



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **10,000<sup>th</sup> cornea for transplant provided by local tissue bank**

March 14, 2006 – Rochester, NY -- The Rochester/Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank (R/FLETB) provided its 10,000<sup>th</sup> cornea for transplant at the end of February. “This milestone affirms our community’s generous nature. Those who have made the decision to become eye donors at the time of death, and those family members who consent to donation, are to be honored,” said Linda Fraser, R/FLETB executive director. “It is especially poignant that R/FLETB reached this milestone now, as March is National Eye Donor Month,” she adds.

Since 1952, R/FLETB has been providing ocular tissue for transplant, medical education and research. “Approximately 200 people every year in our region need corneal transplants due to disease, injury or infection,” states Fraser. “The only positive alternative for many is a corneal transplant.” Nationally, over 32,000 individuals receive sight-restoring corneal transplants each year.

R/FLETB is a nonprofit agency serving the Finger Lakes, Central and Northern NY regions, as well as north central PA. The agency recovers ocular, musculoskeletal, skin and cardiovascular tissues. R/FLETB is accredited by the Eye Bank Association of America and licensed by New York State.

To find out how you can help give the gift of sight, call R/FLETB at 1-800-568-4321.

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CELEBRATING 53 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY