#### Quarter 3 Newsletter

#### July - Sept. 2023

# **Thoughts from the Executive Director**

### **Shannon Schweitzer on Q3 2023**

Record-breaking success happens when all members of the team can understand and embrace the concept that growth doesn't happen in our comfort zone. Organizational alignment and growth require commitment to our mission, trust between team members, and maintaining strong relationships both with each other and our community partners, eye banks, surgeons, and hospitals.

One of the primary areas of focus for growth at Lions Eye Bank of West Central Ohio has been in outreach and building our identity as an organization. This outreach has largely been activities like educational wet labs for students and subsequent internship opportunities. We are also expanding our community education about cornea donation and eye banking at event expos, professional forums, and speaking engagements. Additionally, we have been focusing on maximizing the gift through collaborations in research and international opportunities to help restore sight worldwide.

Lions Eye Bank of West Central Ohio is exceeding expectations with record numbers. Through the end of the 3rd quarter, we have provided over 1,000 donors in Ohio the opportunity to honor their legacy through the gift of sight. In addition to record numbers in donor recovery, we are also projected to set records in transplants, processing, and research placements in 2023. We change lives every single day through our work and our dedication to our mission. Our commitment comes from devotion to a cause greater than ourselves combined with the knowledge that we truly make a difference with the work we do.

We are near completion with our meeting and record storage space on Big Hill. This meeting space gives potential to create bigger opportunities in the future both within our community and our profession.

The remainder of the year will not be easy. It is not comfortable in the growth zone. However, when you can become comfortable being uncomfortable, the potential opportunities are endless.



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# **Our Impact**

649

**Ready to finish 2023 strong!** 

Only three months remain in 2023, we plan to finish the year by continuing to make an impact within our community, domestically, and internationally.

> Total corneas transplanted across the US

1037



**Total donors** 

recovered

in 2023

## **Total corneas** transplanted internationally



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