



ROCHESTER/FINGER LAKES EYE & TISSUE BANK

COMMUNICATOR

A Bulletin For The Healthcare Professional

FALL SEPTEMBER 2003

JANUARY – AUGUST

2 0 0 3

DONOR STATISTICS =

Facility	Eye	Tissue	Transplant Corneas
Cayuga Medical Center at Ithaca	3	2	6
Charles Cole Memorial Hospital	1	*	2
Claxton Hepburn Medical Center	3	3	4
Clifton Springs Hospital & Clinic	8	3	2
Corning Hospital	7	3	7
E. J. Noble Hospital, Gouverneur	2	1	4
F. F. Thompson Health System	7	7	7
Geneva General Hospital	7	3	8
Highland Hospital of Rochester	17	3	6
Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital	4	1	2
Lakeside Memorial Hospital	12	3	4
Lewis County General Hospital	0	0	0
Monroe Community Hospital	1	0	0
Nicholas H. Noyes Memorial Hospital	6	2	5
Robert Packer Hospital	19	*	18
Samaritan Medical Center	7	*	5
Schuyler Hospital	5	1	2
Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital	4	0	4
St. James Mercy Health System	1	0	0
St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center	16	*	14
Strong Memorial Hospital	62	21	45
Troy Community Hospital	2	*	2
Unity Health, Genesee St. Campus	1	0	2
Unity Health - Park Ridge Hospital	19	5	10
ViaHealth of Wayne, Newark	8	0	6
ViaHealth, Rochester General Hospital	49	14	27
Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office	0	0	0
Other (non-acute facilities)	16	3	3
TOTAL	287	75	195

* eye donors only

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.

From the Director of Professional Services



Jennie Towne, CEPT

As things are ever changing in the world of donation and transplantation, I would like to assure you that we are working very hard to keep the process working smoothly and competently.

I have had the opportunity to be in several of your facilities these past few months and have enjoyed working with you. I have met so many devoted individuals; it makes my job a pleasurable one. If you have special requests for presentation topics relating to eye and tissue donation, please feel free to contact me.

This month we will feature one of our eye recovery technicians, Ellyn Colquhoun. We will be featuring "Behind the Scenes" regularly in an attempt to familiarize you with our team of eye technicians and tissue recovery specialists. The agency is now in its 51st year of service. Thank you for your part in giving others a brighter tomorrow.

Behind the Scenes with ELLYN COLQUHOUN

Editor's Note: Director of Professional Services Jennie Towne interviewed Ellyn, who has worked part-time for the agency since 1987. Following are excerpts from the interview that gives you a glimpse behind the scenes as to who those individuals are that come to your hospital all hours of the day and night, to serve your patients and their families.

What hospitals do you cover?

I primarily recover eye tissue at Clifton Springs Hospital, Geneva General, Soldiers & Sailors, ViaHealth of Wayne-Newark and F. F. Thompson Hospital.

What is your educational background?

I have an A.A.S. in Medical Laboratory Technology from SUNY Alfred; a B.S. in Medical Technology from Empire State College; have done Forensic Science Minor course work from SUNY Oswego and graduate course work in Molecular Biology from RIT.

What's your full time position?

I'm a Forensic Biologist at the Monroe County Crime Laboratory. I analyze evidence that is submitted that is believed to have blood or other body fluids adhered, testify at legal proceedings on results, and I help prepare reagents used in analysis and perform necessary QA/QC functions. I also work per diem for the laboratory at Clifton Springs Hospital & Clinic. I enjoy aspects of working in a clinical lab and in so doing, am keeping up with my phlebotomy skills. Working in a clinical situation helps me with chart reviews for donor recovery.

How did you find out about us?

When I was working as a MLT at Newark-Wayne, RETB was asking if anyone would be interested in becoming an eye recovery technician. Our lab director informed all of us about the job opportunity and since I had had the occasion to draw blood from eye donors and was intrigued by the procedure ... I signed up!

continued...

Always respect the family's right to decide!



NEWS to SHARE

- Agency receives Golden Quill Award:** The agency recently was recognized by the Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation (MTF), one of our partner tissue banks, and presented with the 2002 Golden Quill Award. Bob Cornish, CTBS, manager of tissue bank operations, accepted the award at MTF's Technical Symposium in Florham Park, NJ. The national award is given for excellence in documentation.
- BioEthics Symposium:** 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.
- Incorporating Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank name:** You will notice the new heading on COMMUNICATOR. The agency operates as Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank in Central and Northern New York.

... Ellyn continued from front page

Why do you continue your work at the agency?

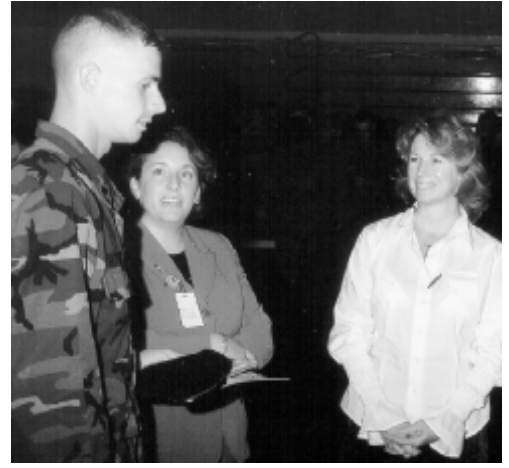
I received a copy of a letter that a cornea recipient sent to the agency. In it the recipient told how she was able to obtain her driver's license and how happy it made her that she could now come and go as she pleased. She no longer was dependent upon others or public transportation. The thought of not being able to spontaneously just hop in my car and go somewhere just struck a nerve in me. I think of that often. I also think about the donor families. At a moment when their lives have just changed forever because of the death of a loved one, they have the presence of mind and ability to sign that consent form. If they can do that, then I could—and should—be able to haul myself out of bed and help them make this gift possible.



*Highland Hospital
Nursing orientation,
June 2003*



Rochester Eye & Tissue Bank
524 White Spruce Blvd.
Rochester, NY 14623



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.



Mark Your CALENDAR

Oct: Requestor Training Class 10/24/03 (9 am – 1 pm)

March: Requestor Training Class 3/5/04 (9 am – 1 pm)

Classes held at the agency office,
524 White Spruce Blvd., Rochester, NY.

Call Tammi Sharpe, CEPT, to register at least 2 weeks prior to class dates.

1-800-568-4321

A special thanks to Annette Grindle, RN, for her dedication and support of the agency at Rochester General Hospital. Good Luck!

"COMMUNICATOR" - a bulletin of the Rochester/Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank, 524 White Spruce Blvd., Rochester, N.Y., 14623

The Rochester/Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank is a nonprofit agency serving the Finger Lakes, Central and Northern NY regions as well as North Central PA.

Medical Director: Steven S.T. Ching, MD; Associate Medical Director: Ronald D. Plotnik, MD; Executive Director: Linda K. Fraser; Director of Professional Services: Jennie Towne, CEPT.

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