

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


Once again, the South Dakota Lions Eye Bank, Inc. is looking to its constituents, the Lions of South Dakota, to help set the strategic direction for a new facility by the year 2011. As some of you may already know, Sioux Valley Hospital has purchased the land and building we are currently leasing from North American Baptist Seminary

and that lease agreement will be concluded in September 2011.

Please find enclosed a feasibility study questionnaire that I would like you to take a moment to fill out and return to the Eye Bank. We will report on the results at the Lions State Convention in Watertown. I apologize in advance for not supplying you with an envelope but time and money are a little short. As Lions of South Dakota, your comments, understanding and support are the reasons why the Lions Eye Bank just completed 15 years of returning sight to the blind through cornea transplantation. Your Eye Bank program is strong and will carry the motto "We Serve" far into the future, but at present the most pressing issue facing the Eye Bank is what the future holds in regards to a facility where we can continue to be of service to the blind and physically impaired. Once again please consider filling out the enclosed questionnaire and return to the South Dakota Lions Eye Bank at 1321 West 22nd Street, Sioux

Falls, SD 57105.


This month our annual Direct Mail Campaign gets underway, during which time we ask Lions and recipients to continue their loyal support of the Eye Bank through financial contributions. These contributions are vitally important to our organization, and without them, we could not continue to function as we do. The South Dakota Lions Eye Bank is a 501c3 corporation which means we must demonstrate to the state of South Dakota that all funds received by the Lions Eye Bank are used towards its philanthropic mission: "To Enable The Restoration Of The Gifts Of Sight and Health."

I encourage you, when you receive our donation request in the mail, to seriously consider making a generous contribution. Whether you are a recipient who has received the gift of sight or a Lion whose support of our organization has made giving the gift of sight through cornea transplantation a reality, our program cannot continue without your financial support. 

Targeting Drivers Ed Students, Instructors


This fall we are implementing a new Driver's Education Program across the state of South Dakota. Information packets, which include a video and brochures about the importance of donation, have been sent to all driver's education instructors in the state. It is our hope that they will incorporate these materials in their curriculum and show our newly licensed drivers the importance of marking "yes" for donation on their driver's license.

by Shiloh Oorlog
Public Information
& Marketing

The video for this program is going to be a wonderful tool for us. Two of our younger recipients volunteered to share their stories of how receiving the gift of sight changed their lives. A donor family also shared what it meant to them to donate their son's eyes and tissues, and how their son had indicated his wishes to them when he received his driver's license. It is our hope that our young people will recognize the magnitude of their decision to become donors, and in sharing that decision with their families, will encourage their families to become donors as well. 

Lions Eye Bank Seeks Board Members

The South Dakota Lions Eye Bank is seeking two board members. There is one position open to Lions in 5SE and one in 5SW. These positions are a three-year commitment and include quarterly meetings. Positions will be filled at the State Convention in Watertown, January 27-28, 2006.

If you are interested in running please send a letter of intent to President Bob Schmidt, HC3 Box 15A, Willow Lake SD, 57278. Include with this letter your resume and a letter of support from your local Lions club. The deadline for submitting your application is December 31, 2005. 

As the seasons are changing across South Dakota so are the positions at the Eye Bank. I recently moved from Regional Recovery Manager to Director of Quality Assurance, then to Director of QA and Technical Operations.

November is going to be a busy and exciting month. With the help of Southeast Technical Institute here in Sioux Falls, we held a sterile technique workshop. This was a great opportunity to teach new employees. The following day we had a practical lab with the USD School of Medicine. There we had representatives from AlloSource and U.S. Tissue and Cell demonstrate new procedures and review existing ones. This month I also attended an AATB/EBAA Quality Assurance Training Workshop.

The skill and capability of our technical staff is improving by the day. Quality of our technique has been noticeably improving and our new technicians are becoming more independent. I have been experimenting with different ways to train our new Rapid City and Aberdeen staff, and we are making steady



by Ryan Dott
Director of Quality Assurance
and Technical Operations

progress. We have approximately 5 new per diem staff in Rapid City and 2 in Aberdeen who are eager to learn.

We have begun recovering cardiovascular tissue for CryoLife again and all seems to be going

well. CryoLife has been very helpful in this endeavor and is assisting us in any way they can. Recently, we have become acquainted with U.S. Tissue and Cell for the recovery of donor skin. This skin is used for treatment of severe burns and wound-care management.

Donor numbers are similar, if not somewhat ahead of last years. As of October 31, 2005, we have had 219 eye donors and 128 tissue donors. We are anticipating a sharp increase as many of our newly contracted hospitals roll over to us in the coming months. ☎ ✎



'Food for Thought' Cook Book Perfect Christmas Gift



Have you started your Christmas shopping yet? Are you still looking for a unique gift for someone special? The SD Lions Eye Bank cookbook "Food for Thought" is still available for purchase. These books are filled with over 300 pages of recipes from across the state and stories that will warm your heart. Don't miss out on the opportunity to add this book to your collection.

Please send _____ copies of "Food for Thought" cookbook. Enclosed is \$15.00 + \$3.00 shipping for each book.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Mail to: South Dakota Lions Eye Bank,
1321 W. 22nd Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57101; Attn: Shiloh

Grant Update: 'Something we can do to help our own people'

Acceptance of Our Mission Continues on Reservations

Arliss has been spending time on all four of the reservations in our grant area, and is confident that our information is now out into the communities. She has participated at all four MSU visits for which the reservations are very grateful. All of the screenings at Eagle Butte were done with Native American volunteers. About 50% of the people tested were told they required further checking. These four visits were arranged at no cost to the Eye Bank or the reservations, so we want to thank the South Dakota Lions Foundation for its good will and generosity. In the future there will be a charge.

We have been airing public service announcements on two radio stations.

One station carries the message as a public service while the other charges us \$2.00 per time. There have been small ads in Native American newspapers explaining our grant and also when Arliss will be in their area. We are working on a story about a mother who donated a kidney to her daughter. The daughter is in college and doing fine. Another young man from Rosebud is going through bone marrow treatments. He said he would help with a story too. We hope to get both of these into newspapers before the end of the year.

by Joan Hammond
Administrative Assistant
and
Arliss Keckler
Native American Specialist

Chris went to Florida in September to accept an award we had won with our new video. It was a promotional tools contest sponsored by the American Association of Tissue Banks. Chris said

the presentation was quite simple but they played our video in the lobby over and over all day. This generated many positive comments.

People now come up to Arliss and start talking about our program and asking questions. She considers this a giant step forward. One of the points she stresses is that this is something we can do *to help our own people*. ☎ ✎

Memorials, Contributions, Club Donations

Memorials/Honorariums

Hilda Fedt by Roger & Karen Braaten
 Ronald Braaten by Roger & Karen Braaten
 Adrian Dempster by Roger & Karen Braaten
 Lorraine Bradley by Roger & Karen Braaten
 Kay Gregor by Leroy & Mary Jean Nelson
 Debbie Sercl by Howard & Diana Swier
 Richard Hanson by Roger & Karen Braaten
 Herman Solem by Roger & Karen Braaten
 PDG Leon Ralston by Hot Springs Lions Club
 Hazel Keegan by Roger & Karen Braaten
 Vernon Loeschke by Vernon & Beverly Foss
 Raymond Hennings by Roger & Karen Braaten
 John Luce by Wheatland Lions Club
 John Luce by Greg Lornenz
 Erwin Harms by Dale & Linda Veen
 Faith Sprung by Dennis & June Van Asch
 Damien Voagen by Dennis & June Van Asch
 Duane Trapp by Verne & Bev Foss
 Gordon Delgehausen by Dennis & June Van Asch
 Irene Lien by Dennis & June Van Asch
 Jerald Leesch by Roger & Karen Braaten
 Gerhard Schmutterer by Roger & Karen Braaten
 Normal Jacobson by Roger & Karen Braaten
 Harold Weixel by Roger & Karen Braaten



Other Contributors

Geraldine Engnes
 NorthWestern Energy
 Carol Shafer
 Wanda Mitchell
 J.L. Isakson
 Virginia Rehder
 Donald and Delores Falla
 Irving and Eleanor Miness
 Anna Rose
 Shirley Wilson
 Rodney and Julie King



Dates Set for Golf Tournaments

It's hard to believe but our fundraising committee has already started talking about next summer's golf tournaments. The date for the Sioux



Falls tournament has been set for **June 23**. We're hoping that by having the tournament a bit earlier in the year, we can avoid the mid-summer rush that seems to hit us all when we realize that our vacation days are dwindling.

More information will be coming in January regarding both the Sioux Falls and the West River tournaments. ☺

To the South Dakota Lions Eye Bank:
 My very special letter and gift from
 you today
 Certainly is appreciated in every way.
 So I surely wish to thank
 The S.D. Lions Eye Bank.
 And for your special mission in all
 that you do
 To give the gift of sight through
 corneal transplantation too!
 I will indeed wear my very nice t-shirt
 with pride
 Whether I am inside our outside.
 And people will know just by looking
 at me
 Just how much this has meant to
 Ethel E. ☺

DONOR STATISTICS

(January 1 – October 30, 2005)

| HOSPITAL: | Eye Donors | Tissue Donors |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| At Home Death | | 1 |
| Avera Gregory Community Hospital | 2 | 1 |
| Avera McKennan Hospice | 1 | |
| Avera McKennan Hospital | 37 | 4 |
| Avera Sacred Heart | 2 | 4 |
| Avera St. Lukes Hospital | 11 | 7 |
| Brookings Hospital | 6 | 3 |
| 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 | |
| De Smet 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 | |
| Hans Peterson | 1 | 1 |
| Heart Hospital of South Dakota | 5 | 8 |
| Holy Infant | | 1 |
| Huron Regional Medical Center | 6 | 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 | 1 | |
| Mobridge Regional Hospital | 1 | |
| Murray County Memorial Hospital | 1 | |
| Northern Hills General | 1 | 1 |
| Ortonville, MN | 1 | 2 |
| Pipestone Hospital | | 1 |
| Platte Hospital | 1 | |
| Prairie Lakes Hospital | 5 | 9 |
| Queen of Peace Hospital | 8 | 5 |
| Rapid City Regional Hospital | 23 | 18 |
| Sioux Valley Hospital | 49 | 26 |
| Sioux Valley Vermillion Campus | 1 | 1 |
| Springfield Medical Center | 1 | |
| St. Benedicts | 1 | 1 |
| St. Mary's | 3 | 3 |
| St. Michael's | | 1 |
| Sturgis Community | 1 | |
| Tracy Area Medical Center | 1 | |
| Tuffs Memorial Nursing Home | 1 | |
| VA Meducal Center, Ft Meade | 2 | |
| VA Medical Center, Hot Springs | 2 | 1 |
| VA Medical Center, Sioux Falls | 6 | 5 |
| Weskota Memorial Medical Center | 1 | |
| Windom Area Hospital | 1 | 1 |

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Sioux Falls, SD 57105

