



WE SERVE



2019 has started off with a roar for Lions Eye Bank of West Central Ohio. In February, we worked with surgeons at Ohio State University to put on a wet lab on for DMEK preparation. DMEK is one of the newest cornea transplant procedures; it involves transplanting only the layer of the cornea that the recipient needs. As there are five layers to the cornea, transplanting only the specific layer that is diseased or traumatized dramatically reduces healing time. The wet lab is a new service that Lions Eye Bank of West Central Ohio began providing as a way of educating surgeons on the latest advancements in cornea transplantation. Wet labs also allow our surgeons to learn the capabilities of the local eye bank in preparing new DMEK grafts for transplant. Finally, it opens communication channels between the eye bank technician that processes the tissue and the surgeon utilizing the tissue for transplant, thus ensuring the highest quality of tissue and service for both the surgeon and recipient.

In the first half of 2019, Lions Eye Bank of West Central Ohio had 32 donors from Lions Clubs OH-5 county hospitals. Of those 32 donors, we provided sight through transplanted corneas to 34 recipients. 19 corneas/eyes were utilized in research for programs in glaucoma, cataract lens advancements, and wet labs for education and training in new cornea transplant advancements. 2 corneas were sent for preservation into long-term storage media, which extends the use and length of time available for transplant. 8 corneas had to be discarded due to positive serology testing and 1 was discarded due to logistical issues after processing. Lions Eye Bank of West Central Ohio provides full eye bank services in recovery, processing, and distribution to the following 11 counties in Ohio: Montgomery, Preble, Greene, Clark, Miami, Darke, Champaign, Shelby, Auglaize and Mercer. We work with Community Tissue services as a recovery partner, and they provide recovery services to the following northern Ohio counties: Allen, Van Wert, Paulding, Putnam, Hancock, Seneca, Sandusky, Wood, Henry, Defiance, Williams, Fulton, Lucas, and Ottawa. Additionally, we work with Lifeline of Ohio, who recovers tissue in Logan, Hardin, Wyandot, Crawford, Richland, Marion, Morrow, Knox, Union, Delaware, Licking, Coshocton, Madison, Franklin, Muskingum, Guernsey, Belmont, Jefferson, Monroe, Noble, Morgan, Perry, Fairfield, Pickaway, Fayette, Ross, Hocking, Athens, Washington, Mews, Vinton, Highland, Pike, Jackson, Gallia, Scioto, and Lawrence. Lions Eye Bank of West Central Ohio provides processing and distribution services for the counties in which Community Tissue Services and Lifeline of Ohio recover ocular tissue. Additionally, we have a surgeon group that we work closely with at Ohio State University.

Over the years, due to changes in territorial borders, the responsibility for designation of the provision of ocular tissue has become blurred. Throughout those changes, Lions Eye Bank of West Central Ohio remains committed to working with all donation entities in efforts to provide high quality tissue to donor families, surgeons and recipients.