

THE EYES HAVE IT!

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South Dakota Lions Eye Bank

January 2005



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

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by *Christine Belitz*
Executive Director

From the Desk of the Executive Director

I had a great Holiday season so I must reflect on the relationship between the joy felt at the time when family returns for the Holidays and the joy a transplant recipient's family feels when they realize their loved one will live, see or have their health and life improved.

The real purpose of the birth of Jesus was to bring joy back into the lives of all living people. When the angels told the shepherd about the birth of a savior they said "Rejoice, again I say rejoice, for I bring good news of great joy. A child has been born in the city of David who will bring great joy to all the nations."

Can one even imagine the joy felt by someone and their family when the telephone rings and they are told that an organ is available to save the life of their loved one? The child who only has days to live can now look at a future full of great joy. A Dad can look forward to feeling the joy of seeing his

children graduate from college, marry and give him grandchildren.

Jesus and his disciples died so that this message of great joy could be given to all peoples. Families that lose a loved one need to understand that they have the opportunity to give great joy to a family that has a loved one waiting for a transplant and that joy will carry them through their great tragedy as it did the Mother of Jesus. Pope John Paul II echoed this same refrain two thousand years later: "Joy is the keynote message of Christianity and the recurring motif of the gospels. Go, therefore and become messengers of joy."

I say to you as Lions and all who read this article, please consider becoming a donor and bring great joy to an individual and family waiting for a transplant.

Many new events will be happening this year at the SD Lions Eye Bank/Spirit of the North Tissue Services so I am giving you a heads up to watch the Lion and our newsletter. You also may want to give us a call and schedule a club visit by one of our board members, Shiloh or me. Have a Happy New Year. 📞 🐾

Red Cross decision means growth for Tissue Services

The fall of 2005 has brought along a lot of changes to the hospitals concerning tissue procurement. The announcement of the American Red Cross getting out of tissue services and LifeSource, the Organ Procurement Organization, getting into tissue procurement caused confusion at the hospitals. The result of this was that many hospitals decided to contract Spirit of the North Tissue Services as their tissue procurement organization.

I have been on the road doing hospital inservices with each newly contracted facility, and making sure that the transition goes smoothly for all involved.

by *Karen Hudson, CEBT*
Hospital Development

We also have changed some roles in our organization. Heather Myers, our Rapid City Office Coordinator, is now going to be assuming the hospital development role in the area west of the Missouri river. Please give her call in setting up your inservices in the west river area.

We will continue to make every effort to meet your needs in the best possible way. We strive to offer adequate education to hospital staff, respond to their donation questions and referrals promptly, and provide prompt and efficient service to hospitals and donor families at the time of donation. If we are not meeting these goals, please contact me to offer your suggestions and improvements. 🐾 📞

Changes in store for Rapid City office

Well, I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season this year. I have been given some new job responsibilities. Shiloh Oorlog will be working with me to help me become a Lions club speaker for the western half of South Dakota. I will also be working with Karen Hudson on doing some death chart reviews at Rapid City Regional Hospital and other smaller community hospitals. I will be doing the quarterly DRT meetings as well and I'm looking forward to the change.

by *Heather Myers, CEBT*
Rapid City Office Coordinator

We are also in the process of possibly updating a small storage room we currently use and converting it into a lab that will make us compliant with the new CFR 1271 regulations that will become effective in May of 2005. Have a wonderful New Year! 📞 🐾

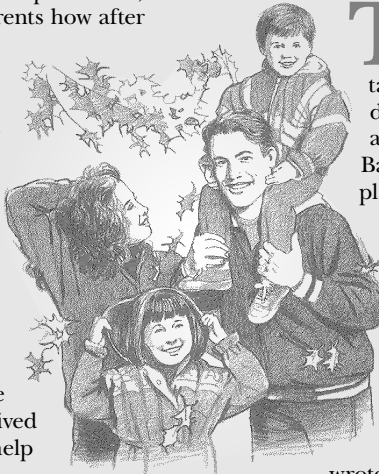
Seeds planted 40 years ago have grown successful Eye Bank

A few years back, as they do every year, the Lions of Multiple District 5 sponsored an International Youth Camp where a few young men and women from other countries join with young men and women from our area for a week of socializing, learning and just having fun. One of the activities for the week was a tour of the S.D. Lions Eye Bank facility. After the camp was over, one young man went home and told his parents how after touring the Eye Bank he had come to understand how important donation was and that he would like to mark the donor box when he went to get his drivers license, which would be in just a few weeks. About six months later that young man passed away in a farm accident. But because he had marked that donor box and had informed his family of his wishes it was not a wasted death. One cornea went to a six-month-old infant who was blind in both eyes, and the other to a six-year-old child who had suffered an injury. People from South Dakota received bone and connective tissue needed for surgeries and others received heart valves and veins critically needed to help improve their quality of life.

This story isn't intended to be a sad story but a story of how important donation is and also the importance of having an organization that can facilitate the donation. You see, organizations and facilities like the S.D. Lions Eye Bank and Spirit of the North Tissue Services don't just happen overnight. Somehow a seed has to get planted, an idea has to get acted upon, and the ball has to start rolling.

That seed was planted by a few very forward thinking men approximately forty years ago when the S.D. Lions Foundation was formed. A few years after the Foundation

was up and running it became increasingly obvious that there was a need for corneas in South Dakota and someone to facilitate getting those corneas to the doctors for transplant. The idea started floating around to start an Eye Bank and with the direction of the Foundation the ball started rolling.



This year, as we celebrate the 40 years of service of the S.D. Lions Foundation, I think it is very important to comment, from the viewpoint of donor families, on how important having an organization like the S.D. Lions Eye Bank is and that without the seed being planted so many years ago and having the help of the S.D. Lions Foundation the Eye Bank may not be realizing the success it is today.

So thank you to those who worked so hard to get the Foundation started and also to everyone at the Foundation who helped get the S.D. Lions Eye Bank going and continue to support it still today. By the way, that young man I wrote about earlier was my son Erik, and I am very proud to be the current President of the Board of Directors of the S.D. Lions Eye Bank and Spirit of the North Tissue Services.

Sincerely in Lionism

Bob Schmidt
President, Board of Directors
S.D. Lions Eye Bank

Four-state region sees continued growth

My new position is very exciting and challenging. I now am responsible for obtaining new hospital contracts within South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska and surrounding areas. I have been working extensively in North Dakota at the present time because we will be expanding a very large coverage area in North Dakota. I now have obtained four new contracts from North Dakota and I plan on making that number grow. It is such a joy to meet so many new people in the local hospitals. They have been so receptive in wanting to learn more about our organization and they are thrilled to have a local recovery agency.

by Lori Knutson
Regional Development

Since I have started my new position I have obtained 23 new hospital contracts that are signed on with us for tissue recovery in South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota, and I hope to gain many more contracts in the surrounding areas which will bring new growth to our organization.

S.D. Lions Eye Bank and Spirit of the North Tissue Services have so much to offer these facilities and I am very excited and anxious to go out and educate them on our organization and what we have to offer. ☺ 🐾

TECH NOTES

Happy New Year!!

We ended 2004 with 169 tissue donors and 235 eye donors. From those 235 eye donors 286 people were given the gift of sight.

by Sharon Morgan
Technical Director

Our Aberdeen facility is up and going. We have hired some great staff in the Aberdeen area. They have been working extremely hard training and learning all of our policies and procedures. They are as excited as I am to get going on their own. We are currently looking for available staff in the Rapid City area with flexible schedules. As for the Sioux Falls office, we have started taking sports medicine donors to help in the reconstruction of knees and ankles for many people with torn tendons and ligaments to help restore active lifestyles. We have also hired a few new people in the Sioux Falls office who have been working out very well, learning very quickly and have been a great help.

I will be going to Denver to learn more about the 1271 FDA regulations in March. All of the new regulations will be in place by May 25, 2005. ☺ 🐾

A time to give thanks for those who share special gifts

As we bring in the new year, let us not forget all of the people who gave of themselves over the past year.

Let us give thanks to our donor families for giving of their deceased loved ones and of themselves. In their loss, they have given the gift of life to others . . .

In their tragedies, they have given the gift of corneas, enabling surgeons to give sight back to others so that they may see clearly . . .

They have given the gift of skin so that a severely burned person has another chance at life . . .

They have given a heart so that blood could once again flow through a body on its way to recovery . . .



by **Carrie Scofield**
Quality Assurance
Coordinator

They have given bone so that others could once again walk strong and proud.

Let us give thanks. Thank you for recognizing the need for grafting and fulfilling the wishes of husbands, wives, mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers and children of the deceased, who, in shock and sorrow, gave a precious gift so that others could lead better lives.

We all have a responsibility to use these gifts to the best of our abilities. The responsibility of the Quality Assurance department is to ensure the safety and usability of these precious gifts. We have been working diligently on creating an environment of tissue

safety and a quality environment through many seminars and classes. We look forward to continuing to work hard through the new year. 🙌 📺

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Memorials/Honorariums

- Lee Pica by Allen & Gloria Brown
- Tom George by Hill City Lions
- Martha Hohm by David & Janice Cauley
- Harvey Gull by Verne & Beverly Foss
- Martha Hohm by Michael & Susan Anderson
- Margaret Clocksene by Karen & Dale Wolter
- Murray Widdis Sr. by Roger & Karen Braaten
- Richard Petersen by Roger & Karen Braaten
- Donald Johnson by Roger & Karen Braaten
- Carol Gibson by Roger & Karen Braaten
- Julie & Richard Woodruff by Earl & Evelyn Dains
- Mike Nieman by Travis & Deb Meyer

Direct Mail Campaign Contributors

This year's direct mail campaign is on its way to being another success! If you have not already done so, please consider sending in a donation. Individuals who donate \$50 or more, received on or by January 21, will be entered into a drawing for a Terry Redlin print and other Terry Redlin memorabilia.

- | | |
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| Dennis Van Asch | Forest Products |
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- Fall Rally

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- SD PDG Association
- State of South Dakota
- Ace Realty & Auction
- Ruth Rethwisch

DONOR STATISTICS

(January 1 – December 31, 2004)

HOSPITAL:	Eye Donors	Tissue Donors
Avera McKennan Hospice	3	6
Avera McKennan Hospital	31	13
Avera Sacred Heart Hospital	9	7
Avera St. Luke's Hospital	14	17
Bowdle Hospital	1	
Brookings Hospital	3	1
Canton-Inwood Memorial Hospital	5	6
Custer Community Hospital	1	
Dells Area Hospital	1	
Deuel County	1	
Eureka Community Health Services	1	
Five Counties Nursing Home, Lemmon		1
Freeman Community Hospital	1	1
Ft. Meade VA Medical Center	3	
Gregory Hospital	1	1
Hand County Memorial Hospital		1
Heart Hospital of South Dakota	3	3
Holy Infant Hospital	1	1
Home Deaths	2	1
Hot Springs VA Medical Center	1	1
Huron Community Hospital	3	1
Jackson Medical Center	2	1
Lake Area Hospital	2	2
Landmann-Jungman Hospital	1	1
Lookout Memorial	3	1
Luverne Community Hospital	1	

HOSPITAL:	Eye Donors	Tissue Donors
Madison Hospital		1
Milbank Area Hospital	1	1
Minnehaha County Coroner	1	
Mobridge Regional Hospital	2	
Northern Hills General Hospital		1
Ortonville, MN	1	
Pioneer Memorial Hospital	2	1
Pipestone Hospital	2	1
Platte Hospital	1	1
Prairie Lakes Hospital	13	10
Queen of Peace Hospital	6	4
Rapid City Regional Hospital	29	23
Royal C. Johnson VA Hospital	9	1
Sioux Valley Hospice	5	1
Sioux Valley Hospital	44	37
Sioux Valley Vermillion Campus	4	1
Springfield, MN	2	1
St. Mary's Hospital	2	2
St. Michael's Hospital	2	1
USPHS – Rosebud	1	
Wagner Hospital		1
Westbrook, MN Community Hospital	1	1
Westkota	2	2
Windom Hospital	2	2
Worthington Regional Hospital	5	4

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