Every year Dakota Lions Sight & Health dedicates significant time and resources to a wide variety of community outreach efforts. These efforts help improve public awareness and increase the number of people who make donations that save lives.

Much of our outreach efforts is focused on education for the medical community and the general public. By sharing information and providing insights about corneal transplantation and tissue donation, we help ensure that those who have had a cornea transplant or a cornea donor have a positive impact on so many lives within our communities.

In 2019, our educational outreach positively impacted thousands within our local communities. Our programs included:

- **Service Groups:** Our staff conducted informative presentations to over 50 organizations such as Lions Clubs International, Rotary Clubs and many others across South Dakota and North Dakota. These presentations build support for eye and tissue donation as well as encourage financial support that allows us to better serve our communities.

- **Driver Education Classes:** This year we met with over 2,000 students in driver education classes. We take these opportunities to explain why eye and tissue donation is so important and how those who support these donations have an impact on others.

- **Community Presentations:** We have always had opportunities to provide the gift of sight and health for everyone in need in our communities and beyond.

- **Public Schools:** We have never been too early to learn about the importance of eye and tissue donation. This is why we take the time to speak to middle school and high school anatomy classes throughout our area. Often we bring appropriate samples and equipment to engage these students in learning more about what we do and the value of donation.

- **Physician Education:** It is vital for our organization to have close ties to our local medical community. One way we do this is by meeting with surgeons to share the latest medical advancements. In transplant procedures, we also take these opportunities to gain insights on the needs and challenges that will allow the doctors to better perform their jobs.

- **Medical Students/Emergency Service Personnel:** Dakota Lions Sight & Health offers invaluable hands-on experience for many in our local medical communities. Often our programs provide first responders and future physicians the best opportunities to practice the skills they’ll need in the future in the most realistic way possible. This hands-on focused outreach events truly makes a significant difference in so many lives within our communities.

   - **Hospital Staffs:** Nurses and hospital employees are truly on the frontline of patient care. We work closely with these dedicated professionals to ensure they completely understand the tissue donation process and how to help families through the difficult time of decision. We also educate them on the latest medical trends and technology as it relates to donation. Many of our classes allow attendees to qualify for Continuing Medical Education credits.

   - **Funeral Directors:** Like us, funeral directors are committed to supporting the families they serve. Our educational efforts in this field are designed to help our organization and others work closely to ensure donor families’ needs are always attended to throughout this difficult time.

   - **Additional Efforts:** In 2019, we hosted three Donor Tribute Events in Fargo, ND, Sioux Falls, SD, and Rapid City, SD. These heartfelt gatherings honor the selfless gifts of hundreds of donors and their families. These tearful gatherings also provide the opportunity for donor families to meet in person.

   - **Clinical Partners:** One of the best opportunities our organization has is by meeting with surgeons to share the latest medical advancements.

   - **Supporting Donor Families:** While much of our outreach efforts are focused in our local area, many of our staff members are also active at the national level through committee involvement and national conferences to ensure our industry remains progressive and best serves the needs of all involved.

None of these important functions could be possible without our dedicated staff, generous volunteers and the support of our local communities. It truly takes a community to make possible the restoration of sight.

- **Database Services:** Our database services are designed to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information available in the cornea donation field. Our database is hosted on the web and provides access to critical information about corneal donors.

   - **Rehabilitation:** Our rehabilitation services are designed to provide the best opportunities for our patients to achieve the best possible outcomes.

   - **Community Outreach:** Dakota Lions Sight & Health is also active in our outreach efforts in many other ways. A large part of our focus is on supporting donor families through bereavement support, providing information and hosting donor events.

   - **Donor Family Care:** In 2019 we hosted three Donor Tribute Events in Fargo, ND, Sioux Falls, SD, and Rapid City, SD. These heartfelt gatherings honor the selfless gifts of hundreds of donors and their families. These tearful gatherings also provide the opportunity for donor families to meet in person. While much of our outreach efforts are focused in our local area, many of our staff members are also active at the national level through committee involvement and national conferences to ensure our industry remains progressive and best serves the needs of all involved.

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By the Numbers

- **Number of Hospital & Clinical Partners:** 162
- **Number of Hospital & Clinical Partners:** 127 million people
- **Worldwide Donor_base:** 1.62 billion people
- **Success rate of cornea transplants:** 95-99%
- **Business rate of cornea transplants:** $84,276
- **Total fundraising:** $84,276
- **807 TOTAL Donors
- **882 CORNEA TRANSPLANTS
- **11 family members have the potential to help save lives.**

Thanks to the support of so many we were able to see the incredibly positive impact the gift of sight & health has throughout all our communities.
Financial cornea blindness and disabling injuries. DLSH is thankful that we are able to do the work we do today because of the generosity of donors and our members.

The future we see as we look ahead is brighter than ever. Our task is not always easy each day, as our dedicated families, donors, recipients and our donation partners. Together we are dedicated to fulfilling the mission of our organization.

We recognize that our success continues to come from the generosity of our members and donors, and we are thankful for their continued support of our partners.

Thank you.

Financial Highlights

Total Income: $3,708,549

Revenue

Eye Bank $1,954,602  53%

Admin $546,981  16%

Total Income: $3,708,549

Program Expenses $2,977,028

Expenses

Fundraising  $84,276

Revenue increased number of donors and transplants performed, and supported our mission. In it, our dedicated staff members work diligently to improve quality, build relationships that support in donor families, donors, recipients and our donation partners.

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