



ROCHESTER EYE & TISSUE BANK I S S U E S

Operating as Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank in Central and Northern New York

Giving others a brighter tomorrow...



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Eye Ball Toss Challenges Over 3,000 People at Bills Training Camp

Agency volunteers Rick Slichta (left) and daughter Kelley Tripp are framed by the Eye Ball Toss structure's "pupil"—the large hole through which individuals had to throw a small foam football. It looked easy to most people, until they put on special glasses that simulated corneal blindness. It was then they realized how difficult it would be.



More than 3,000 kids and adults stopping by RETB's display during the Buffalo Bills Training Camp this year found out just how difficult it would be to throw a small ball through a large hole, especially if they had corneal blindness.

Wearing glasses provided by the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) that simulate corneal blindness, and standing only 5 feet away from the 7 foot tall structure, those who took on the challenge soon realized how difficult it was to see the brightly painted eye, let alone make out the large hole they were to throw the ball through. "Many people were shocked at how little they could see, not even realizing if they had thrown the ball through the hole," stated Karen Guarino,

RETB communications director. "Young and old alike would tell us how hard it was to do such a simple task and many realized then just how important their donation decision was to others."

For Kelley, the ball toss meant more than the fact that it was fun watching people try it. "It was really neat to be able to tell folks that my father had cornea transplants... that he benefited from someone donating their eyes, and that he can see today because of that gift."

Each year more than 200 people in our community who suffer from corneal blindness due to injury, infection or disease, receive sight-restoring transplants. And, hundreds of others receive life altering tissue transplants such as bone, skin and heart valves. All of this wouldn't be possible without the generous gifts from eye and tissue donors and their families.



2003 January through July Eye and Tissue Donations

The RETB/FLETB is grateful to the healthcare professionals in the hospitals and facilities listed below who provide support and comfort to many families by offering them the choice of donation. We thank our donor families for continuing to give others the Gift of Life and Sight.

Hospital/Facility	2003 Eye Donors	2003 Transplant Eyes	2003 Tissue Donors	Hospital/Facility	2003 Eye Donors	2003 Transplant Eyes	2003 Tissue Donors
Cayuga Medical Center at Ithaca	3	6	2	Robert Packer Hospital	15	15	*
Charles Cole Memorial Hospital	1	2	*	Samaritan Medical Center	6	5	*
Claxton Hepburn Medical Center	3	4	3	Schuyler Hospital	5	2	1
Clifton Springs Hospital & Clinic	8	2	2	Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital	3	2	0
Coming Hospital	6	7	3	St. James Mercy Health System	1	0	0
E.J. Noble Hospital, Gouverneur	1	2	0	St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center	15	14	*
F.F. Thompson Health System	6	6	6	Strong Memorial Hospital	51	41	18
Geneva General Hospital	5	6	3	Troy Community Hospital	2	2	*
Highland Hospital of Rochester	13	6	2	Unity Health, Genesee St. Campus	1	2	0
Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital	4	2	1	Unity Health, Park Ridge Hospital	19	10	5
Lakeside Memorial Hospital	12	4	3	Via Health of Wayne, Newark	8	6	0
Lewis County General Hospital	0	0	0	ViaHealth, Rochester General Hospital	43	22	12
Monroe Community Hospital	1	0	0	Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office	0	0	0
Nicholas H. Noyes Memorial Hospital	5	5	2	Other (non-acute facilities)	15	3	3
				TOTAL	252	176	66

* eye donors only

NOTE: The *transplant eyes* column indicates how many eyes were used for transplant procedures.

Coalition on Donation to Participate in 2004 Rose Parade



Great news for those who have been working endlessly in educating the public about organ and tissue donation — the chance to reach tens of millions of television viewers and parade spectators when the Coalition on Donation's float passes by. "The Coalition on Donation's participation in the Rose Parade will dramatically communicate the positive, life-transforming benefits of organ and

tissue donation," says David Fleming, executive director of the Coalition on Donation.

The 115th Rose Parade will take place on Thursday, Jan. 1, 2004.

RETB/FLETB is a member of the local Council for Donation of Organs and Tissues (C-DOT), which is a member of the Coalition on Donation.

Requestor Training Class Schedule

Healthcare professionals interested in attending one of the Requestor Training Classes below which are held at the agency office, please call Tammi Sharpe, regional coordinator, at 1-800-568-4321.

Friday, August 22, 2003, 9am-1pm

Friday, October 24 2003, 9am-1pm

Friday, March 5, 2004, 9 am-1pm

National Donor Sabbath: November 14-16, 2003
Call RETB/FLETB for details 1.800.568.4321 info@rephb.org



The agency is grateful to these individuals and organizations that have so generously contributed to the agency's programs. This list includes financial contributions to the agency between June 1, 2003 and July 31, 2003. Should there be an omission or error, please call the office so it can be corrected.

2002 Annual Appeal

Friend (\$50-\$99)
Clifford Provost

General

- Vera M. Barker
- Karen Blank
- David Bovenzi
- Roger F. Brady
- Helen J. Brown
- Craig Cappon
- Virginia Carsel
- Ella Dunham
- Virginia Freeman
- Andrea N. Frost
- Tammy Genung
- Ann Healy
- William B. Hill
- Doris A. Magoffin
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- Josephine Prumo
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- Candace C. Smith
- Mary Lou Smith
- Ann C. Stehle
- Dorothy Swanson
- Ronald Sweet
- John Terrieri
- Dorothy J. Wolfanger
- Mr. and Mrs. John G. Young

In Memory of:

- Jay Blakeslee
Rochester Northside Lions Club
- Charles Blank
Erma Blank
- Thomas L. Davis
Myron Kleinberg
- Viola DeBack
Isaac DeBack
- Walter Harris
Lynne M. Rogers
- Gordon F. Kertzel, Jr.
Elizabeth M. Kertzel
- Alice M. Larson
Jeanne M. Larson
- John C. McCullough
Rochester Northside Lions Club
- Grace L. Olver
Rev. Herbert Olver

In Honor of:

- Steven S.T. Ching, MD
Peter Battisti
Gerald F. Dean
- Lester McDonald, MD and Staff
Julia Karpenko

40th Anniversary of
Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Vigoda
Linda E. Lowenstein

Research

- Lions Club of Corning
- North Rose Lions Club
- Rochester Northside Lions Club
- Wolcott Lioness Club
- Rosario J. Guglielmino
Research Fund
- Ms. Dorothy E. Corts
- Mr. Adam Dioguardi
- Ms. Julia Karpenko



FLETB Educates Soldiers About Donation

Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank was invited to participate in the annual Safety Awareness Day for the Army's 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum in Watertown, NY, on May 22. Tammi Sharpe (left), FLETB regional coordinator, and volunteer Lorene Davey (right), RN, Samaritan Medical Center, Watertown, NY, were on hand to answer questions and provide information to the soldiers about eye and tissue donation.

Assembly and Senate Pass Legislation Designed to Increase Awareness for Organ and Tissue Donation

Both the Assembly and Senate have passed legislation that provides for the creation of a special "Life Pass It On" license plate and a voluntary one-dollar donation to support the establishment of the "Life Pass It On Fund." The fee for the license plates is twenty-five dollars, five dollars of which would be devoted to the fund. The funds generated from this bill will support organ and tissue donation education efforts throughout the state.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
If you would like to find out more about volunteer opportunities at the agency, please call **Karen Guarino at 1-800-568-4321.**

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the RETB/FLETB, a nonprofit organization, is to recover and distribute eyes, organs and tissues for use in transplantation, therapy, medical education and research; to promote awareness of the need for and the benefits of donating; and to conduct or support related medical research, all to improve the quality of life for individuals and their families.

Attention Trained Designated Requestors

All Designated Requestors must recertify requesting skills status for 2003 by completing the agency's "Recertification Study Guide for the Tissue Designated Requestor." This CE activity has been approved by NYSNA's Council on Continuing Education for 1.4 Contact hours. Call Tammi Sharpe, regional coordinator, for further information or questions, 1-800-568-4321.

National Donor Memorial

Groundbreaking for the National Donor Memorial took place on April 25 this year at the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) headquarters in Richmond, Va. The memorial honors organ and tissue donors and includes a website featuring tributes to donors, a virtual tour and written description of the garden, a calendar of events and news about the memorial.

Tributes can be submitted on the Web site, www.donormemorial.org or through the mail by calling UNOS at 804-782-4800 for a submission form.

Supporting Eye Research

One of the largest segments of research NDRI (National Disease Research Interchange) supports involves studies of the human eye and eye diseases like diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, retinitis pigmentosa and macular degeneration. Some 4,000 eye specimens are donated annually for scientific study, and these are shipped to a group of some 50 researchers nationwide. NEI's (National Eye Institute) program director for Retinal Diseases, Peter Dudley, Ph.D., views NDRI's capabilities as an important asset to NEI scientists. "As we continue to advance our understanding of diabetic retinopathy and other eye diseases, human tissue for scientific research assumes an even more critical role. The work of NDRI's HTOR Division in securing human tissue for research is central to this effort."

Linda Fraser, RETB/FLETB executive director, says, "Medical research is part of our agency's mission which we support in various ways. Since 1954 the agency has provided seed money to local investigators for their transplant-related studies, and we work with agencies such as NDRI, providing research tissue to the exacting protocol of researchers for their eye studies," adding "Donor families find comfort and take pride in knowing that their loved one's donation is helping future generations. Families who have witnessed the debilitating effects of an eye disease realize how important a gift donation is for research."

RETB/FLETB has been a remote site recovery agency for NDRI since 1988.

Community Remembers One of Its Own Who Saved Many Lives

RETB works with the following hospitals in North Central Pennsylvania in the recovery of eye donations: Robert Packer Hospital, Charles Cole Memorial Hospital and Troy Community Hospital.

☀ On Friday, July 25 in Troy, Pennsylvania, a community gathered at the Troy Fair to remember and pay tribute to Jordan Fitzwater, who upon his death in 2002 saved the lives and sight of several individuals through his gift of organ and tissue donation.

Jennie Towne, director of professional services, attended the day of remembrance saying "Jordan had such an enormous effect on so many people during his life, and continues to do so through the testimony of this very special day in his honor."



A special song titled, **#9**, was written by long-time friend of Jordan's, Brian Seeley, and is being performed by (left to right) Will Brown, Brian Seeley, Austin Colton and Lucas Colton.

You Can Give Others a Brighter Tomorrow

☀ Through the United Way Donor Choice Program, you can designate all or a part of your United Way gift to the agency. Your gift assures that the vital services and programs provided by the agency will continue to be available to others. We receive contributions only through the United Way Donor Choice Program.

Ask your employer for a Donor Choice Designation Form, or call our office.

RETB Donor ID # is

0476

KUDOS Korner

Rotary Program Hopes to Save Lives

☀ Rotary is bringing the message about the importance of organ and tissue donation to members throughout the U.S. *Share Your Life – Give of Yourself!* is a Rotary-based program developed to encourage all Rotarians to consider becoming pledged eye, organ and tissue

donors. Working with Past District Governors Jack Best of District 7120 (Finger Lakes Region) and Ward Vuillemot of District 7150 (Central NY Region), the RETB/FLETB along with several other agencies is helping to present this program to area clubs.

BioEthics Symposium Scheduled

A community-wide BioEthics Grand Rounds "End of Life Decisions" symposium will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2003, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Inn on the Lake, Canandaigua, NY. CEUs will be available for healthcare professionals. For information contact Charlotte Wytias, RN, MS, at 315-462-0390.



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The Rochester/Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank is a nonprofit organ and tissue donation agency that serves the Finger Lakes, Central and Northern New York Regions as well as North Central Pennsylvania.

We hope you enjoy your issue of **①**issues. If you wish your name removed from the mailing list, please call the agency office, (585) 272-7890, 1-800-568-4321, e-mail info@rehpb.org

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