK), a procedure that replaces the cornea's damaged inner cell layer. Among grafts that were successfully prepared for surgery, the estimated one-year success rate was 97.1% with tissue from donors with diabetes and 96.3% with tissue from donors without diabetes. The difference was not statistically significant. A companion analysis also found no meaningful difference in endothelial cell loss after one year.

The findings support considering appropriately evaluated corneas from donors with diabetes for DMEK. They also show why research matters to eye banking: evidence helps us make informed decisions about donated tissue and honor each gift's potential to restore sight.

We are proud to have contributed to this study alongside the donors and families who make our work possible.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



Located in Miami, Beauty of Sight sees the contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities every day in the generosity of donors and their families, the care of nurses and physicians, the dedication of volunteers and staff, and the lives of the patients we serve.

The National Eye Institute reports that Hispanic and Latino people in the United States experience some of the highest rates of vision loss and blindness caused by eye disease. That makes our commitment to serving our community especially meaningful. Through corneal transplantation, we help connect the gift of eye donation with people who need it. Through our serum tears program, we help patients facing difficult ocular surface conditions find relief.

This Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate the people and cultures that shape our community and thank those who help us share the beauty of sight.



JENIFER
CORNEA RECIPIENT

We would love to share your story

If you are the recipient of a cornea or have a story of a donor that you would like to share, please let us know. Email ddfrancisco@med.miami.edu or use the QR code



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