A cure exists now for the 10 million people in this world who are corneal blind.
CONTENTS

1  To Our Donors and Their Families
2  Overview
3  The Move
4  The Restructure
5  Financial Position
6  New Partnerships
7  Record Recoveries
8  Countries Served
10 Thank You 2008 Contributors
14 On to California
15 Pioneering Transplant Technology
16 Mother-To-Be Thanks Cornea Donor
17 Working Locally
21 Thank You, Directors/Trustees
To Our Donors and Their Families

Thank you.

No report on our year at SightLife can start any other way than with this appreciation. Your decision to donate cornea tissue at the end of life brought joy and wonder to others. You are the heroes who make restored sight possible. And you are testament to humanity at its best. We are humbled and honored to act as caretakers for your extraordinary gift.

Eleven-year-old Dakota saw the red heart on his mother’s driver’s license and asked what it meant. His mother explained that she was an organ donor. “WOW! That is so cool mom,” he told her. “I want to be an organ donor too!”

One week later Dakota died in a tragic gun accident. The boy with the big laugh, the flaming red hair and the passion for snakes and bugs made his gift way before the world wanted or expected.

“I know that he is in heaven and very glad that he could help someone see,” says his mother Tanya in a letter to his cornea recipient. “He would help anyone who needed it, hold doors for anyone he could, and was the most compassionate child you could ask for. May your new gift of eyesight be seen and felt with the same enthusiasm and love that Dakota had.”

Through cornea and tissue donation, Dakota restored sight to two people, including a one-year-old child.
Overview

Cornea blindness is curable. Here in the United States cornea transplants that restore sight are 90% successful and available to virtually all who need them. While recipients never forget the kindness of their cornea donor, as a society we tend to take availability for granted. Cornea transplants are the expected saving beacon at the end of the tunnel.

For 10 million people in developing nations, there is no beacon. The tunnel that starts with corneal blindness leads straight to personal tragedy. Fifty percent of the 500,000 children who become blind each year in developing nations will die in 1 – 2 years. For many more millions of adults, corneal blindness means life as a street beggar.

This does not need to be. Eye banks like ours can exist in developing countries. Just like here, they can recover and supply the donor tissue that makes transplants possible for all who need them. A few shining examples like Ramayamma International Eye Bank in Hyderabad, India provide both inspiration and the model for success. With collective effort from those of us in a position to help, we can establish more. This goal drove our efforts at SightLife in 2008. Milestones passed along the way are notable as building blocks that move us closer to that goal.

2008 Milestones

Move to larger office space at Alley 24
Organizational Restructure
Recovery Agreement with Northwest Tissue Services and LifeCenter Northwest
NEW RECORD! 3,261 corneas placed for restored sight.
The Move

With much celebration, we moved in May into a new office with nearly twice as much space as the old location. As we seek partnerships to expand our sight mission, our new location in Seattle’s South Lake Union district also lets us rub elbows with an exciting mix of health technology companies and global health organizations—exactly the people with whom we share common goals.

Here are some other advantages of the new location:

• 1,400 sq. feet for our eye bank laboratory and femtosecond laser tissue cutting center, more than twice the area we had before for these crucial operations.

• The entire office space is all on one floor. We had spilled over onto a second floor at the old location, with some key managers separated from the activity hub that surrounds our eye bank laboratory.

• We are still located within a mile of the three major cornea surgery centers we work with in Seattle.

• The Alley 24 building where we are now housed is a green-certified facility that conserves power and minimizes waste.

• With 14,000 square feet of office space compared with 8,000 square feet before the move, our 57 employees headquartered in Seattle* now have sufficient room to accomplish their jobs efficiently. With 10 employees added throughout 2008, and accelerated growth in progress now, this move came just in time!

* Including Spokane and Montana offices, total employee count is 78.

We celebrated our move to new office space with a grand opening on May 30. From left, Bruce Blume, SightLife Director Ann Blume, Seattle City Council member Sally Clark, SightLife Medical Director Paul Dubord, MD, and SightLife President and CEO Monty Montoya.
On November 21, 2008, the Board of Trustees for the Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight & Hearing unanimously passed a resolution to change its organizational structure. The vote culminated several years of discussion and numerous Board meetings focused on how to implement change that will accomplish four goals:

- Create an environment that promotes continued growth for SightLife;
- Ensure continuous funding for regional Lions community programs through growth of an endowment fund and through SightLife;
- Keep SightLife and the Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight & Hearing aligned together in both board structure and public perception;
- Allow SightLife Directors to focus solely on eye bank directives, including fundraising to establish eye banks in developing countries.
Financial Position 2008

Revenue gains/other support
$10.638 Million for 2008 Calendar Year

- Eye Bank Operations: $8.385 Million (78.8%)
- AUDIENT: $570,000 (5.4%)
- Foundation: $422,000 (4%)
- Endowment: $737,000 (6.9%)
- Other Gifts & Contr.: $524,000 (4.9%)

Statement of Expenses
$10.717 Million for 2008 Calendar Year

- Eye Bank Operations: $7.413 Million (69.2%)
- AUDIENT: $853,000 (8.0%)
- Foundation: $945,000 (8.8%)
- General & Administration: $293,000 (2.7%)
- Fundraising: $711,000 (6.6%)
- Investments/Other: $500,000 (4.7%)
New Partnerships
Progress for NW eye banking...AND large tissue recoveries

A breakthrough partnership agreement in 2008 with sister not-for-profit Northwest Tissue Services made life and service easier for all involved in tissue recoveries—donor families, hospitals, SightLife, and our new partner.

This agreement for SightLife to perform donor consents for Northwest Tissue Services is unprecedented in the tissue recovery world. It gives SightLife responsibility for obtaining/verifying consent for large tissue donation (e.g., bone, skin, heart valves).

Here’s how this agreement streamlines the tissue donation process:

- Hospitals and funeral homes now only need to make one call with death notifications instead of calling both organizations. This saves them time and is an improvement in service.

- Tissue donor families are happy. Before these agreements, families often got calls from both recovery organizations during the difficult time around the death of a loved one. Now they get one call from SightLife to coordinate all details of their loved one’s wishes to donate sight and/or large tissue.

- Northwest Tissue Services is happy. It can now concentrate more resources on doing actual recoveries and less on obtaining consents and record keeping.

In September, two months after this agreement took effect, Northwest Tissue Services set a new record for tissue recoveries.

Montana breakthrough too

Wonderful news! In December of 2008, SightLife signed a contract to do cornea tissue recoveries at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Billings, Montana.

St. Vincent’s is one of the largest hospitals in Montana. For many years, it was also the only hospital from among the more than 50 in the state where SightLife did not perform recoveries.
Serving the Pacific Northwest and beyond

There is never a wait for any individual who needs a cornea transplant in SightLife’s primary service areas of Washington, Alaska, Northern Idaho, Montana, and Northern California. After meeting 100 percent of the need in our own region, SightLife works with Vision Share to fill need in other parts of the United States. We also exported cornea tissue to 32 countries in 2008. Since inception, our eye bank has provided restored sight to more than 42,000 individuals in 58 different countries (see map on pages 8 – 9 for details).

Record Recoveries
mean restored sight for hundreds more

Through the generosity of donors and donor families in our service recovery area, we were privileged to act as caretakers for restored sight to 3,261 men, women, and children in 2008—459 more than the year before.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNEAS PLACED</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>241</td>
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<td>FEB</td>
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<td>APRIL</td>
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<td>MAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
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<td>JULY</td>
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<td>AUG</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>2,801</td>
<td>3,261</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The numbers say that’s 16% growth. We also sent corneas to 32 countries in 2008, seven more than in 2007. But transformed lives tell this story better than numbers.

With recovered cornea tissue in severe shortage, the estimated 7 to 10 million people on waiting lists throughout the world tell the sad side of the story. Each of them has faces and sights they’d dearly love to see. Every person who got their sight back in 2008 tells the joyful side. The words below are excerpts from three thank you letters to donor families. Each comes from a recipient who was among those last 459 people to receive cornea tissue from SightLife in 2008:

• **from an elderly woman in Washington State.** “I live within sight of the mountains, and can see them again since the transplant. Thank you for this wonderful gift of nature.”

• **from a woman in California** still grieving for a son lost during active duty in the Navy. “For the last two years I have been mostly walking around in a fog, both literally and figuratively. The transplant has been a success and now I can see. I owe this to the last generous act of your loved one. Some people really do leave this world on their way to the next better than they found it. Thank you. Thank you so much.”

• **from a young man in Japan.** “I had a cornea disease from birth but did not want surgery. I still remember how scared I was. Now I am seeing increasingly clearer, and am filled with joy and overwhelmed with gratitude to the donor who provided the cornea. From now on I want to see many things with these eyes. Thank you so very much!!!”

Three stories of joy and wonder at donors’ kindness; 3,258 more from 2008 to tell. Each is THE story at SightLife…and the motivation for continued growth.

Thank you SightLife Staff

Record achievement takes uncommon effort. And you managed it all even through the distraction of a major move into new office space.

Thank you SightLife staff for your dedication and professionalism in delivering your very best, day after day, in the busiest of years.

Serving the Pacific Northwest and beyond
On to California
A bridge to restored sight for more in need

CORNEAS recovered in 2007 for sight-restoring transplants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recovery Area</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASHINGTON STATE</td>
<td>2,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. CALIFORNIA*</td>
<td>505</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Greater Bay area (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Solano, and Sonoma Counties)

In December of 2008, SightLife signed an agreement to do cornea recoveries and provide tissue for transplants at 21 Kaiser Permanente hospitals that serve Northern California’s Bay area.

This is a big step forward for both organizations! To put it in perspective for SightLife, the 21 hospitals operated by Northern Kaiser serve a population of 7.2 million. This is slightly larger than the total population of Washington State. The year 2007 provides the most recent comparable statistics on corneas recovered in these two areas of nearly equal population (see chart at left).

We are now working with multiple tissue recovery organizations in Northern California to increase donation rates in the region. With a worldwide cornea shortage estimated at 7 to 10 million, this is an exciting chance to restore sight to more people in need.

At Northern Kaiser Permanente, this new agreement with SightLife gives corneal surgeons faster access to the high-quality corneal transplant tissue they need to achieve best results for their patients. This relationship has also created opportunity for a far greater number of Kaiser members to participate in the gift of sight as eye tissue donors. In addition, introduction of SightLife’s extensive post-donation support services to the Bay area has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from donor families.

In another win for both parties in this agreement, SightLife is proud to welcome Douglas Holsclaw, MD, as our newest Associate Medical Director. We look forward to working with Dr. Holsclaw and the team at Kaiser Permanente to serve Northern California well.
**Pioneer Technology**

500+ cornea tissue placements prepared with femtosecond laser

**Patient outcomes show faster healing and less astigmatism**

About four years ago, SightLife decided to go where no eye bank had gone before to adapt the same laser technology used for popular LASIK surgeries for use in cornea transplants.

Eighteen months of clinical testing followed as SightLife and the manufacturer of the femtosecond laser machine teamed up to develop the breakthrough methodology used today for this procedure.

In October 2006, a surgeon in California performed the first IntraLase Enabled Keratoplasty (IEK) with tissue cut by the femtosecond laser at SightLife’s laboratory. The patient—an 87-year-old male—was able to see with 20/70 vision one day after the surgery. This compares with a normal recovery time of approximately six months to get to this point after cornea transplant surgery done the traditional way.

As indications of faster recovery and less astigmatism continue with IEK patients, more surgeons are purchasing the laser technology necessary to use this procedure. In 2007, SightLife placed 164 laser-cut cornea buttons for transplant surgeries. Last year that number jumped to 260, a 59 percent increase over the year before. Late in 2008, we passed the 500 mark in laser-cut corneas placed for transplant.

We look forward to working with an expanding number of surgeons to realize the potential of this exciting new technology.

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**Zigzag shape cut with femtosecond laser**

1. SightLife uses femtosecond laser to cut donor tissue button to surgeon’s exact specifications.
2. Surgeon also uses femtosecond laser to prepare recipient cornea to matching shape.
3. Angles notch together for secure fit that can require looser sutures than traditional surgery.

**Result** Smoother cornea surface promotes faster healing and dramatically reduced chance of post-surgery astigmatism.
No one was ever blessed with a more special and heartwarming Christmas gift than the one I received from my cornea tissue donor.

After waiting for more than a year to reduce the risk of rejection from an amoeba-like infection that took my sight, I finally received my cornea transplant on December 10, 2008. When my eye patch was removed the next day I slowly opened my eye, a bit afraid of what I was going to see, and saw my mother smiling at me. I was astonished by how clearly I could see her! I shouted, “I can see you!” and we began to cry tears of joy in the doctor’s office. It was truly a wonderful moment that my mother and I will remember for the rest of our lives.

That day I was able to see 20/70. I can see 20/40 now, which is absolutely amazing! My family and I are tremendously grateful for my donor’s cornea. Not a day goes by that I don’t thank my donor for their gift of sight and pray for my donor and my donor's family.

Because of my donor, I can go on living my life as a normal 25-year-old woman. The toxic drops and cornea scrapings used to eradicate my infection left my right eye a lifeless pale blue that made me feel ashamed and ugly. Now the eye is back to the same beautiful blue that I had received compliments on all of my life. I can look at people in their eyes when we talk and not have to worry about them staring at my eye. I feel happy and pretty again!

Early this year, my husband and I learned that we are going to have a baby—our first. The due date is early August. Knowing that I will be able to see my baby’s beautiful face when she is born, watch her take her first steps, and witness all of the other milestones mothers are blessed to see brings tears to my eyes. I can’t wait until the day when I get to tell my daughter about the best Christmas gift her mother ever received and how her mother holds and will always hold a special place in her heart for her donor and her donor’s family.

From the bottom of my heart,
Thank you.
Working Locally

Foundation reaches into communities with a Lions helping hand

SightLife enjoys a rich heritage in the service of sight restoration and hearing care. Lions volunteers founded our organization in 1969 for the purpose of establishing an eye bank in the Pacific Northwest.

In 1998 the Lions Sight Conservation Foundation and the Lions Hearing Foundation merged to save administrative costs. Our new name became the Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation of Washington and Northern Idaho. When the eye bank added Montana to its service area in 2001 the name changed again—this time to Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight & Hearing.

In 2008 we became SightLife. This change reflects the reality that our eye bank is now international in scope with community support from Lions and non-Lions alike. The Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight & Hearing is alive and well, operating under the SightLife umbrella.

Through all the changes, Lions remain as the heart and soul of our organization. This is particularly evident in the community programs of the Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight & Hearing.

The Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight & Hearing is alive and well, operating under the SightLife umbrella.
Lions Patient Care

More than 200 Lions Clubs throughout the Pacific Northwest are the eyes and ears of this program. They find the men, women, and children who need our help from among their neighbors in the communities they serve.

In 2008, the Foundation and Clubs provided $183,000 in Patient Care Grants to pay for care that restored sight or hearing or helped those with losses that can never be restored keep or regain their independence. Eighth grade student Brian Saborboro of Renton, WA, was one of the individuals whom it was our privilege to help.

Brian irretrievably lost his sight six years ago when a condition called hydrocephalus badly damaged his optic nerves. Impressed with how hard Brian worked to remain a strong student, area Clubs and the Foundation purchased a BrailleNote personal assistant for him back then. When the machine finally wore out last year, Clubs and the Foundation partnered again to replace it with a new $6,000 machine. Brian uses it for all his schoolwork and is highly impressed with the new machine’s improved storage capacity.

And we continue to hear from friends we have helped in the past.

Dave Carlin e-mailed to report that he loves his new job at the Washington State Liquor Control Board. He also loves finally being free from intense headaches and chronic stomach pain from painkillers. No more Vicodin, thanks to the bone anchored hearing aid we provided last fall to replace headgear that had to be so tight it wore into his skull.

Gertrude Matthews sent thanks from her assisted living facility for the artificial cornea that restored her sight. Now when foster children come to visit—she cared for more than 100 over 40 years—she can see their faces and those smiles that “let in the sunshine. I appreciate what the Lions did for me so much,” says Gertrude.

It was our privilege to help, Gertrude. May your eyes light up many times in the years ahead at the sight of much-loved familiar faces.

“I think I’d rather lose any part of my body than my eyes. I appreciate what the Lions did for me so much!”

– Gertrude Matthews, artificial cornea recipient, Lions Patient Care
**Lions Health Screening Unit**

The Lions Health Screening Unit screened 29,366 schoolchildren in 2008 for vision and hearing problems. Incredibly, about 15% were found to have problems that were reported to school nurses for follow-up.

Without early detection—especially for the youngest grades—these problems cause classroom difficulties that push kids down. First, they get behind their classmates in school and struggle to catch up. Far too often they can’t and face economic disadvantage later in life. The Lions Health Screening Unit is an escape hatch from this trap.

The Lions Health Screening Unit also screened 3,167 adults at county fairs and other festivals in 2008 and helped to save lives by detecting these serious health problems in time for doctors to treat them:

- 206 adults had very high blood sugar levels, a symptom of the ravaging disease diabetes;
- 785 adults were warned about their high blood pressure, which can lead to stroke;
- 156 were alerted to signs of glaucoma, which steals sight if left untreated.

Our supporters make it possible for us to continue offering this invaluable service. Thank you to all who help us keep the wheels rolling.

**Northwest Lions Endowment**

The Northwest Lions Endowment fund achieved a milestone of its own in December 2008 with a generous bequest of $702,000 from Wilberita L. “Roberta” Morris. This is the largest bequest in the history of our organization.

Four other individuals/couples also made recent bequests. This highly-appreciated and vital support coincides with a new emphasis at the Foundation on providing information useful to Lions who need to create wills or ensure that existing wills remain up-to-date.

Newly-appointed Vice President of Planned Giving Robert Vatter has established a library of brochures, booklets and other useful bequest materials. Robert has also built relationships with a network of trusted estate planning experts who are available to meet with individuals and families who desire professional advice. These professionals are located throughout the Pacific Northwest.

For more information on bequests and the Northwest Lions Endowment call Robert at 1-800-847-5786 or e-mail him at rob@nlfoundation.org.
Dear Northwest Lions Foundation,

With the help of the Wilbur Lions Club, you provided my nephew Cody Luiten with hearing aids. He received his hearing aids just before his 3rd birthday. Now over a year later he is attending preschool and speech therapy. His communication skills are just blossoming. They believe he will be able to start kindergarten next year with his classmates. I can not say enough good things about the Foundation. I tell everyone what you have done. Cody’s world has opened up with your help.

I want to tell you one of many stories I have of Cody. While he and I were walking across the gravel on the farm, Cody started watching his feet...he was hearing the crunch of the gravel for the first time.

Thanks for all you do,
Brenda Bodeau

Lions Hearing Aid Bank

The Lions Hearing Aid Bank set a new record in 2008 by providing 458 free hearing aids to patients who otherwise could not have afforded them.

The previous record of 426 aids came in 2007. An aging population contributes to increased need for this Lions service, but a surprising number of kids need aids, too.

As with Lions Patient Care, our Foundation and Lions Clubs share in the cost of providing these aids to people in need in their communities.

Since its inception, the Lions Hearing Aid Bank has provided aids for more than 3,000 individuals, mostly in sets of two. These donated aids are recalibrated and recased to fit the individual needs of each recipient. The quality is excellent, and for people on restricted incomes, this help is often the only real option. Most insurance does not cover hearing aids, which generally cost about $1,600 per ear for aids of acceptable quality.

Based on these realities, the Lions Hearing Aid Bank has provided charitable support valued at more than $9.6 million to hard-of-hearing individuals in the Pacific Northwest.

754 discounted hearing aids placed through AUDIENT

A 10% increase in revenue in 2008 to $570,000 shows that AUDIENT continues to emerge as a great option for families with some ability to pay for high-quality digital hearing aids but who can not afford the market price of $1,600+ per aid.

Established in 2005, AUDIENT serves qualifying seniors and working class families who are caught in between. Their incomes are too high to qualify for the limited number of free hearing aids available through programs like the Lions Hearing Aid Bank, but they need help to pay for hearing aids and hearing care that have increased in cost by 65% over the last 10 years.

Deborah Davis found us on the internet after exhausting every other avenue in her search for good hearing aids that the Davises could afford for their two girls. Says Deborah, “There was no one for the middle class that could help us except for AUDIENT, so I’m very thankful that it exists.”

Sisters Sydney and Maycee Davis (Tri-Cities) received hearing aids through the AUDIENT network.
Thank You to Our Trustees & Directors

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