



**WE SERVE**



2019 was another great year for Lions Eye Bank of West Central Ohio. We processed over 1,000 donors for transplant, research, and education and provided sight to over 1400 recipients. It is amazing when you think about the number of lives we enhance in a year's time. In Dayton alone, we recovered over 450 donors; many of them coming from the Lions OH-5 region, county hospitals.

2019 was a year focused on new technology, advancing to paperless systems, collaborating, and determining the strategic direction of our eye bank within the industry for years to come. Eye banks are not typically well known, and their services often go unrecognized as a result of this. Eye bank services are typically needed when a person faces one of the biggest adversities of their life; losing sight and/or losing a loved one. Eye banks provide a well-rounded portfolio of services that range from social aspects such as bereavement support for families that have lost a loved one, to very advanced medical services that entail evaluating a donor's medical suitability and preparing a cornea for transplant in an OR. All eye bank procedures are specialized, medical procedures that involve aseptic or sterile technique. As the advancements in both technology and research continue, support from Lions are crucial in helping local eye banks continue to grow within the industry. We are currently seeing a down-size of eye banks within the nation. While Ohio itself has 4 eye banks, nationally the number of eye banks has continued to decrease each year with eye banks merging and/or consolidating services.

Lions Eye Bank of West Central Ohio would like to add a special thank you to the OH-5 Lions Clubs that donated to us in 2019. Donations received from the following clubs were documented from January 2019 to December 2019: Arcanum Lions Club, Bradford Lions Club, Fletcher Lions Club, Laura Lions Club, Marysville Lions Club, North Hampton Lions Club, Northridge Lions Club, Springfield National Trail Lions Club, and West Milton Lions Club. OH-5 Lions donations accounted for 37% of the donations received from Ohio Lions Clubs. Additionally, as we are not the only Lions Eye Bank in Ohio, we only receive donations from a small fraction of the clubs. In 2019, Lions Eye Bank of West Central Ohio received 20 donations from clubs in OH-1, OH-5, and OH-6.

While U.S. eye banks do not rely on donations for operational support, funding provided by Lions Clubs allow us to further our advancements in the field of eye banking through new technology, research, and education. Additionally, our connection to Lions Clubs allow us to help you facilitate your goals to serve within your community and continue to rise to Helen Keller's call to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness." Lions Eye Bank of West Central Ohio would like to thank you for partnering and supporting us in this very important calling.

As we look ahead to 2020, it is destined to be a good year; a year of vision and another year to partner together and provide sight to those in need.

