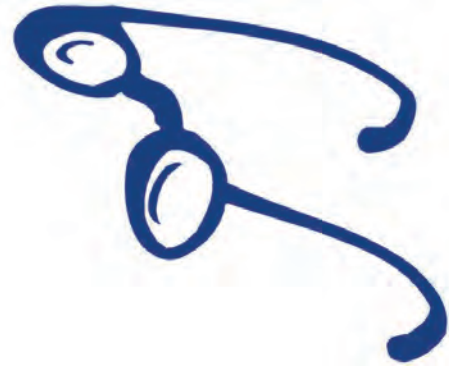


The Spectacle



A publication of the

**Minnesota Lions
Vision Foundation**

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank

Lions Children's Eye Clinic

The MAC

Used Eyeglass Recycling

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



Fall 2012

LCIF Awards Matching Grant to Equip Lions Retinal Imaging Center

In April of this year, the University of Minnesota's Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Neurosciences, through Lions District 5M-6 and with the help of the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation, applied for a Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) \$75,000 matching grant. The grant was to help purchase retinal imaging equipment for the department's new **Lions Advanced Retinal Imaging Center**. On June 29, 2012, LCIF sent word that the grant had been approved!

The grant money will be put toward a Heidelberg Engineering Dual Wavelength Spectralis, an amazing piece of equipment that takes diagnostic images of the back of the eye and has the ability to create specialized photos and cross-section scans of the retina simultaneously. This capability allows physicians to follow the progression of a patient's retinal disease with both *qualitative* descriptions and exact *quantitative* measurements.

"The Heidelberg spectralis will be the first of its kind in the United States," said Lion Erik van Kuijk, M.D., Ph.D., "giving the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Neurosciences cutting-edge technology and allowing its doctors to provide services beyond what is available in private practices."

This matching grant is just one example of how Lions make a tremendous difference to the sight-saving work that takes place in Minnesota and at the University. We ask Lions clubs to please generously donate toward this matching grant. Make checks payable to the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation (a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization) with "LCIF Matching Grant" on the memo line.

Vision Foundation Updates

Something to Celebrate: *Thanksgiving for Vision 2012*

Thanksgiving for Vision celebrates the gift of sight! At this annual event, the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation expresses appreciation for the support that Lions give to the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, the Lion's Children's Eye Clinic, the Lions Macular Degeneration Center, and ophthalmology research projects at the Lions Research Building. It is a chance for the Vision Foundation to bring guests up to date on what the University-Lions partnership is accomplishing every day. And it is an opportunity for doctors and researchers to mingle with Lions and corneal recipients and trade stories.

Thanksgiving for Vision 2012 is Saturday, October 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. Lions club presidents and secretaries have been invited, and here is a taste of what they will experience:

- **Symposium** Ophthalmology doctors and researchers at the University of Minnesota will share the latest on what they are doing in the area of macular degeneration, glaucoma, pediatric eye care, and more. Plenty of time for questions and comments.
- **Cornea Recipient Story** 13-year-old Mikayla, with the help of her mom, Candice, tells of her corneal transplant odyssey (see p. 7).
- **Donor Family Story** Mary will speak of her experience donating her husband Tom's eyes.
- **Food and Fellowship and Fun** See old friends and make new ones. International Director Lion Brian Sheehan leads the charge as emcee.

Thanksgiving for Vision reaches Lions across the state and lets them know how much their work and support is appreciated. Please send in your RSVP today.



Vision Foundation Board Awards Grants at July Meeting

The Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation regularly awards grants benefiting the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, the University of Minnesota's Ophthalmology and Visual Neurosciences Department, and the Lions in general. Grants approved at the July board meeting include:

- **Research Refrigerator:** The Minnesota Lions Eye Bank will have a refrigerator/freezer unit dedicated to storing research eye tissue, as well as the media and solutions for processing research tissues. The eye bank distributed more than 1,500 eye tissues for research, training, or education last year.
- **Film Editing Storage Equipment:** In the past year, the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank has created training films on In-Situ Recovery, Enucleation, Sterile Scrub, Blood Draws, Body

Exams, and Corneal Viewing Chamber Use, as well as a Mortuary Science Recovery Overview video, a Welcome to the Eye Bank video, National Eye Donor Month public service announcement and campaign materials, a Research Dissection film, and an Excision film. These educational and promotional pieces are tremendously helpful in training eye bank staff and in educating outside audiences about eye bank processes. A computer dedicated to videography was needed to efficiently carry out future video training projects.

- **Research Facility Upgrade:** Ophthalmology researchers will now have a sterile research facility within the eye bank (and so adjacent to the research tissue source) in which to work.

Vision Foundation Welcomes New Members

The Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation, a 22-person governing board with representation from each of the 11 Lions districts in Minnesota, is pleased to welcome four new members: Lion Roger Badenhop, Lion Diana Kroells, Lion Sandy Sandwick, and Lion Wayne Tieman. Each of these directors may serve up to three two-year terms on the Vision Foundation board.

Lion Roger Badenhop is a past district governor of 5M-5 and member a of the Minnestonka Lions. He has held many Lions offices in his 25 years with Lions International and has been a trustee for the Hearing Foundation and chairperson for Special Olympics. Retired from the finance and accounting field, Lion Roger enjoys golf, biking, and volunteering at the Guthrie with his wife Ellie. He has long admired the work of the Minnesota Lion Vision Foundation and looks forward to his service on the board.

Lion Diana Kroells is a member of the Hamburg Lions Club (5M-2). She is an active Lion who was her club's treasurer for 8 years and is currently club president. Lion Diana is the Vice President of Operations for the State Bank of Hamburg, loves flower gardening, reading, and taking care of her nine grandchildren. She also serves as Clerk of Washington Lake Township, is on the Region 1 Board of the Council of Catholic Women, and is a member of the St. Brendan's Church Green Isle Parish Council.

Lion Sandy Sandwick is immediate past district governor for 5M-8. A member of the Sandstone Quarry Lions, she has been involved with Lions Clubs International (as a Lion or Lioness) for nearly 30 years. Lion Sandy is a retired special education teacher who enjoys travel, reading, and volunteering. She is a member of East Central School District community education board, a director on the Sandstone Public Library board, and a member of Grace Lutheran Church.

Lion Wayne Tieman has been a Bemidji Lions Club member (5M-10) since moving from Cavalier, North Dakota, and he recently received his club's Lion Volunteer of the Year Award. Lion Wayne is a long-time financial representative for Thrivent Financial. He is a runner with many, many marathons under his belt. Wayne cites faith, family, and friends as his key priorities, and he and his wife Lenay just celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

To find the Vision Foundation representatives for your district, visit MnLionsVisionFoundation.org.

Annual Report Available

Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that was established in 1960 and incorporated in 1993. For the first time since incorporation, the foundation's board of directors has published an annual report.

The 2010-2011 fiscal year was a time of change for the Vision Foundation. In July of 2010, the foundation finalized a three-year strategic plan and formalized their purpose. On April 30, 2011, at the annual Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Inc., meeting, shareholders (Minnesota Lions clubs) voted to change the name of the corporation to Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation. Over the course of the fiscal year, the foundation disbursed more than \$200,000 in grants to Vision Foundation projects and formally launched a \$3 million campaign to establish the Minnesota Lions Fund to Prevent Blindness in Infants and Children.

This information and more can be found in the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation Annual Report: July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011. Please visit MnVisionFoundation.org/news_events.php to view the report, or request a written copy from Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation (1000 Westgate Dr - Ste 260 - Saint Paul, MN 55114) or postmaster@MnLionsVisionFoundation.org.



Minnesota Lions Eye Bank News

Meeting Space Available to Lions

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank can now offer a 42-person capacity, fully-equipped meeting space at their Saint Paul location. Located across the hall from the eye bank office, the conference room features

computer with internet access, projection equipment, manual and interactive projection screens, amplified sound, and free and convenient parking. Food and drink (including alcohol) are permitted.

If you are investigating metro area locations for a Lions meeting or special activity, the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank Conference Center may suit your needs. Minnesota Lions members may use the room free of charge for Lions functions. For more information, contact Lion Grecia Glass at glass038@umn.edu or 1-866-887-4448.



Eye Bank conference center in use for Lions Youth Exchange tour.



Minnesota Lions Eye Bank CEO, Jackie Malling, presents to exchange youth.

“You and \$2”

Earlier this year, Minnesota launched “You and \$2,” a program (made possible by a 2011 change in state law) that gives driver’s license or state ID card applicants the opportunity to donate \$2 to support organ, tissue, and eye donation education. More than \$15,000 has now been raised.

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, LifeSource (organ procurement organization and tissue bank) and



American Donor Services (tissue bank) received a “You and \$2” grant and are collaborating to develop videos and a curriculum for driver’s education classes and driver’s license bureaus. The organizations plan to complete and launch the materials in 2013 under “Donate Life Minnesota.”

Contact Lion Sara McFee for more information at mcfee004@umn.edu or 1-866-887-4448.

National Donor Sabbath

The weekend of November 9-11 is National Donor Sabbath, an observance many faith communities across the country use to increase awareness of eye, organ, and tissue donation. More than 100,000 Americans are in need of a cornea, tissue, or organ transplant. National Donor Sabbath is the perfect opportunity to educate people about the benefits of donation and to recognize the invaluable gift that donors and

their families make to the health and well-being of 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 health care providers in your congregation to speak about how eye, tissue, or or-

gan donation has helped them save or improve lives.

- Incorporate donation information into worship services.
- Share donation and transplantation stories in bulletins, in newsletters, or on Web sites.
- Post or distribute eye, tissue, and organ donation fliers.

For more information or to request materials contact Lion Sara McFee at mcfee004@umn.edu or 1-866-887-4448.

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank To Be Honored

Each year Phillips Eye Institute (PEI) of Minneapolis recognizes an individual or an organization that shares its mission and purpose to further eye care excellence, education, research, or community involvement. This year, Minnesota Lions Eye Bank is one of two honorees at its annual Urban Cocktail Party on Saturday, November 3. To register to attend this special recognition event, visit: <https://donate.allina.com/sslpage.aspx?pid=300>. Contact Lion Sara McFee for more information at mcfee004@umn.edu or at (toll-free) 1-866-887-4448.

Minnesota State Fair

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, a unit of the University of Minnesota's Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Neurosciences, was presented at the Minnesota State Fair. Lion Jennifer Lenander, department administrator, Lion Jennifer Marshall, eye bank public relations manager, and Lion Jodi Altenhofen, eye bank community services liaison, greeted visitors to the building and educated them about vision issues and the work of the eye bank.



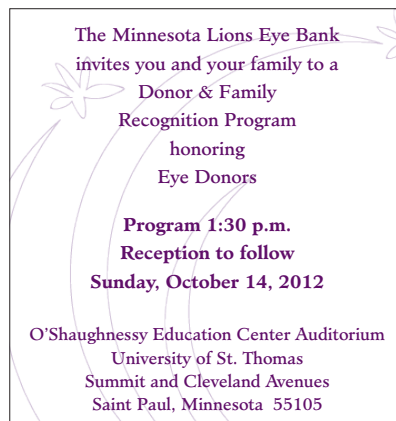
Donor and Family Recognition Program

The Minnesota Lions Eye Bank will welcome donor families, corneal recipients, physicians, researchers, Lions club members, and other special guests to a recognition program honoring eye and cornea donors and their family members on Sunday, October 14. The program includes music, readings, personal testimonials, an address by an ophthalmology researcher, and a donor photograph video presentation.

“Each year, more than one thousand people donate their

eyes or corneas to the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank to give sight to others,” said Lion Jodi Altenhofen, eye bank community liaison. “It is important to honor the selfless gift that eye donors give to strangers. And it is equally important to recognize and help the families of these donors. Our program is a healing tool we can offer grieving families.”

All are welcome to attend this very lovely and meaningful event held on the University of St. Thomas campus in Saint Paul. For more information, contact Lion Jodi at 1-866-887-4448.



New Eye Bank DVD Available

The Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, the Lions, and eye donation were featured on national television as part of The Profile Series, educational programming about a variety of topics from health and medicine to business and the environment. Filming and interviews were done on-site at the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank.

This informative and entertaining 8-minute profile, “A Mission for Vision through Eye Donation,” is now available for Minnesota Lions clubs use. The educational piece can be found on YouTube, or a copy can be requested from Lion Sara McFee at mcfee004@umn.edu or 1-866-887-4448.



University Ophthalmologist Serves on Mission to India

When Lion Erick Bothun, M.D., describes his March medical mission trip to India, one word comes to mind—outstanding! Accompanied by his wife, Cara, his son, Dane, and University of Minnesota ophthalmology resident, Julie Conley, M.D., Dr. Bothun spent two weeks in March at Kachhwa Christian Hospital near Varanasi, India, caring for more than 100 patients.

When Dr. Bothun and his team arrived at Kachhwa Christian Hospital, he found that pediatric care was scarce. “It was evident that they

were uncomfortable caring for the kids and that pediatric eye care had been neglected in the region,” he stated. “We started by showing them how to relate to and examine infants and children.” In addition, doctors Bothun and Conley shared didactic and formal teaching on various ocular diseases and management, including pediatric eye care and strabismus surgery. Each day they performed approximately 20 cataract surgeries, and the two University doctors appreciated the opportunity to work and teach alongside an Indian ophthalmologist.

“It was an incredible experience to serve with my son,” added Dr. Bothun, “and he and Cara were able to contribute in many ways. They helped to paint the outpatient waiting room, to clean and inventory the pharmacy storage room, and to observe and photograph clinical eye care and surgery. I believe

my son was strongly influenced by witnessing the service and Christian outreach. Each day at the hospital started with devotions, and challenging surgical and clinical care cases were always accompanied by staff prayer.”

Dr. Bothun looks forward to returning and serving in India again someday. In the meantime, feel free to greet him with the warm Indian welcome, “Namaste.”



Erick Bothun, M.D., Dane Bothun, Cara Bothun, and Julie Conley, M.D., taking time to visit the Taj Mahal.



Dr. Bothun and Dr. Conley in front of the Kachhwa Christian Hospital.



Dr. Bothun, Dr. Conley, hospital staff, and 20 cataract patients they operated on in just one day.



It's the only way to travel!

Dr. Erick Bothun specializes in pediatric ophthalmology at the University of Minnesota and is involved in the clinical and surgical care of patients at the Lions Children's Eye Clinic. His primary interests deal with strabismus (misaligned eyes), pediatric cataracts and glaucoma, metabolic ocular disease, surgical management of nystagmus (involuntary eye movement), and retinopathy of prematurity.

A Minnesota native, Dr. Bothun is an Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Pediatrics and has been with the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Neurosciences for 9 years. He is a member of the Minneapolis Ambassadors Lions Club.

Cornea Recipient Holds Eyeglass Drive One way she “pays it forward”

Mikayla Grelson was just 8 years old when an accident with a sharp-edged toy took away the sight in her left eye. “It was hard to see,” said Mikayla. “I had to have everybody tell me what was going on. I couldn’t swim. I couldn’t play any ball games. I couldn’t do the stuff that I liked to do.”

Fortunately, a cornea transplant saved her eye and gave Mikayla back her sight. “It was scary, but I thought, ‘I’m a regular girl now.’”



Mikayla and her Lion companion rest just hours after her corneal transplant.

Mikayla is thankful for her gift of sight and likes to find ways to give back. An opportunity presented itself when she and her mother, Candice, were sharing their story at the 5M-8 Mid-Winter

Convention last year. Mikayla met PDG Lion Bob Hoofnagle, Chief Operations Officer and Direc-



Mikayla and Lion Bob at the Vision Foundation annual training dinner.

tor of the Minnesota Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center in Sauk Rapids. Bob listened to Mikayla’s story and Mikayla learned

about what Bob and the Lions did. A mutual admiration society sprang up, and Mikayla was inspired to support Bob’s work by holding her own used eyeglass collection drive.

Mikayla surprised Bob at the annual Vision Foundation training dinner by presenting him with, not only 100 pair of eyeglasses she had collected, but also a plaque recognizing Bob’s work.

Mikayla, now 13, does everything she did before her injury. She enjoys making videos and anything that has to do with the computer. She loves to cook and has informed her mom that she wants to be a chef and own a cupcake bakery when she gets older.

Glasses Rolling In to New Collection Center

According to The World Health organization, 153 million people have uncorrected refractive errors (near-sightedness, far-sightedness, or astigmatism). Most of these vision impairments could be treated with corrective lenses, but many emerging countries lack the resources to manufacture quality lenses, and the cost of importing eyeglasses is far beyond the means of the average citizen. Millions fail to reach their economic, educational, and social potential without access to eyeglasses.

For children, clear vision means a better education, healthier devel-

opment, and a better quality of life. For adults, it can mean greater employment opportunities and economic strength. For seniors, less dependence on others.

It costs less than 8 cents to change someone’s life with a pair of recycled eyeglasses.

The Lions of Multiple District 5M have been collecting used eyeglasses for more than 20 years and have now provided in excess of 8.9 million pairs of used eyeglasses for recycling. Throughout, the Sauk Rapids Lions club has been involved in the sorting, packaging,

and transporting of used eyeglasses to the Wisconsin Lions Foundation Recycling Center in Rosholt, Wisc. And in May of 2011 Lions Clubs International made the Minnesota Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (MNLERC) an official Lions recycling center. In January, the center was approved as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

Used eyeglass collection boxes are maintained by local Lions clubs in more than 300 cities in Minnesota. For more information on MNLERC, contact PDG Lion Robert Hoofnagle at 320-266-1611 or vettman90@charter.net.

**Minnesota Lions Eye Bank
University of Minnesota
1000 Westgate Dr Ste 260
Saint Paul, MN 55114**

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Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation helps improve vision by providing fiscal oversight and operating funds for the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, by raising funds for University of Minnesota Department of Ophthalmology priorities, by educating the public about eye donation, and by supporting other vision-related projects.

The Spectacle newsletter is a publication of the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation 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 Vision Foundation.

www.MnLionsVisionFoundation.org
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Calendar

2012

Saturday, October 6
Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation Board Meeting - St. Cloud

Sunday, October 14
Eye Donor and Family Recognition Program - Saint Paul

Saturday, October 27
Thanksgiving for Vision - Brooklyn Center

November 9-11
National Donor Sabbath

2013

Saturday, January 26
Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation Board Meeting - St. Cloud

March 16
Lions Tours of the University - Minneapolis

May 3-5
Multiple District 5M Convention - Rochester