

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LIONS EYE BANK

ANNUAL REPORT

Featuring images from the 2024 Circle of Light Photo Project



Photo by cornea recipient, Patricia Badolato

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*Photo by cornea recipient,
Jan Hepp-Struck*

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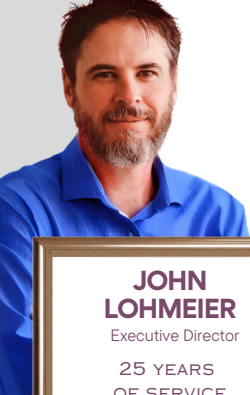
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Photo by cornea recipient, Arthur Gomez



**JOHN
LOHMEIER**

Executive Director

25 YEARS
OF SERVICE

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank (RMLEB), we have adopted a new saying this year that states why we are here, doing what we are doing:

“We exist to restore hope where hope may have been lost.”

Every day, we are carrying out our mission: to fulfill the wishes of eye donors and their families to help another overcome blindness through transplantation and research. Everyone involved in the eye tissue donation process – from the families of those who chose to be an eye donor, to the person whose sight is restored through a corneal transplant, to every staff member (hospital, coroner, hospice, funeral home, donation partner and eye bank employees), to the Lions Clubs who founded and support the eye bank – there is hope that is restored where it may have been lost.

For the family who has just lost a loved one, hope may be restored through their loved one's gift of eye tissue.

For the person receiving a transplant, hope can be restored through their newfound vision and return to a normal life.

For all of the resilient healthcare and professional staff who play a part in each donation, from procurement to transplant and research, hope can be restored in the meaning of their daily work.

For Lions and all those who support the mission and the work of the eye bank, hope is restored through the kindness, generosity, and humanity of our neighbors and the world we live in. Thank You for your part in restoring hope where it may have been lost.

– John



Photo by cornea recipient, Jacob Degoey

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

WHY WE EXIST

We exist to restore hope where hope may have been lost.

MISSION

To fulfill the wishes of eye donors and their families to help another overcome blindness through transplantation and research.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-2024



Lion Mike Bussey

D 6-W
President

PDG Jim Rapp

D-15 At Large
Treasurer

Lion Brian Ballard

D-15 At Large
Director

Lion Bruce Heimbuck

D-15 At Large
Director

Lion Carole Kitchell

D 6-NE
Director

Lion Glenn Stanko

MD-6 At Large
Vice President

PCC Dr. Ron Smith

D-6 SE
Secretary

PDG Joe Rall

MD-6 At Large
Director

Lion Terry Lutts

D 6-C
Director



Photo by cornea recipient, Tammy Kluiber



Photo by cornea recipient, Wanda Steadham

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

MILES DRIVEN BY STAFF

138,961

Colorado

29,432

Wyoming

5,225

Tissues Recovered

2,304

Tissues Placed for Sight-
Restoring Transplants

416

Tissues Placed in
Research/Training

Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank received its three-year accreditation renewal from the Eye Bank Association of America, effective June 6, 2024 through June 30, 2027.

The accreditation is for the following eye bank functions:

Recovery, Processing, Tissue Storage, Final Distribution, Tissue Evaluation, and Donor Eligibility Determination.



Our eye bank technicians frequently speak with family members of those who become eye donors, but it is almost always after the donor has passed away.

Morgan's mom, Leslie, called the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank from her parked car in the hospital parking lot. She was inquiring if her daughter could be an eye tissue donor. While her daughter had not passed away yet, Morgan suffered from over 40 diagnoses that caused terminal illness, and together she and her family were making end-of-life plans.

A FINAL GIFT WITH LASTING IMPACT: REMEMBERING MORGAN VICKERS

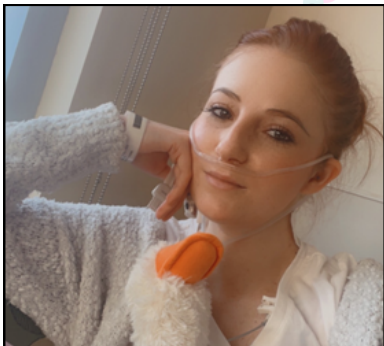


Morgan was only 28 years old when she passed away a few days before Christmas 2023 - but her final gifts will leave a legacy. She was able to help restore sight for two people in Asia.

ABOUT MORGAN

Morgan was an avid online fashion blogger, Taylor Swift fan, and advocate for her own physical health - fighting numerous life-threatening illnesses since the age of 10. Overcoming one obstacle after another, and navigating her health challenges through the pandemic, she graduated with a bachelor's degree in healthcare administration from Colorado State University.

Morgan cared deeply for others; when she couldn't attend the Taylor Swift concert during one of her hospital stays, she raffled off her ticket to the nurses who cared for her. She had a knack for bringing people together with her effervescent personality. Morgan will be remembered by her family and friends, and by every healthcare worker she encountered during her countless hours in multiple hospitals.



CIRCLE OF LIGHT PHOTO PROJECT

corneas.org/COLPP-Exhibits

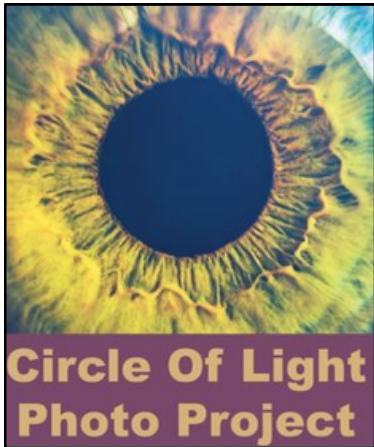


Photo by cornea recipient, Dean Allman

The Circle of Light Photo Project this year included travelling exhibits which were on display through Colorado and Wyoming.

COLORADO

Banner North Colorado Medical Center
CommonSpirit - St. Elizabeth Hospital
Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute
Heginbotham Library
Koelbel Library

WYOMING

Banner Wyoming Medical Center
Crook County Library
Moorcroft Branch Library
Natrona County Library
Cody Library
Laramie County Library Systems
Lincoln County Library
Hulett Branch Library



Due to its popularity and requests to host displays, the current exhibit has been extended through 2025.

Estimated number of people who saw the exhibit, May-July 2024:

15,900

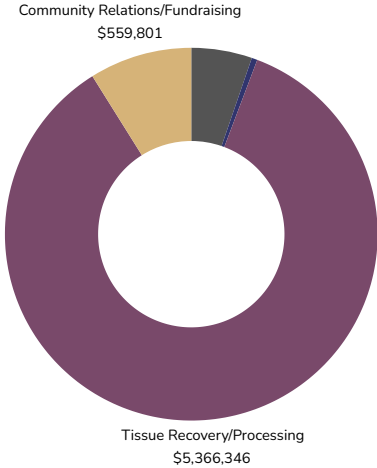


Photo by cornea recipient, Jim Rook

FINANCIALS

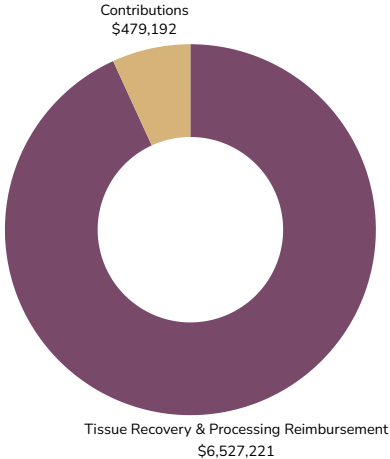
Expenses

Administration	\$331,136
Grants	\$31,115
Tissue Recovery/Processing	\$5,366,346
Community Relations/Fundraising.....	\$559,801
Total Expenses	\$6,288,398



Revenue

Tissue Recovery & Processing Reimbursement.....	\$6,527,221
Contributions	\$479,192
Total Operations Revenue	\$7,006,413
Net Investments	\$1,217,040



2023-2024 CONTRIBUTORS*

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous
Brian & Twila Ballard
Delores Barger
Nancy & William Berg
Peter Bock
Charles Booms
Teresa Bratton
James Briggs
Mary Brown
Mike & Beverly Bussey
William & Karen Call
Marilyn Carlimo
Rene Crothers
E.E. Dickson
Barbara Dittmar
James Dolan
Wesley & Marcia Dorman
Eric Duprey
Gregory Dyekman
Gary & Wendi Ekborg
Charles & Barbara Feit
Patricia & Darrel Fenton
Leonard Nelson & Laura Gordon
David & Susan Gray
Shauna Atkins & Pamela Greager
Dan Griffin
Julia Hartman
Bruce & Gail Heimback
Bill & Virginia Hippe
Robert & Marjorie Hollembeak
John & Kimberlee Horst
John Howard
Lynn & Connie Jacobs
Basil Katsaros

Peter Keppler
Kyle & Anita Kilbey
Ted Kimmes
Carole Kitchell
Edwin Krebs
Richard Krebs
Juergen & Colette Lavery
Bruce & Eileen Leland
John Lohmeier
Gary Lussenhop
Diane Maurer
Mary Maynarich
Jeffrey Milheiser
Barry Miller
Burrell Mitchell
Richard Nelson
Gary & Brenda Nesbitt
David Newman
Caroline O'Neill-Hierath
Max and Sharon Ortiz
David Parker
Theodore Peterson
Ted Peterson
Joe & Brenda Rall
James & Leslea Rapp
William Rathburn
Mary Lou Ray
Wilma Reed
Zoe Reese
Karen Rodriguez
Don Rosenbock
Reginald Sanderson
Vira & Uraiwan Sawatdi
Douglas Schiel



*Photo by cornea recipient,
Kelly Tamblyn*

Alice Schneider
Donald Schuster
Barbara Seemiller
Nicholas Seemiller
Sandeep Shanmugam
Ronald Smith
Kathleen Speechley
Glenn & Kathy Stanko
Robert Storrs
Michael Taravella
Ron Taylor
Gordon and Donna Thorne
Jenn Venerable
Donald Weinmeister
Kathy Westover
James White
Bob Wyman
Dick & Carolyn Wynes
Tobey & Susan Yadon

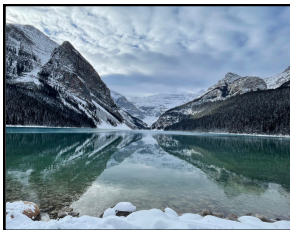
LIONS CLUBS

Adams Centennial Lions Club
Big Horn Lions Club
Byron Lions Club
Calhan Lions Club
Canon City Noon Lions Club
Centennial Airport Lions Club
Cheyenne Sunrise Lions Club
Collbran Lions Club
Colorado City - Rye Lions Club
Colorado Lions Foundation
Bingo
Delta Lions Club
Denver Five Points Lions Club
El Paso County Tri-Lakes
Lions Club
Englewood Lions Foundation
Fort Collins Lions Foundation
Fort Lupton Lions Club
Fraser River Valley Lions Club
Fruita Lions Club
Glenrock Lions Club
Golden Lions Club
Guernsey Lions Club
Holyoke Lions Club
Jackson Hole Lions Club
Julesburg Lions Club Fund
Kersey Lions Club
Lafayette Lions Club
Laramie Plains Lions Club
Lions of Wyoming Foundation
Littleton Lions Foundation
Longmont - Columbine
Lions Club
Louisville Lions Club
Loveland Lions Club
Lyons Lions Club
Montrose Lions Club
Mountain Lions Club of
Red Feather Lakes

Nederland Lions Club
Orchard Mesa Lions Club
Pueblo Charter Lions Club
Redlands Lions Club
Riverton Lions Club
Rock Star Lions
Sheridan Sundowners
Lions Club
Wheatland Lions Club
Woodland Park Pikes Peak
Lions Club
Woodlin Lions Club

ORGANIZATIONS

Colorado Gives Foundation
Denver Metro Chamber
Leadership Foundation
Give Lively Foundation
Guinn Charitable Trust
Hughes Charitable
Foundation
Jacobson Giving Fund
Mile High United Way
Robert C. Dickinson
Rev. Trust



2023-2024 CONTRIBUTORS

IN HONOR

Donor Families: Donna Garner

Dr. Amiel: Keith Bentzen

Ruby Cooper: Glenn Stanko

IN MEMORIAM

Gary A Zimmerman:

Susan Zimmerman

Jeannie Collopy Bach:

Diane Collopy

Ronald E Hood:

Bev Hood

PDG Lucille Burton:

Barbara Guest

Jacy Hoagland:

Daniel and Bernadette Spinuzzi

Steven Baskin:

Baskin Estate

Charles Parsley:

Louis Aldred

Jim Paronto:

Jack & Kris Arney

John Winn:

Michelle Winn

Shaun Peter Cassidy:

Colleen Countryman

Past Ft. Lupton Lions

Club Members: David Furusho

***Contributions processed and
received between July 1, 2023
and June 30, 2024**

*Photo by cornea recipient,
Dana Henderson*



Share the circle of light

1675 Aurora Court
Mail Stop F751
Aurora, CO 80045

CONNECT
WITH US

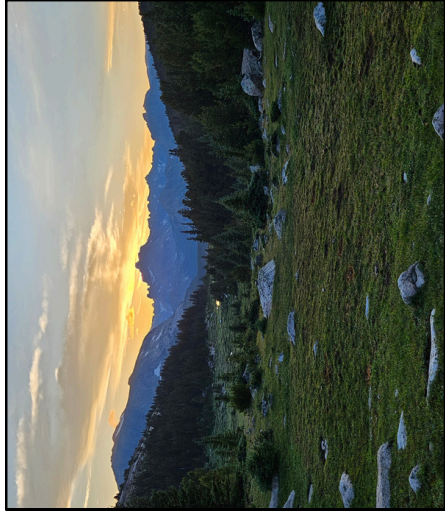


Photo by cornea recipient, Bill Fehringer