WE SERVE

Lions Eye Bank of West Central Ohio – First Glance 2026 Highlights

During the first half of 2026, the Lions Eye Bank of West Central Ohio (LEBWCO) continued to advance its mission of restoring sight through donation, education, research, and community engagement. The first six months of the year were marked by meaningful partnerships, continued innovation, and opportunities to honor the generosity of donors while educating our community about the life changing impact of eye donation.

Throughout April, LEBWCO participated in eight Donate Life Month flag raising ceremonies across the Dayton region, joining hospitals, donor families, transplant recipients, and community donation partners in recognizing the extraordinary gift of organ, eye, and tissue donation. The month concluded with Miami Valley Hospital's Wall of Heroes ceremony, where donors were honored and recipients, including cornea transplant recipient Larry Trimmer, shared powerful stories demonstrating how donation transforms lives.

Education and workforce development remained a priority throughout the organization. LEBWCO celebrated the continued success of its internship program by welcoming former high school interns Katie and Katelyn into full time positions following the completion of their biology degrees. Their journey from student interns to professional eye bank staff reflects LEBWCO's commitment to investing in future leaders and strengthening the profession through education and mentorship.

Research and surgeon education also continued to expand during the first half of the year. LEBWCO provided ocular tissue for research projects that support the development of new treatments and surgical techniques aimed at reducing preventable corneal blindness. Our organization also hosted multiple wet labs, providing students, residents, healthcare professionals, and surgeons with valuable hands-on experience in corneal transplantation techniques and microsurgical skills that ultimately improve patient outcomes.

As a Lions Eye Bank, community service and collaboration with Lions Clubs remain central to LEBWCO's identity. Staff members participated in district meetings and the Ohio Lions State Convention, sharing the mission of eye donation and celebrating the longstanding partnership between Lions and eye banking. Our organization was also proud to support Board Member Lydia Houser as she was selected as Ohio's nominee for International Director, recognizing her outstanding leadership and commitment to service.

The first half of 2026 also provided opportunities to celebrate the profound impact of corneal transplantation through recipient stories. Brittany Terry shared her personal journey of living with lifelong vision challenges and how a cornea transplant restored greater clarity, brighter colors, and an improved quality of life. Stories like Brittany's

serve as powerful reminders that every donation has the potential to restore independence, hope, and the ability to experience the world in new ways.

As LEBWCO looks toward the remainder of 2026, the organization remains committed to advancing eye banking through innovation, research, education, and collaboration while honoring every donor and supporting every family who makes the gift of sight possible. Together with our hospital partners, Lions Clubs, donor families, healthcare professionals, and supporters, we will continue building a future where more lives are transformed through the gift of sight.