

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**



Spring 2011

Take Five Minutes to Register Your Wishes

During April, Donate Life Month, many businesses participate in a “Take Five” campaign that allows employees to take five minutes of work time to register to be eye, tissue, and organ donors.

Lion Sara McFee, eye bank communications director, shared the Take Five message with more than 150 Saint Cloud Chamber of Commerce members, including some Lions, on March 4. During the meeting, hosted by CentraCare Health System, Lion Sara challenged Chamber members to provide Take Five messages to their employees and provided sample messages suitable for employee e-mails and other communications vehicles.

Businesses are encouraged to choose one day in April as a designated Take Five day and use employee e-mails or company web sites or newsletters to explain how to participate. See page 2 for sample script.

Consider joining other business and community leaders in sending a “Take Five message, or ask your employer to send a message. As an individual action, you could send a Take Five message of your own through e-mail or a social media site such as Facebook. Donate Life Month is an ideal time to raise awareness about the need for eye, tissue, and organ donors.

For more information about the online donation registry and the “Take Five” campaign, go to www.aGiftofSight.org.

Take 5 Five

Take Five continued on page 2

Take Five continued from previous page

Sample "Take Five" Campaign E-mail	<p>Dear [Employee Name],</p> <p>Every day we face a "to do" list, at work and in our personal lives. These lists can be long and, unfortunately, many good intentions get set aside. One opportunity that is sometimes delayed is making or recording a decision to be an eye, tissue, and organ donor.</p> <p>One eye donor can restore or save the sight of up to 10 people. A tissue donor can change 50 lives. An organ donor can save 8 lives.</p> <p>Take Five Minutes to Register</p> <p>As a part of Donate Life Month (April), we are offering you the opportunity to "Take Five" minutes during your workday to go to www.DonateLifeMN.org and register your wishes to be an eye, tissue, and organ donor. Registration is confidential.</p> <p><i>Thank you for considering the gifts of life and sight through donation.</i></p> <p>[Name, Title]</p>	Sample "Take Five" Campaign E-mail
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All Invited to Donor and Family Recognition Programs

Each fall and spring, Minnesota Lions Eye Bank honors eye and cornea donors by hosting a Donor and Family Recognition Program.

This spring *two* recognition programs, one in Saint Paul and one in Moorhead, will be held in hopes that people from all over the state will find it fairly easy to attend.

Donor and Family Recognition Programs are made possible by a grant from the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank board of directors. The programs:

- honor all eye donors and recognize the help and support that family members and friends provide at time of donation;
- specifically honor donors from past year;
- provide a supportive setting for eye donor families and friends;
- raise awareness about the mission of the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank;
- provide visibility to the Lions organization;
- provide information about eye donation and how it supports the preservation and restoration of sight through transplantation, research, and medical education; and
- promote interaction between staff, donor families, Lions, surgeons, and researchers.

Each program includes personal testimonials, an address by an ophthalmology research scientist, music, readings, and a donor photograph

presentation.

Any Lion is welcome to attend these lovely and meaningful events. For more information about the event, please contact Lion Jodi Altenhofen at 612-624-0446 or magnu007@umn.edu.

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank Donor & Family Recognition Programs

Saint Paul

Sunday, April 10, 2011
1:30 p.m.

Reception to follow

O'Shaughnessy Education Center Auditorium
University of St. Thomas
2115 Summit Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55105

Moorhead

Sunday, May 15, 2011
1:00 p.m.

Reception to follow

Hjemkomst Center
202 1st Avenue N
Moorhead, Minnesota 56560

Minnesota Lions Children's Eye Clinic to Move Across River

The Lions Children's Eye Clinic, located on the University of Minnesota's west bank campus since its founding in 1978, is slated to move! In June 2011, the clinic and its Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Service will move into the new Amplatz Children's Hospital complex on the west side of the river.

Lions Children's Eye Clinic
Park Plaza Building
701 25th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55454

← New Clinic Location



Fund to Prevent Blindness in Infants & Children

The clinic move is helped by the Minnesota Lions' \$3 millions pledge to the Fund to Prevent Blindness in Infants and Children. This fund supports infant and children's eye research, education, and care at

the University of Minnesota and enables the University to provide the finest, most comprehensive pediatric ophthalmology service in the United States.

The Department of Ophthalmology has six sub-specialties or service areas: Cornea; Glaucoma; Neuro-ophthalmology; Oculoplastic Surgery; Retina; and Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus. Since infants and children are seen by faculty members in all six areas, the new fund will be utilized by faculty in all six.

If you would like to support the new fund, please make your checks payable to the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank with "Children's Fund" in the memo line.

Ophthalmology Sub-Specialties at the U of M

Cornea and Refractive Surgery specialists treat cataracts and the entire range of conditions affecting the front portion of the eye, including corneal diseases, infections, dry eyes, tumors, and trauma.

Glaucoma specialists treat glaucoma, glaucoma suspect, and ocular hypertension patients of all ages, including infants and children.

Neuro-Ophthalmology experts bridge the gap between ophthalmology and neurology, treating disorders that affect both the eye and the nervous system.

Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery specialists are skilled at cosmetic and reconstructive surgery for the eyelids, orbits, and tear ducts, necessitated by trauma, acquired diseases, or genetic diseases.

Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus specialists treat a wide variety of pediatric eye issues, including cataracts, glaucoma, strabismus (lack of coordination between eyes), and amblyopia (lazy eye).

Vitreoretinal Service specialists provide care for various retinal conditions, including retinal tears and detachments and macular degeneration. Retinal specialists and their patients benefit from the extensive research taking place at the University.

Golf Tournament to Benefit Eye Bank

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Inc., will be one of the beneficiaries of Chanhassen Lions 23rd Annual Golf Tournament. The event, which is open to the public, also benefits Can-Do Canines, People Reaching Out to Other People (PROP), and the American Diabetes Association.

The tournament will be held July 25 at the Is-

land View Golf Club in Waconia, Minnesota, and golfers of all skill levels are invited to play. Participants will have the chance to take home great prizes.

For more information, to volunteer, or to sponsor a hole, visit the tournament web site at www.ChanLionsGolf.com or contact Dan Mertes, event manager, at dan.mertes@wellsfargo.com.

Eye Bank Bestows Second Betty Walen Volunteer Award on Lion Bob Becker (1937 — 2010)

On October 30, 2010, at the annual *Thanksgiving for Vision* celebration in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota Lions Eye Bank bestowed its second ever Betty Walen Outstanding Volunteer Award to **Lion Robert S. Becker, Jr.** The award was posthumously presented to Bob's wife, Sandy, and Bob's daughter, Darci Guanella, as Bob had lost his life to cancer a month earlier.

A Brooklyn Center Lions club member for nearly 20 years, Bob Becker holds a special place in the hearts of eye bank staff members for the many, many volunteer hours he devoted to the eye bank. Remarkably, Bob logged more than 70,000 miles in 6 years picking up or delivering eye tissue to all points of the eye bank's service area, day or night, rain or shine, when he was in good health and when his health began to fail. "You call, and I haul," was his motto.

In addition to Bob's almost mythical tissue transport record (he donated close to 2,000 hours of his time), he was a tremendous advocate for the eye bank and eye donation. Everyone with whom Bob interacted, from his tax preparer to his Veterans Affairs doctors knew of the eye bank and



Lion Bob picking up eye tissue on the University campus from eye banker Stephanie Hackl.

Bob's support of it. Bob frequently represented the eye bank at public events and served on the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Inc., board of directors from 2008 until his death in September 2010.

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank is proud and grateful to have known Bob Becker, a man who embodied the Lions motto, "We Serve."



Lion Bob and his wife, Lion Sandy, at TCF Bank Stadium celebrating the launch of the Lions Fund to Prevent Blindness in Infants and Children, July 31, 2010.

Volunteers

Remembering Betty Jane Walen (1919 — 2010)

Many colleagues at the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank and the University of Minnesota's Department of Ophthalmology said good-bye to their friend Betty Jane Walen last fall. Betty Jane passed away November 28, 2010, following 6 months of hospice care.

For 25 years, Betty volunteered her time and talents to the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank and the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Minnesota. Her contributions benefited the University, the eye bank, Lions, cornea recipients, and eye donor families, and countless others.

A cornea recipient herself, Betty began volunteering shortly after cornea transplants saved her sight. Volunteering was a way to show her gratitude and presented her with an opportunity to serve and be a part of something meaningful. She soon became an integral part of the eye bank, inspiring everyone with her dedication, energy, efficiency, and charm.

Betty was with the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank longer than any volunteer or paid employee. She worked at the eye bank and helped with special events related to eye donation, accumulating more than 19,000 service hours!

Betty was a warm, familiar presence in the eye bank every

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Whether in her blue smock or dressed to the nines, she could be found sharing treats with



young eye patients or helping their parents understand cornea disease and the possible treatments. She was always available to counsel other cornea recipients and share her own cornea

transplant experience.

Betty's talents and contributions have been acknowledged by many. The Department of Ophthalmology honored her with their Visionary Award. The Eye Bank Association of America presented her with the Gift of Sight Award. Betty earned the Vision Foundation's Outstanding Service Award and has been honored no less than four times with a Helen Keller Award. The Minnesota Lions Eye Bank established the Betty Walen Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to honor Betty, and she was the first recipient of the eponymous award.

Betty Jane Walen was an extraordinary person. She was a kind and generous human being. She was a tireless volunteer.

She was a champion for eye donation. She was not a Lion, but she worked closely with Lions and embodied everything that is noble and generous in the Lions organization. She, too, served.

Betty Walen Outstanding Volunteer Award

To pay tribute to a remarkable volunteer, Minnesota Lions Eye Bank established the **Betty Walen Volunteer Award** in 2009. The award honors those who demonstrate exceptional commitment, service, creativity, cooperation, or leadership while volunteering for the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank.

Honorees

2009 - Betty Jane Walen
2010 - Lion Robert S. Becker, Jr.

WANTED: BASEBALL LOVERS WILLING TO SERVE

The Minnesota Lions All Star Baseball Tournament, a partnership of the Minnesota High School Baseball Coaches Association and Minnesota Lion Eye Bank, Inc., is in need of a few dedicated volunteers. For 36 years, almost all tournament responsibilities have fallen on the shoulders of just two committed Lions. These Lions are now ready to pass the torch, and you could be the Olympian they are seeking!

All-Star tournament duties are demanding, but varied and enjoyable as well. Tasks include:

- ☞ Distributing tickets to all Minnesota Lions clubs
- ☞ Interfacing with Coaches Association, coaching staff, Minnesota Twins, commercial ad seller, and eye bank
- ☞ Securing Twins representation and Target Field tour
- ☞ Scheduling buses
- ☞ Arranging photography
- ☞ Ordering player plaques and buttons
- ☞ Tracking banquet reservations
- ☞ Arranging hotel and room assignments
- ☞ Scheduling 4 days of meals
- ☞ Ordering game jerseys
- ☞ Ordering T-shirts and caps for resale
- ☞ Collecting money and paying all bills
- ☞ Scheduling volunteers to work tournament



Slice of Americana.



Eye banker Lion Grecia Glass with former Twins player Rod Carew.

The Lions All-Star Baseball Tournament raises more than \$20,000 annually to benefit the Lions Children's Eye Clinic at the University of Minnesota. This year's tournament is June 24 and 25, 2011, at Chaska Municipal Stadium. Contact PDG Lion Bob Wharton to find out more about the tournament and how you can contribute to its continued success.

PDG Lion Bob Wharton
7462 Spring Lake Road
Mounds View, MN 55112

763-784-5040
bob.wharton@comcast.net

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Inc., Name Change on Horizon

The Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Inc., name change, proposed by its board of directors, will be voted on at the Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank held in conjunction with the 2011 MD5M convention in Mankato on April 30, 2011. If approved, the corporation's name will change to **Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation, Inc.**

Not to worry, though! The name "Minnesota Lions Eye Bank" will not go away. The eye bank itself will continue to bear the name and will continue to process and distribute needed eye tissue. The Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation will oversee the eye bank's operation, as well as such projects as the Minnesota Lions Macular Degeneration Center, the Minnesota Lions Children's Eye Clinic and, most recently, the Minnesota Lions Fund to Prevent Blindness in Infants and Children.

Lions clubs in good standing are allowed one vote at the annual meeting. Votes must be cast in person, and no proxy voting is permitted. Contact PCC Lion Richard Reger at 218-681-5901 with questions.

Macular Degeneration Research Shows Promise

University of Minnesota associate professor, Lion Deborah Ferrington, Ph.D., is doing everything she can to fight macular degeneration, a disease that affects more than 10 million people in the United States and is the leading cause of vision loss in those aged 60 and over. Dr. Ferrington is a research scientist who studies the cellular mechanisms involved in the retinal degeneration that accompanies aging and age-related macular degeneration. In pursuing research at this cellular level, she hopes to find new therapies for age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Current treatment options for AMD are available only to a limited number of patients with advanced "wet" AMD. These treatments are initiated after vision loss has started and do not address disease pathogenesis (or how the disease develops). Ideally, therapy for AMD should target the fundamental molecular defect that causes the disease and be initiated *prior* to vision loss. And that is the core of Dr. Ferrington's AMD research: defining the molecular defects in retinal cells that are responsible for the pathology associated with AMD.

In collaboration with Timothy Olsen, M.D., of Emory University and the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Dr. Ferrington performs biochemical analyses of human donor retinas that have been evaluated for their stage of AMD using the Minnesota Grading System. Evidence from several laboratories, including Dr. Ferrington's, has implicated mitochondrial damage in the AMD disease process. She, therefore, examines the relationship between mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) damage and the development of AMD.

Ultimately, Dr. Ferrington hopes to interrupt macular degeneration in its early stages, slow down the process with drugs or, better yet, stop the progression of the disease.

Dr. Ferrington's work depends on donated human eye tissue. She requires both healthy eye donor tissue and tissue from AMD sufferers in order to compare the retinal proteins in a healthy aging person with those in a person with age-related macular degeneration.

Dr. Ferrington has been studying donor human eyes for 10 years, but not many labs doing similar research use human tissue for their research. Because the macula is unique to humans and non-human primates, using human donor eye tissue allows what is discovered in the lab to have a direct application to the patient in the clinic.

Macular Degeneration

Macular Degeneration causes damage to the eye's retina. The disease targets the macula, a small portion of the retina responsible for our central vision. It is our central vision that lets us recognize faces, read, or watch the details of a sporting event. There are two forms of macular degeneration, commonly called dry and wet.

Dry macular degeneration is caused by aging and thinning of the tissues of the macula. Central vision loss is usually gradual.

Wet macular degeneration is characterized by abnormal blood vessels growing under the retina. These vessels leak blood that blurs central vision. Vision loss may be rapid and severe.

**Minnesota Lions Eye Bank
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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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2011 Calendar

Saturday, April 2

Lions Tours of the University - Minneapolis

Sunday, April 10

Donor and Family Recognition Program - Saint Paul

Saturday, April 16

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank Board Meeting - Saint Cloud

April 29 - May 1

Multiple District 5M Convention - Mankato

Sunday, May 15

Donor and Family Recognition Program - Moorhead

Friday and Saturday, June 24 and 25

Lions All-Star Baseball Tournament - Chaska

Saturday, October 1

Lions Tours of the University - Minneapolis

Saturday, October 29

Thanksgiving for Vision - Brooklyn Center