



# Lions Eye Bank of West Central Ohio

## Celebrating Eye Donation Month

November 2020

Giving the gift of sight through cornea donation has an everlasting effect on a recipient's life. In a literal sense, cornea transplants are not life saving. However, to anyone who has ever lost their sight due to corneal blindness, the restoration of sight has such a profound effect that it becomes life saving. It allows the recipient the autonomy to live an independent life.

To learn more about cornea donation and transplantation, visit [EyeDonationMonth.org](http://EyeDonationMonth.org)

### STATISTICS:



**51,336**

Corneas provided for transplant in U.S. in 2019  
Meeting 100% of U.S. demand



**28,402**

Corneas exported, helping restore sight worldwide



**12 Million**

Corneal disease cases worldwide that resulted in blindness or visual impairment—that could be reversed with cornea transplants



**2,044,081**

Men, Women, & Children who have had their sight restored world wide through the work of EBAA members since 1961



**68,759**

U.S. donors of ocular tissue in 2019



**95-98%**

Success rate of corneal transplants



**\$6+ Billion**

Lifetime economic benefit of corneal transplants performed in 2019 in the U.S.



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## November is Diabetic Eye Disease Awareness Month

Diabetic Eye Disease Awareness Month was founded by Prevent Blindness America. This initiative was created in efforts to educate the public on the effects of diabetes on vision, the types of diabetic eye diseases, risk factors, and treatment options. Diabetic eye diseases include diabetic retinopathy, which is the most prevalent, as well as diabetic macular edema, cataracts, and glaucoma. As Diabetes continues to be an increasing factor in American population and public health, these diabetic eye diseases will also grow.



## November 10th World Keratoconus Day

Keratoconus is an eye condition where the cornea progressively thins and weakens. This sight threatening disease, if severe enough, will require a cornea transplant. In recent years, a new FDA approved treatment known as Corneal Cross Linking has reduced the need for a cornea transplant in some patients. Corneal Cross Linking uses prescription eye drops and a special UV light to create new collagen cross links, thus stiffening the cornea. The goal is to prevent further disease progression and preserve existing vision.



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### Upcoming Events

#### **EBAA 35th Annual Run for Vision**

"Each stride supports the EBAA's mission to restore sight to those blinded or visually impaired due to cornea disease or injury"

Register at:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/DC/AnyCity/EBAA/RunforVision2020>



**A COMMUNITY OF COMPASSION**

Building Hope  
Restoring Sight  
Changing Lives

Join us by registering as an eye, organ and tissue donor.

[EyeDonationMonth.org](http://EyeDonationMonth.org)  
#EyeDonationMonth

Zoe Rabago, Recipient    Aolani Lopez, Donor

Rosalba Gonzalez, Donor    Transplant Services Center UT Southwestern Medical Center, Staff

**EYE BANK ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

**EYE DONATION MONTH**  
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### Recipients Space

*Dear Donor Family,*

*It is with great sympathy that I share with your family. Death is difficult to understand and accept and it becomes doubly challenging when it happens to a young individual.*

*I have spent the last fifty five plus years working with teenagers as a teacher, coach, principal, tournament manager, and parent/grandparent. I always emphasized and taught young people the following principles: Lessen your neighbor's load, make the world a better place in which to live, take the "I" out and replace it with "we", and practice 'The Golden Rule.' Your donation to the eye bank is noble and certainly epitomizes what I taught young people.*

*I have not seen well out of my right eye for over two years -after two corneal transplants and rejections. Your donation opens my eye to a new world and allows me to again see the beauty before me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, and my Good richly bless you.*

*Sincerely,  
Cornea Recipient*