



# What are LIONS EYE BANKS?

Helen Keller inspired Lions to become Knights of the Blind in 1925. A century later, serving the blind and visually impaired remains at the heart of Lions International’s vision global cause and [Lions Eye Banks](#). There are multiple Lions Eye Banks throughout the world that are sponsored by a Lions club, district, or multiple district. Check out the [Lions International Eye Banks Program Guidelines](#) for more information on starting a Lions Eye Bank.

## Typical Lions Eye Banking SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Obtaining, medically evaluating, repairing and distributing ocular tissue for transplant
- Building community awareness and education about the donation process
- Establishing working relationships with qualified medical facilities
- Partnering with community members to create and maintain eye banking services
- Accelerating all areas of eye care through provision of tissue for training and research



## LIONS EYE BANKS END FORMS OF BLINDNESS, SUCH AS:

- CORNEAL DYSTROPHIES
- CORNEAL ULCERS
- KERATOCONUS
- EYE SWELLING AND SCARRING FROM ILLNESS OR INJURIES
- GLAUCOMA (SCLERA)



## Why are corneal transplants SO IMPORTANT?

Corneal transplants are safe, relatively low-risk surgical procedures that have been performed for more than 80 years and have proven highly successful in curing forms of blindness. It is estimated that 12.7 million people are waiting for a corneal transplant, with most residing in low-to middle-income nations where they are without an eye bank or routine access to corneal tissue (Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations).

**12.7 million**



# How can I get INVOLVED?



- **Become an expert:** Learn more about the process of cornea donation and transplantation from the [Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations](#) and help dispel myths and misperceptions about cornea donation and transplantation in your community.



- **Be an advocate** – Inspire others to become organ, eye and tissue donors. Share [Lisa's Story](#), which illuminates the positive impact that corneal transplants make in the lives of donor families and transplant recipients.



- **Be a conduit of change** – [Contact your local eye bank](#) to ask how your Lion or Leo club can support their work. Discuss service opportunities with your club, such as raising awareness about access to corneal transplants and supporting emerging eye banks.



- **Invest in your local Lions Eye Bank** – Consider making a club, district or multiple district financial gift to a Lions Eye Bank, or supporting Lions Clubs International Foundation's vision grants by donating online and emailing donor assistance to specify the Sight Fund. [donating online](#) • [donor assistance](#)

**AS LIONS**, you have the power to increase global access to the miracle of corneal transplant and help thousands of men, women and children return to safer, happier and more productive lives. By supporting the work of Lions Eye Banks, Lions can help ensure that everyone has access to the gift of sight.

**THE WORK WE DO** today means someone will see tomorrow. Every action you take on behalf of Lions Eye Banks brings us one step closer to a world where no one will suffer from forms of blindness that can be cured through corneal transplant.



For more information, please contact: [programs@lionsclubs.org](mailto:programs@lionsclubs.org).



Lions Clubs International  
300 W. 22nd St.  
Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842, USA  
1.630-571.5466  
[programs@lionsclubs.org](mailto:programs@lionsclubs.org)