

The Eyes Have It!

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Spirit of the North
Tissue Services
DIVISION OF SOUTH DAKOTA LIONS EYE BANK
1-800-245-7846
www.sdleb.org

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From the Desk of the Executive Director



by Christine Belitz
Executive Director

Shiloh is pressing me today to get this done for our January newsletters so you are going to get my thoughts from activities and comments that I have observed over the last five days. Before I left work last Friday I received an e-mail from an individual who wanted comments from all the grant presenters at the upcoming meeting in San

Diego. He was requesting comments on how to go about making the perfect media pitch for organ donation through the use of television. All weekend long I have been contemplating — *does television advertising truly increase organ, eye and tissue donation?*

Television is a great tool to make people aware of things, to educate. But does television have a place in increasing donor numbers?

On Thursday, a staff member and I traveled to Aberdeen for a meeting. During the three and

one-half hour drive we discussed many things in regard to her Mom having cancer. She is a strong believer in eye, organ and tissue donation as am I, but she is now questioning the donation of her own Mom's tissue if she dies. She was very skeptical about actually going through with the process.

So the question is, how many people put D on their driver's license or sign a donor registry when they are full of energy and everything is right with their world, but when they come face-to-face with reality, "would they, could they?" to quote Dr. Seuss. Eye, organ and tissue donation is a decision that goes to the very essence of an individual's self and his or her comfort with the afterlife. Can that self be influenced by television? I think not—it has to be nurtured and taught throughout a lifetime. Being an eye, organ and tissue donor is like having a calling, a special gift given long before the donation actually occurs. And callings have to be heard from within and received with full faith and compassion for the individuals whom the calling serves. Our goal should be to help those who have this calling hear it and not be afraid to walk down that pathway. ☎ 🐦

Schedule A Visit for Your Club

Most people, whether they've made a decision about donation or not, have questions about what will happen when the time comes for their wishes to be carried out. The South Dakota Lions Eye Bank wants to help everyone make an informed decision about donation, and we need your help in doing this. Call the Eye Bank to schedule a time for us to come and speak to your club or community organization. We have talked to Lions Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Extension groups, and church groups. If you've never heard our presentation, or if you feel your new members would enjoy a presentation from us, please contact us.

It's only with your help that we are able to continue our mission — *"To Enable the Restoration of the Gifts of Sight and Health."* ☎ 🐦

Thank You, Helen!

A special thank-you to Helen Hasty of the Lennox Lions. Helen has been volunteering her time with us for over a year. She retired from Avera McKennan Hospital in December and is now going to spend even more of her time helping us out. She comes into the office on a regular basis to help with data entry, newsletter mailings, and other small projects, and will also be attending many of our health fairs. Her assistance has proven invaluable and we look forward to her continued help.

If you are interested in volunteering your time at the Eye Bank, please contact Shiloh at 373-1008 or shiloh@sharingthegift.org.

On Love...

Love. What a small word we use for an idea so immense and powerful it has altered the flow of history, calmed monsters, kindled works of art, cheered the forlorn, turned tough guys to mush, consoled the enslaved, driven strong women mad, glorified the humble, fueled national scandals, bankrupted robber barons and made mincemeat of kings.
— Diane Ackerman

Over the last three months, our Spirit of the North technical staff has continued to expand. With several new technicians in training we are looking forward to meeting the needs of our newly contracted hospitals. Among the new additions is our Regional Recovery Manager, **Heather Overman**. Heather has several years of experience as a Certified Surgical Technologist and also in the tissue recovery field. Since starting in November, she has already proven to be a valuable asset to our team.

In the previous newsletters, I had made reference to improving our tissue culture rates. With the implementation of better cleaning and preparation procedures, we have successfully raised our culture rates to 96 percent no growth! This could not have been done without the combined effort and cooperation



by Ryan Dott
 Director of Quality Assurance
 and Technical Operations

of our entire technical staff. With these new procedures in place, we will remain vigilant of our cleaning and preparation protocols to ensure that we keep this high percentage.

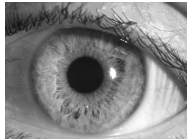
The Eye Bank's Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA)

accreditation is up for renewal this year so we have been vigorously preparing for their visit in the spring. Our goal for this inspection is to attain a three-year accreditation with the EBAA. We feel that with the procedures and processes we have in place now, we should be able to meet this goal. ☺



Health fairs

Communities across the state are planning their annual health fairs and farm and home shows, and the Eye Bank is working hard to participate at as many of them as possible. If you have information about an event in your community, please contact us at 1-800-245-7846 or e-mail shiloh@sharingthegift.org. Watch for us in the following communities:



- Hand County – January 13 & 14**
- Milbank – January 20 & 21**
- Mitchell – February 4**
- Wessington Springs – February 20**
- Winner – March 17 & 18**

A Recipient's Letter of Thanks...

How does one say Thank You for the gift of sight? As Elizabeth Browning once wrote in one of her poems: "How do I love you, let me count the ways..."

Due to an unfortunate accident almost 40 years ago, a chemical burn destroyed the cornea of my left eye. By adjusting my lifestyle, I have been able to lead a fairly normal life. However, in my declining years, and problems with my right eye, and having found an extremely good cornea specialist, it was recommended I have a cornea transplant. I decided, along with my children's prodding, the time had come. By the grace of God, the operation was a success, my vision has improved greatly, I can now read labels and watch TV with my left eye, something I'd not been able to do in years. In combination with my right eye, my overall vision has improved drastically.

My wife and I are enjoying our "golden years" as best we can. We travel, go on vacations visiting our children. Now with the improvement of my vision I don't mind driving there, but not across country.

My wife and I want to express our deepest sympathy on the loss of your loved one. By their kindness I can now see again. "No greater love can a man show than..."

In closing, my wife and I want to thank you again for giving me back my vision.

Respectfully, Andrew

Grant Update:

A Special Christmas

The following article appeared in Native newspapers over the Christmas holiday to inform people of what is happening with donation among Native Americans in our state.

A special Christmas

Many in Indian Country have not thought about what we would do or if we could help when a family member is in need of an organ transplant. There are many Native Americans, even in our area, who are in need of organ transplants. We can all help by stepping forward and registering to be a donor on our driver's license. Tell your family that you are willing to do this if the opportunity arises. There is no greater gift than to help another to have

a better life of improved health to enjoy with his loved ones. Many are not getting this opportunity now.

Another way to help is to give hope by sharing stories of successes in your life. The following story is about a family who is going to have a special Christmas because mother and daughter took a giant leap of faith.

Daughter Laurie was diagnosed with Lupus at the age of 13. She struggled with this disease until she received a kidney transplant this last September in Sioux Falls, at the age of 20. Laurie's mother Diane gave her the gift of a bet-

by Joan Hammond
 Administrative Assistant
 and
Arliss Keckler
 Native American Specialist

ter life by giving her one of her kidneys. Diane recovered nicely and was back at her job at the U.S. Post Office 2 weeks after her surgery. Laurie is back at college majoring in psychology and working in home health care.

Laurie says she has a lot more energy and enjoys foods that were prohibited before her surgery.

Mother and daughter are both very thankful and feeling well. They appreciate all the love and support from their family and friends. What a wonderful story. Imagine how different this story would be if mother had not given her kidney. ☺

Memorials, Contributions, Club Donations

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Memorials/Honorariums

Roger & Karen Braaten in memory of Laurel Ryan
 Dennis & June Van Asch in memory of Vera Schulte
 Dennis & June Van Asch in memory of Donna Kortan
 Vernon & JoDean Joy in memory of Minne Clement
 Roger & Karen Braaten in memory of Arlene Hundley
 Roger & Karen Braaten in memory of Hauko Janssen
 Dennis & June Van Asch in memory of June Stengel Spahr
 Vernon & JoDean Joy in memory of Kenneth Willert
 Vernon & JoDean Joy in memory of Robert Witte
 Dennis & June Van Asch in memory of Karen Gustafson
 Hill City Lions in memory of Martin Holzwarth
 Don Bradley in memory of Lorraine Bradley
 Roger & Karen Braaten in memory of Don Sittig

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Parkston Lions Club
 Sisseton Lions Club

Other Donations

Dr. Karla Murphy

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Marjorie Haskins	Robert Kelley
Marsha Skogen	Roger & Karen
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Rita Wood	

DONOR STATISTICS

(January 1 – December 31, 2005)

HOSPITAL:	Eye Donors	Tissue Donors
At Home Death		1
Avera Gregory Community Hospital	2	1
Avera Heart Hospital	2	1
Avera McKennan Hospice	1	
Avera McKennan Hospital	42	5
Avera Queen of Peace Hospital	9	5
Avera Sacred Heart	5	8
Avera St. Lukes Hospital	15	11
Brookings Hospital	7	4
Campbell County Hospital	1	1
Canton-Inwood Memorial Hospital	1	
Chadron Community Hospital	1	1
Community General, Redfield		1
Coteaudes Prairie	1	1
Custer	1	1
Dells Community	1	
DeSmet Memorial Hospital	1	1
Deuel County Memorial Hospital	1	1
Douglas County	1	1
Eureka Community Health Services	1	
Flandreau Community Hospital	2	1
Freeman Community	2	1
Ft. Meade VA Medical Center	3	
Gettysburg Memorial Hospital	1	
Gregory Health Center	1	1
Hans Peterson	1	1
Heart Hospital of South Dakota	5	8
Holy Infant		1
Huron Regional Medical Center	7	3
Linton, ND	1	1
Lookout Memorial	7	1
Luverne Community Hospital	3	1

HOSPITAL:	Eye Donors	Tissue Donors
Madison Hospital	2	
Marshall County Hospital	2	2
Mid-Dakota Hospital	1	1
Milbank Area Hospital / Avera Health	2	
Mobridge Regional Hospital	2	1
Murray County Memorial Hospital	1	
Northern Hills General	1	2
Ortonville, MN	1	3
Pipestone Hospital		1
Plain View		1
Platte Hospital	1	
Prairie Lakes Hospital	5	9
Rapid City Regional Hospital	27	22
Select Specialty	1	
Sioux Valley Hospital	56	39
Sioux Valley Vermillion Campus	1	1
Springfield Medical Center	1	
St. Benedicts	5	2
St. Mary's	5	5
St. Michael's		1
Sturgis Community	2	
Tracy Area Medical Center	1	
Tuffs Memorial Nursing Home	1	
Tyler Healthcare		1
VA Medical Center, Ft Meade	2	
VA Medical Center, Hot Springs	2	1
VA Medical Center, Sioux Falls	7	6
Weskota Memorial Medical Center	1	
Windom Area Hospital	2	2
Winner Regional Healthcare		1
Worthington Regional Hospital	1	1

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