Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley is committed to enhancing a person’s quality of life by restoring or improving vision through corneal transplantation, medical research and education.
Heartfelt Letters & Quotes
from Cornea Recipients
and Donor Families

Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley is committed to enhancing a person’s quality of life by restoring or improving vision through corneal transplantation, medical research and education.
This book is dedicated to the selfless donor families who make the gift of sight a reality for so many who would otherwise live in darkness. They are truly heroes who define generosity.

May we never forget their altruistic acts of donation.

It is our sincere hope that this collection of heartfelt letters and quotes will serve as a reminder that our mission leaves a legacy of sight for thousands of grateful transplant recipients.
How do you find the words to thank someone for giving your daughter the Gift of Sight? There are not enough thank yous in the world to express our gratitude. We will never be able to take away the immense loss they suffered, but we will thank them every day for the rest of our lives for bringing light to such a dark time.

TARA
Mallory’s Mother

David had the most genuine heart. He was my best friend in the world. He will be missed, but I cherish every moment we spent together.

JOAO DAVID FERRAZ
David’s Father
Dear Donor Family,

Words can't express how eternally grateful I am to you and your loved one for your extremely generous donation. You have given me the most amazing gift, the gift of sight (something that sometimes takes for granted).

Thank you for your gift, I am able to see all the beauty in nature around me, the vibrant colors of our favorite flowers, the beauty of a sunrise or sunset. Run and walk with joy instead of being limited to a wheelchair. I am able to take in all that life has to offer. Thank you for all your support.

Sincerely,

[Recipient's Name]
My daughter Alana is my hero. At the time of her accident, she was just three days away from graduating from Drexel University. Alana had signed up to be an organ donor on her driver’s license, and I remember her discussing it when she learned to drive at 16. I knew that’s what she would’ve wanted. Eyesight is something that can be taken for granted when you have it. But I have learned it is something to be appreciated and treasured. I am so proud of my daughter for her gift to two people who in turn were given a second chance at life and the gift of sight. 

DONNA
Alana’s Mother
Registering as an eye, organ, tissue donor was Rickey’s decision and I couldn’t be more proud. Giving back is Rickey.

DAWN Rickey’s Mother

Rickey restored sight for two individuals in the Delaware Valley

Dear Donor Family,

I cannot thank you and your family member enough for your extremely generous donation. You have given me an amazing gift, the gift of sight. Being able to give all of my beautiful children and grandchildren, the ability to see again and being able to participate in their lives has truly been a wonderful gift to me. I am truly thankful to you and your family — more than any word I will ever know.

The other day I was able to drive my car for the first time in a year and I feel independent again.

Thank you for finding the strength, after losing your loved one, to donate to another life. Your generosity and compassion will remain with me forever.

Most sincerely,
David, Cornea Recipient

Dear Donor Family,

I am so grateful for your love one to receive the gift of sight.

The world has been opened to me in vibrant colors and clear images.

I am so sorry for your loss and the sacrifice made for me. I can’t begin to understand what sorrow all of you have endured.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me back my life. I will forever be indebted for your kindness.

With gratitude,
Emily Recipient of cornea

Dear Donor Family,

I am a pediatric oncology nurse, living and working in New York City. My vision began to suffer in my right eye last year, affecting my daily life, and becoming my only eye. My nurse became my only eye, and I resorted to putting on my glasses every time I needed to see. I am so thankful for your decision and generosity. You have given me an amazing gift, the gift of sight. I was able to ‘see’ all of the beautiful children who I care for, reminding me how thankful I am.

Thank you for finding the strength to give to another. Your generosity is incomparable.

Emily Recipient of cornea
To the soulmate of Jagdish:

When my condition was diagnosed, I was devastated and not quite sure what the next steps were until they told me I was a candidate for cornea transplants. Through the kindness and compassion of others like your soulmate Jagdish this was a possibility for me. I am eternally grateful to him and yourself for making this possible. Thanks to a very humble, intelligent and compassionate person like Jagdish my eyesight has been restored. I truly believe he is walking and seeing with me as I continue through my life. I will always feel his warmth and love as I am the recipient of his cornea transplant.

Very much,
Barbara

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Dear Donor Family,

Words cannot express how grateful I am to you and your loved one for your extremely generous donation. You have given me the most amazing gift, the gift of sight (something we sometimes take for granted).

Thanks to your gift, I am able to see all the beauty of nature around me, the vibrant colors of my favorite flowers, the beauty of a sunrise or sunset, even the tiny gray hairs on my 11-year-old daughter’s chin.

Again, I don’t think you know enough for thanking all of you at the Greater Alliance during a difficult time. Your strength, generosity and compassion have not gone unnoticed. I promise you, I will cherish your loved one’s gift forever.

Sincerely,
Jane, cornea recipient

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I want to write and thank you for the most incredible gift you have given me. It has made my life easier and more enjoyable. I am thankful for the opportunity to see the world with new eyes. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Donor cornea recipient

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Dear Donor Parents and Family,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are healing from your recent surgery. I wanted to reach out to let you know how much you and the incredible person who donated their corneas mean to me.

The decision to donate organs is a difficult one, but knowing that your loved one’s gift will help someone else see the world with new eyes is truly comforting.

Thank you for making this possible.

Sincerely,
[Donor's Name]

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Thank you for your love and support.

[Donor's Name]

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May 20, 2019

[Donor's Name]

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Thank you so much for giving me the gift of vision.

[Donor's Name]

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Thank you for your love and support.

[Donor's Name]

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Thank you for your love and support.

[Donor's Name]

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To the donors and recipients of cornea transplants:

We are grateful for the contributions of those who have donated their corneas to help others see the world with new eyes. The generosity of our donors is truly remarkable.

Sincerely,
Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley
Dear Dave Family,

I am very thankful for your family member. Please know that the surgery you donated to make a huge difference in my life and me and my family are extremely grateful. My left eye had Pate's disease and was extremely painful, like a weed in my eye. Vision was very poor and I could only see shapes at times but everything was always blurry. Much of the time I would keep my left eye closed. Right eye was OK.

I never heard of this disease before this and doctors said a cornea transplant was the only solution. I was not looking forward to the surgery. I now appreciate the surgery was a complete success.

I thank God for kind people like you and the skills of our medical professionals.

Please know that I will pay this wonderful donation forward.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Vicki - Recipient
Thanks to Jake’s donated corneal tissue, two individuals received the gift of sight.

JAKE
Cornea Donor

We all miss Jake a lot… I heard [the recipients’] lives were transformed. It was such an amazing gift.

SHARON
Jake’s Mother
...the generosity of her donors gave her the chance she needed to reach her full potential.
Allen was a character bigger than life itself. He was a very honest man. He was a civil rights advocate in the 1960s. He believed in and practiced tolerance. He became a grandpa, which is something that he wanted desperately for many years. His grandson Benny was born 16 months before Allen passed away.

LEAH
Allen’s Wife

It is just impossible to express our gratitude to someone who would be so thoughtful and willing to help someone in need. It puts us on a path to a new and improved quality of life for our daughter.

BRIAN
Svea’s Father
Hello My Donor Family,

The past two years have been such a wonderful and grateful experience. Your loved-one gave me sight again and that’s one of the greatest things on earth.

I have my license and car now. This is my last year at Newark Charter. Without the help of your loved-one, I wouldn’t be able to have a license, car, complete high school, and go to college.

Sincerely,

Cameron

August 9, 2016

Dear [Donor’s name],

Thank you for your gracious gift of sight. It was truly an act of kindness and thoughtfulness that will resound through time.

I am repeatedly enriched. My left eye was taken out for an extended period of time. I am now able to see with both eyes. I am able to ski, to ski at the Villages Geyser since we went there. I was able to see my mountains in Army Lake as the Grand Tetons. I’ll be able to walk down from Half Dome at Yosemite national Park.

Once again, I am limited only by my own imagination.

I’ve been an active volunteer in my community for a number of years. Now I’ll be making volunteer visits to the mental health patients and introducing those patients to the beauty of our national parks.

So in a way, your gift will enable them to see the glorious parks through your other eyes.

I close, wishing blessings to all in your family.

Most kindly and respectfully,

[Recipient’s name]

Cornea Donor

TIFFANY

August 9, 2016

Dear [Donor’s name],

Thank you for your gracious gift of sight. It was truly an act of kindness and thoughtfulness that will resound through time.

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I close, wishing blessings to all in your family.

Most kindly and respectfully,

[Recipient’s name]

TIFFANY

Cornea Donor

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So in a way, your gift will enable them to see the glorious parks through your other eyes.

I close, wishing blessings to all in your family.

Most kindly and respectfully,

[Recipient’s name]
Dear Donor Family,

I am terribly sorry for your loss. My life has been forever changed because of the generous decision you made in your time of sadness. I suffered an eye infection that left me nearly blind in my right eye, and I am so grateful for you for getting me an eye examination. I am about to graduate high school and go to college. I am very different, thanks to you, I am forever thankful for this gift.

Thank you.

Courte, I'll ve old. Love you.

Karen


On August 5th 2012 I was given the gift of improved sight. I would like to express my gratitude to the donor family.

Alfred

Dear Family,

Thank you for showing your generosity. You have made me feel so happy. However, I am in the process of finding a donor for my eye. I would like to continue to contact you and let you know how great your donation has helped me. I am so happy to be able to see again. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Karen

Dear Family,

I wish to thank my donor for the clearer vision I have enjoyed. This gift has been both life-changing and I cannot be thankful enough.

Sincerely,

Karen

Dear Family,

Thank you for your donation. I have been able to live a normal life because of your generosity. I am so grateful to you.

Sincerely,

Karen

Dear Family,

Thank you for your donation. I am so happy to be able to see again. I would like to continue to contact you and let you know how great your donation has helped me. I am so happy to be able to see again. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Karen

Drew was the middle son of 5 siblings, having an older brother and sister and a younger brother and sister. He was 40 years old. He was single and had no children. He worked as a server in multiple restaurants.

Drew was a kind, gentle, caring and funny guy. He lit up the room when he entered. He made each person feel special when he talked to them.

Drew loved photography and fireworks and hunting. He was especially known for his CAMS. He was also ACRA certified. Drew had two horses, 1 and 2. He would look forward to lessons and would bring his horse on the road with him.

Drew made friends easily and everyone who met him or worked with him loved him. He would go out of his way for anyone and was the good in everyone.

He was always, always, always.

Drew was a very important part of our family and I hope his gift has brought your family happiness and health. That's what Drew would have wanted.

Best wishes from Drew's Dad.

Karen
About Us

Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley (LEBDV), the region’s local nonprofit eye bank, is entrusted with restoring sight and preventing blindness by recovering, processing, and distributing cornea tissue for transplant surgery in our community and around the world.

The work we are privileged to do would not be possible without individuals who choose to create a legacy of sight for others. There is no substitute for human tissue. The transplantation process depends upon the gift of cornea donation from one human to another.

Cornea transplantation is the most common and successful transplant surgery and gives people the chance to live an independent life with restored vision.

Since 1957, LEBDV has helped coordinate nearly 50,000 transplant surgeries in Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

Become involved by visiting www.LEBDV.org or email us at info@lebdv.org. Register to become an eye, organ, and tissue donor yourself today to help someone see tomorrow, visit https://registerme.org/.

Interested in learning more?

Join the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley community!
Visit us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or the LEBDV website:

- www.facebook.com/lebdv
- www.lebdv.org
- @LionsEyeBankDV
- @lionseyebankdelawarevalley
- Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley
  401 North 3rd Street
  Suite 305
  Philadelphia, PA 19123
  215-563-1679

Send a Note

If you would like to write to the recipient of your loved one’s Gift of Sight, please send your letter to the following address:

Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley
Alex Cummings
Community Relations Coordinator
401 N. 3rd Street, Suite 305
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Due to HIPAA confidentiality laws, please do not include any personal information such as name, telephone number or email address in your correspondence. Thank you for your selfless gift of kindness.
Interested in learning more?

Join the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley community!
Visit us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or the LEBDV website:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lebdv
Twitter: @LionsEyeBankDV
Instagram: @lionseyebankdelawarevalley
Website: www.lebdv.org

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