

The Spectacle



A publication of the

Lions Sight Program

at the

University of Minnesota

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank

Lions Children's Eye Clinic

The MAC

**Fund to Prevent Blindness
in Infants & Children**



Fall 2010

Minnesota Lions Pledge to Prevent Blindness in Children

On July 31, 2010, Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Inc., formally launched a \$3 million campaign to establish the **Minnesota Lions Fund to Prevent Blindness in Infants and Children**. The campaign, facilitated by the Minnesota Medical Foundation, will advance research, education, and clinical care in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Minnesota's Medical School.

Minnesota Lions have had three major fundraising initiatives for the University of Minnesota's Ophthalmology Department since the two organizations began partnering in 1960. In 1967, they raised \$100,000 to establish the Lions Children's Eye Clinic. 1993 saw Lions donate \$3 million to build the Lions Research Building. In 1998, Minnesota Lions again stepped forward to raise \$1.5 million to fight macular degeneration. The Fund to Prevent Blindness in Infants and Children will be their fourth fundraising effort.

Lions are loyal and regular supporters of their Children's Eye Clinic, and it is hoped that Lions will see the great value of supporting the new fund as well, which

has the simple goal of giving all children a lifetime of sight.

"Because of this fund, babies will not go blind from retinopathy of prematurity,



Pledge continued on page 2

Pledge continued from previous page

congenital cataracts, congenital glaucoma, and other sight-threatening conditions,” reports Lion Jay Krachmer, M.D., chair, Department of Ophthalmology. “The impact of this new com-

mitment from the Lions will be enormous.”

PCC Lion Richard Reger, Minnesota Lions Eye Bank chair, has presented Dr. Krachmer with a \$3 million ceremonial check rep-

resenting the Lions’ pledge.

More information on the campaign and how your clubs can support the Fund to Prevent Blindness in Infants and Children will be available soon.

University of Minnesota Thanks Lions for 50 Years of Support Celebrates New Pledge to Help Infants and Children

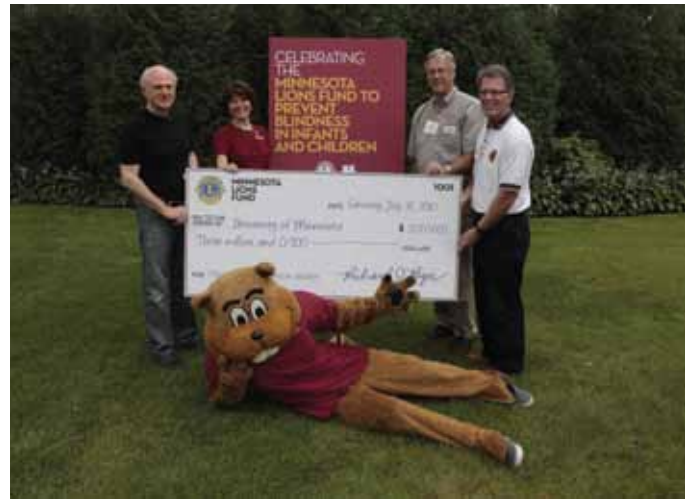
On Saturday, July 31, 2010, the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Inc., kicked off its \$3 million campaign to establish the **Minnesota Lions Fund to Prevent Blindness in Infants and Children** in a grand but 100% hometown Minnesota style. The day began with a visit to the new University of Minnesota Gopher football stadium and ended with a barbecue at Eastcliff, the official residence of the President of the University of Minnesota.

TCF Bank Stadium

Gopher football returned to campus last year with the opening of the new 50,000-capacity open-air TCF Bank Stadium. Saturday morning, Lions gathered in this stadium to watch a heartfelt and beautiful tribute to the partnership the Lions have with the University of Minnesota and to celebrate 50 years of preserving and restoring vision. Guests posed for a group photo then were treated to an in-depth stadium tour.

The massive outdoor scoreboard displayed many people thanking the Lions for their support, including Ophthalmology Department chair, Lion Jay H. Krachmer, M.D. “We are

partners, truly partners,” Dr. Krachmer stated, “and when I’m in the operating room doing a cornea transplant, I think of the Lions. It gives me strength to know that they’re our partners.”



Helping celebrate the Lions’ \$3 million pledge are: **Lion Jay Krachmer, M.D.**, chair, Department of Ophthalmology; **Lion Patty Porter**, vice president of development, Minnesota Medical Foundation; **Lion Lynn Farley**, director, Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Inc.; **Lion Richard Reger**, chair, Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Inc.; and **Goldy**, the University of Minnesota mascot.



Eastcliff

After celebrating at the Stadium, Lions boarded a shuttle that took them to Eastcliff. Located on the east bank of the Mississippi River in Saint Paul, the president’s house and grounds serve as a gathering place for University of Minnesota special events. A fabulous barbecue, inspiring speeches, and the official \$3 million check presentation (just a pledge!) concluded the day.

A little piece of trivia for you: Edward Brooks, Eastcliff’s original owner, had many prominent people stay at Eastcliff, including Helen Keller!

Ophthalmology Head Announces Retirement Plans

After 18 years at the University of Minnesota Department of Ophthalmology helm, Lion Jay H. Krachmer, M.D., announced he will retire, effective October 3, 2011. The search for a

new Ophthalmology chair is already underway, spearheaded by Lion Bevan Yueh, M.D., M.P.H., chair of the University's Department of Otolaryngology.

Thanksgiving for Vision

Thanksgiving for Vision, an annual event that celebrates sight and recognizes those who help restore, preserve, and enhance vision is Saturday, October 30, 2010. **All Lions and Lioness club presidents are invited and encouraged to attend.**

At Thanksgiving for Vision you will learn about vision research efforts that University of Minnesota scientists are conducting and hear about exciting new projects at the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank and at the Department of Ophthalmology. In addition, you will be treated to a heartfelt, first-hand account of a corneal transplant recipient's experience.

Please come and celebrate a half century of saving sight. Thanksgiving for Vision will inspire you and make you proud of the work you do and support.

To attend Thanksgiving for Vision, please call 1-866-887-4448.

Three Directors Join Eye Bank Board

Three new Lions joined the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Inc., board of directors on July 1, 2010: 5M3 - Lion **Paula VanOverbeke**, Marshall; 5M6 - PDG Lion **Dave Moen**, Burnsville; 5M9 - Lion **Carolyn Hegland**, Bemidji. DG Lion **Linda Albrecht-Norby** will be the district governor liaison to the board for 2010-2011.

A heartfelt thank you goes to retiring directors, Lion **Jim Fromm** of Granite Falls, Lion **Jim Opp** of Stillwater, and Lion **Vi Bergman** of Frazee.

Board members meet quarterly to plan and execute the following purposes:

- To fund the operating expenses of the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank and to provide a Board of Directors that gives fiscal oversight to the eye bank;
- To partner with Lions of Minnesota, the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, and the University of Minnesota to increase public awareness about eye donation;
- To aid in funding research projects and equipment for University of Minnesota vision programs;
- To foster, advance, and promote vision-related scientific, educational, or charitable aims and projects of other individuals or associations.



A complete list of Minnesota Lions Eye Bank directors can be found on the eye bank Web site (www.MnLionsEyeBank.org) or can be obtained by calling 1-866-887-4448.

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank

In 1925, Helen Keller challenged Lions to become “knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness.” Minnesota Lions have answered that call, most notably through their partnership with the University of Minnesota and the sight program they have carefully built.

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank

The Lions in Minnesota began their partnership with the University of Minnesota’s Department of Ophthalmology by establishing the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, which opened its doors in 1960. Now one of the most successful eye banks in the country, the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank has provided more than 23,000 corneas for transplant and more than 20,000 eyes or corneas for research and education.

Lions Children’s Eye Clinic

In the mid-1960’s, the board of directors of the young Minnesota Lions Eye Bank asked the chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology for an additional project. The department responded with the Lions Children’s Eye Clinic, which opened in 1969. Over the years the Lions have funded extensive clinic remodeling, and they regularly donate money for needed equipment. The Lions clinic is the second largest and best-staffed of its kind in the country. Pediatric ophthalmologists examine more than 5,000 children in the clinic each year.



“The work of the Lions in establishing the Eye Bank and in supporting its continuing operations has been an effort of immeasurable benefit. Minnesota Lions are justifiably proud of the Eye Bank, but now they want to do even more. They want to provide facilities to enable University doctors to investigate the causes of blindness so that, eventually, any child anywhere who is threatened by darkness may be helped to see.”

Lion George R. Dugan, Austin, chairman of the Lions Eye Bank committee, November 3, 1967

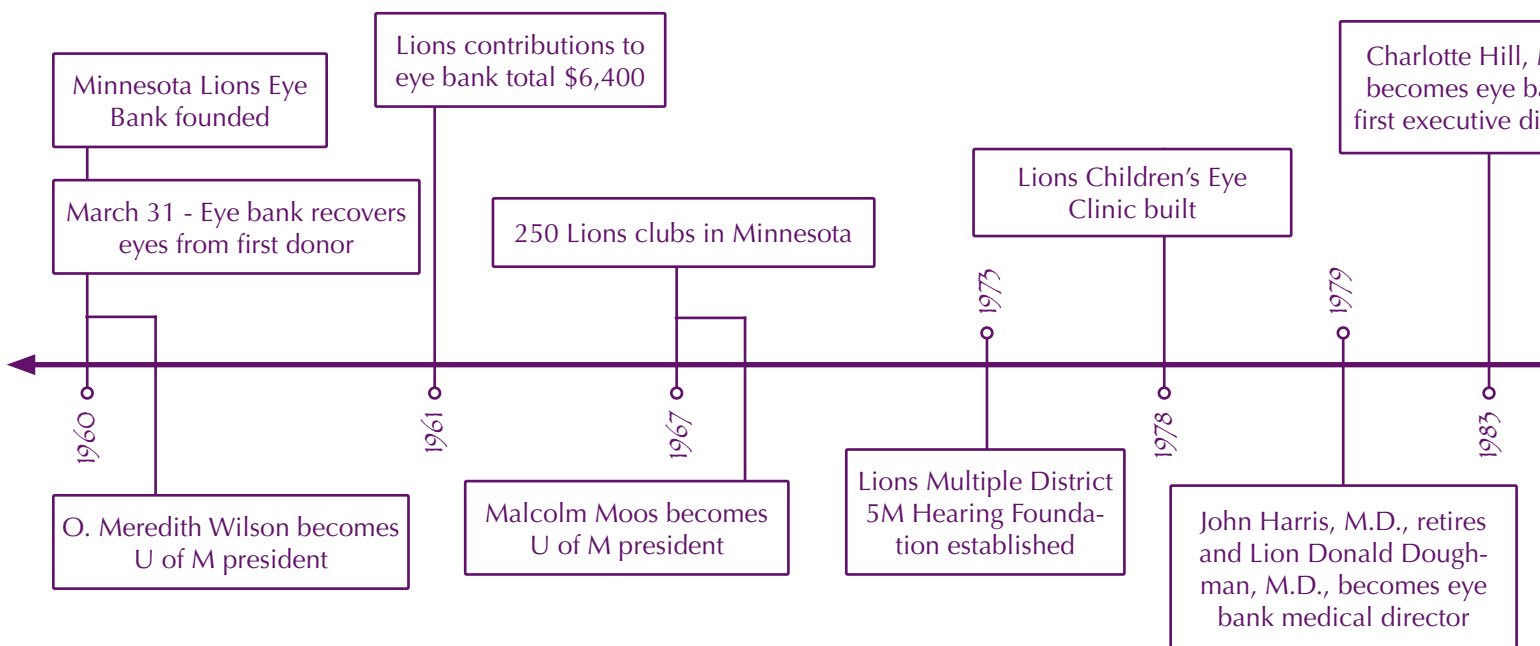
Lions Research Building



In 1993 the Lions Research Building opened on the University of Minnesota’s Minneapolis campus. The state-of-the-art laboratory building houses investigators working with the departments of ophthalmology, otolaryngology, and neurology. Collaboration among these departments is important to many research projects in the different fields. The Lions of Minnesota made a gift of three million dollars to begin the project and continue to support ophthalmology research.

Lions Macular Degeneration Research and Rehabilitation Center

1998 saw another tremendous effort by the Lions



Bank Turns 50: A Look Back

of Minnesota when they pledged 2.5 million to the Minnesota Lions Macular Degeneration Research and Rehabilitation Center (The MAC). Macular degeneration is a disease that causes permanent loss to the central vision and is the leading cause of blindness in the United States. By age 75, nearly one-third of all Americans will experience macular degeneration.

The MAC is an invaluable collaboration of physicians, researchers from many university departments, representatives from the medical technology industry, and the resources and energy of the Lions.

Minneapolis Ambassadors Lions Club

In 2004 the Minneapolis Ambassadors Lions Club was established at the University of Minnesota. The Ambassadors Lions Club is composed of faculty, staff, students, and friends of the departments of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, University of Minnesota Medical Center-Fairview, and Minnesota Medical Foundation.

The purpose of the club is to make known the accomplishments of Lions-funded programs at the University, raise funds to ensure the continued

excellence of these programs, and inform the public about the exceptional services available.

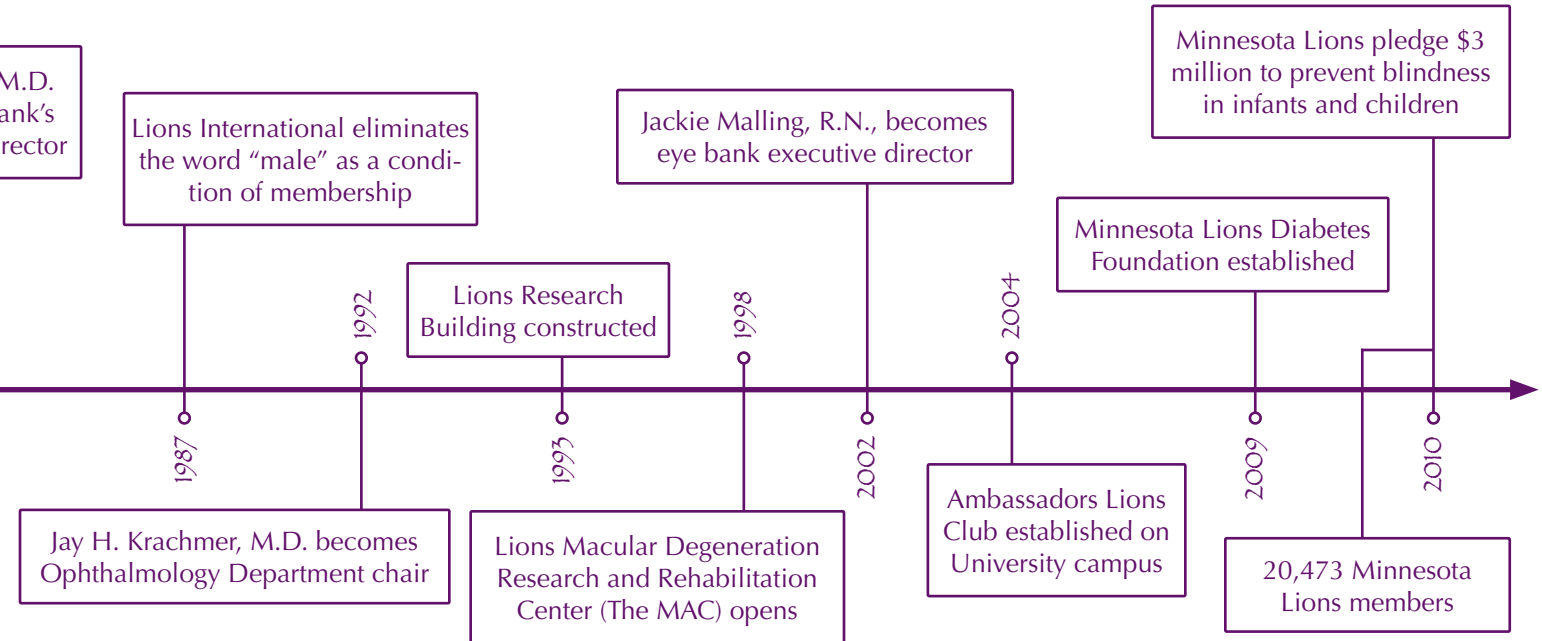
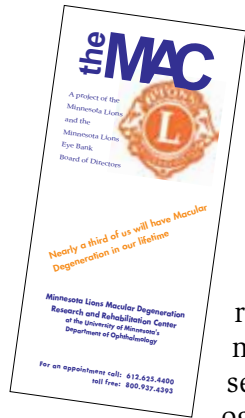
Lions worldwide are known for their work with the blind and hearing-impaired. Lions of Minnesota have donated more than 24 million dollars to the sight and hearing programs at the University. The Ambassadors Lions Club will strengthen the long-standing partnership between the Lions and the University of Minnesota.

Lions Fund to Prevent Blindness in Infants and Children

In 2010, the Lions launched a fund to support pediatric eye research, education, and care efforts at the University of Minnesota's Department of Ophthalmology. \$3 million has been pledged by the Lions toward this initiative to prevent blindness in infants and children.

"All the research we're doing is directed at curing and preventing diseases which keep people from seeing better—whether it's macular degeneration, glaucoma, inherited corneal conditions, or abnormal development of the eye. These and many, many other conditions will be treated by better and more successful therapies if we are able to do the required research."

Lion Jay Krachmer, M.D., chair, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Minnesota



Name Change on the Horizon for Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Inc.?

For the past 50 years, Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Inc., has served as a foundation that supports vision initiatives at the University of Minnesota (U of M). At the July 17, 2010, Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Inc., board meeting, directors voted to change the organization's name to **Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation**. The proposed name change will be voted on at the Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, held in conjunction with the 2011 MD5M annual meeting in Mankato on April 30, 2011.

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Inc., has expanded greatly since the establishment of the eye bank in 1960, and the foundation now supports the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Lions Children's Eye Clinic, research efforts at the Lions Research Building, and the Lions Macular Degeneration Research and Rehabilitation Center. As the foundation has broadened its scope over the years, there has been growing confusion between the work of Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Inc., and the programs and services offered by the



Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation

If a name change is approved, the foundation will have a logo of its own, one that could prominently feature the Lions International symbol. Pictured is one possibility.

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank proper.

Therefore, board members of Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Inc., believe that changing the foundation's name to Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation will both eliminate confusion and more accurately reflect the changing and broad nature of the work of the foundation.

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Inc., directors debated a name change for more than a year before reaching this decision.

National Donor Sabbath

November 12, 13, and 14

The weekend of November 12-14 is National Donor Sabbath, an observance many faith communities across the country use to increase awareness of eye, organ, and tissue donation and the gifts of transplantation.

More than 100,000 Americans are in need of eye, tissue, or organ donations right now. National Donor Sabbath is the perfect opportunity to educate people about the wonderful benefits of donation and to recognize the invaluable gifts that donors and their families make to the health and well-being of cornea, sclera, organ, and tissue transplant patients.

During National Donor Sabbath, please encourage your worship community to:

- Invite members of the congregation to speak about their personal experiences as donor family members or as transplant recipients.

- Invite congregation members who are health care providers to speak about how eye, tissue, or organ donation has helped them save or improve lives.
- Incorporate information about donation into worship services.
- Share donation and transplantation stories in your bulletin, newsletter, or on your Web site.
- Post or distribute fliers about eye, tissue, and organ donation.

For more information, contact:

Lion Sara McFee

Communications Director

Phone: 612-624-8952

Toll free: 1-866-887-4448

E-mail: mcfee004@umn.edu.

Signatures for Sight Update

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank's *Signatures for Sight* campaign concludes at the close of 2010, and club achievement awards will be given out at Mid-Winter Conventions in 2011.

As of August 2010, the Pine Island Lions club of 5M1 leads all Minnesota clubs in number of sign-ups collected for the Minnesota Donation Registry. The Sauk Centre Lions of 5M4 are nipping at their heels. It is not too late to give these clubs a run for their money!

Lives are saved or dramatically improved when people say "yes" to donation.

Therefore, Minnesota Lions Eye Bank joined a national effort to increase the number of Americans who are registered to be donors. Persons are considered legally registered donors if they add "donor" to a driver's license or state identification card or sign up through the Minnesota online donation registry.

The *Signatures for Sight* campaign asks each member in

your club to sign up four people on Minnesota's donor registry, DonateLifeMN.org. We track registrations through paper sign-ups or through paper confirmations of online sign-ups.

You can get campaign details on the eye bank's Web site (www.MnLionsEyeBank.org, click on "How You Can Help") or by calling 1-866-887-4448.

Thank you for helping save sight through eye donation!

10,000
Signatures for Sight

Happy Halloween



Although fundraising just formally kicked off for the **Minnesota Lions Fund to Prevent Blindness in Infants and Children**, the first donation to the cause was made at last year's Thanksgiving for Vision celebration. At the annual event, pediatric ophthalmologist and surgeon Lion Erick Bothun, M.D., unveiled and offered up for auction a massive pumpkin he had carved—not only with traditional Halloween spiders and bats, but also with Lions and eyes. His masterpiece raised more than \$200.

When asked about his remarkable pumpkin carving skills, Lion Erick insisted that he has been honing his jack-o'-lantern techniques since the age of three. Surgeons and their stories!

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2010 - 2011 Calendar

2010

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Inc., 50th Anniversary

Saturday, October 2

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank Board Meeting - Saint Cloud

Saturday, October 9

Lions Tours of the University - Minneapolis

Saturday, October 30

Thanksgiving for Vision - Brooklyn Center

Sunday, October 31

Donor and Family Recognition Program - Saint Paul



Saturday, April 2

Lions Tours of the University - Minneapolis

The Spectacle newsletter is a publication of the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank sent to Minnesota Lions club presidents and other Lions leaders. Contact the editor with your questions and comments.

Articles are available in alternate formats and may be copied with attribution to the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank.

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**Celebrate the eye bank's 50th Anniversary
Visit www.AGiftofSight.org**