ANNUAL REPORT
FY 2021

1991 – 2021
CELEBRATING
30 YEARS
IN THE CRUSADE AGAINST DARKNESS

Dakota Lions Sight & Health
Eye and Tissue Donation

FOUNDED IN 1991
dakotasight.org
This year, our organization celebrates our 30th anniversary. Over the past 30 years we’ve helped to restore sight and health to tens of thousands of individuals through eye and tissue donation. We’ve cultivated strong partnerships, opened offices in multiple cities, employed dozens of dedicated staff, and honored the donors and their families.

However, while the organization as it exists today celebrates 30 years, we would not be here today if it were not for the foundation that was built by several individuals nearly 6 decades ago.

In 1966, with support from Lions Club members in South Dakota, the Sight & Service Foundation (who built the state’s first school for the blind) launched an initiative to start an eye donation program. This early program utilized hospitals, physicians, and even the highway patrol, to recover and transport corneas donated in South Dakota to surgeons in Minnesota and Nebraska.

This arrangement worked for many years until the need for cornea tissue in South Dakota exceeded the capabilities of the volunteers. By 1990, a task force was developed to work towards establishing a fully functioning eye bank in South Dakota that would be governed by the Lions of South Dakota. Through this task force and support from the community, startup funds were raised and on February 14, 1991, the South Dakota Lions Eye Bank officially opened.

Since the startup and founding of our organization, we’ve grown into a multi-state organization serving the region through excellence in our programs. We’ve employed state-of-the-art equipment and techniques to improve transplant outcomes. We’ve expanded our donation options to include the first birth tissue donation program in the upper Midwest. We’ve done all of this with one goal in mind: fulfilling our Mission of Helping to Enable the Restoration of the Gifts of Sight & Health.

To all who have supported this organization over the years – thank you!

Here’s to another 30 years!

Marcy Dimond, CEBT, CTBS
Chief Executive Officer

**Medical Directors**

**Medical Director for Ocular Tissue**
John Berdahl, MD

**Medical Director for Ocular Tissue**
Michael Eide, MD

**Medical Director of Non-Ocular Tissue & Research**
Michael Bauer, MD

**Associate Medical Director for Ocular Tissue**
Michael Greenwood, MD

**Financial Summary**

**Support and revenue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>$3,929,366</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>$139,045</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions/Fundraising</td>
<td>$66,681</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,135,092</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lab/Program Expenses</td>
<td>$3,238,564</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>$517,031</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
<td>$6,910</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,762,505</strong></td>
<td></td>
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**Increase to Net Assets** $372,587

**Revenue**

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Since its founding 30 years ago, Dakota Lions Sight & Health (DLSH) has remained dedicated to restoring sight and health through excellence in eye and tissue donation throughout the region. What was once a small volunteer organization has grown into a large professional organization, serving a multi-state region, and helping to restore sight and health worldwide.

Today, Dakota Lions Sight & Health recovers a variety of tissues from selfless donors and provides those tissues to transplant surgeons for restoring sight and health and also to researchers for the advancement of medical science. The service area encompasses the states of South Dakota and North Dakota, along with northern Nebraska and western Minnesota.

In addition to preparing tissue for transplantation, Dakota Lions Sight & Health also serves the region through a compassionate donor family bereavement program as well as providing education and training to medical professionals. The organization has gained a positive reputation for its training program, including providing CEU credits for nurses, social workers, and first responders.

In the mid-1960s, a task force comprised of Lions Club members was formed to start an eye bank in South Dakota with the support of Lions Clubs International. At the time, eye banking was not regulated and funeral directors, doctors, and nurses often recovered the eyes from donors. Lions Clubs members would then transport, in relay fashion, the ocular tissue to the borders of Minnesota and Nebraska for further transport to the established eye banks in Minneapolis and Omaha.

In 1991, through the help of the Lions Clubs and Dr. Thomas White, the South Dakota Lions Eye Bank was established in Sioux Falls, SD. By the end of the first year, 99 corneas were placed for transplant. The organization quickly grew and in 2010, non-ocular tissue was added as a service as well as the relocation into the new state-of-the-art headquarters facility in Sioux Falls. In 2014, the organization collaborated and partnered with the Lions Eye Bank of North Dakota, eventually becoming one unified organization named Dakota Lions Sight & Health.

Throughout the organization’s history, the eye bank has worked closely with surgeons and hospitals. This approach is vital to providing the best options for both healthcare providers, tissue donors, and transplant recipients.

In recognition of Dakota Lions Sight & Health’s 30th anniversary, Dr. Michael Greenwood of Vance Thompson Vision Fargo and DLSH Associate Medical Director, said, “I am proud to work with Dakota Lions Sight & Health. Not only is the technology among the best in the country, the people are the best in the world. Having Dakota Lions Sight & Health in our community has made countless lives better over the past 30 years!”

Dr. John Berdahl of Vance Thompson Vision Sioux Falls and DLSH Medical Director, shared his thoughts about Dakota Lions Sight & Health. “Dakota Lions Sight & Health eye bank has been steadfast and wonderful stewards of vision in our community. Not only do they provide a high-quality cornea transplant and tissue for humans in our local community and around the world, they have also been instrumental in training medical personnel and helping advanced science through research. I am grateful to work alongside each and every member of Dakota Lions Sight & Health.”

From the 99 corneas placed in Dakota Lions Sight & Health’s first year in 1991 to more than nearly 1,000 corneal transplants in 2021, we continue to strive to ensure surgeons have the materials they need, prepared to their exact specifications, to significantly improve lives.

“Dakota Lions Sight & Health has provided high quality access to transplant tissues for 30 years. The service they provide has restored vision and function, improving the lives of patients and the communities they serve,” said Dr. Mike Eide from Ophthalmology Ltd and DLSH Associate Medical Director.

While celebrating 30 years of service, Dakota Lions Sight & Health is looking forward to growing or expanding their birth tissue donation program that is another important step in furthering their Mission of Helping to Enable the Restoration of the Gifts of Sight & Health.

“The achievements of this organization are built upon the foundation laid by Dr. White and the Lions Club members those many years ago,” said Marcy Dimond, CEO of Dakota Lions Sight & Health. “I am thankful for their hard work and I am proud to work with a team of professionals who strive every day to serve our communities and meet our Mission of restoring sight and health.”
2021 Contributors

General Contributions
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Bob Audette
Automatic Building Controls
Barbara Bartmann
Annalie Berg
Wanda Bergh
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New Underwood Lions Club
Newell Lions Club
Mike Nieman
Robert Nixon
Noonan Lions Club
Duane Noraker

Our Mission
To help enable the restoration of the gifts of sight and health.

Dakota Lions Sight & Health
Eye and Tissue Donation

Dakota Lions Sight & Health is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
Nordstrom's Automatic, Inc.
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Gloria Pack
Parkston Lions Club
Sharon Pearson
Sheila Pecha
Robert and Gayle Petersen
Jane Petersen
Magdalene Peterson
Piedmont Valley Lions Club
Pauline Poletes
Roland and Rita Pond
Elizabeth Pond
Dennis Purvis
Rapid City Downtown Lions Club
Redfield Lions Club
Richardton Lions Club
Patricia Rogers
Mary Royster
Everine Schipper
Garry and Gloria Scott
Scranton Lions Club
Ann Settles
Sioux Falls Downtown Lions Club
Sioux Falls Siouxrise Lions Club
David G. Smith
South Heart Lions Club
Travis Spier
Eunice Sprung
Stanley Lions Club
Streeter Lions Club
Taylor Lions Club
Brian and Ann Temple
Mike Thesenvitz
Sonja Tyrrell
Valley City Lions Club
Gladys Vandal
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Williston Korner Lions Club
Williston Lions Club
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Glen Wollman
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Kenneth Carlsen by Jeanne Nelson
Donna Cassels by Deuel County Lions Club
Oak Cole by Linda Anderson
Verne Foss by Beverly Foss
Ken Gifford by Roger Neal
Ralph Grode by Dale and Rhonda Page
Lloyd Hansen by Roberta Hansen
Dallas Hanson by Marilyn Hanson
Harmon Robert
By Arnegard Lions Club
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Paul Hicks by June Van Asch
Bernard Hoeing by Vicky Logue
Dr. Gerald Ihrke by Darwin Dirks
Janet Johnson by Dale and Rhonda Page
Marjorie Keating by Anne Keating and Alan Fowler
Jim Kiefer by Karen Kiefer; June Van Asch
Roger Krienbrink by Roger Neal
John Larson by Cathryn Larson
Lon Lemme by Freeman Lions Club
John McDill by Mary McDill
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Harold Narum by David and Pam Narum
Terry Narum by Loweel and Ann Latimer; Minot Lions Club
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Agnes Pape by Barbara Husk
Lorraine Perkins by Deuel County Lions Club
Rick Pollard by Dale and Rhonda Page
Diane Price by David Price
Steve Rendahl by Robbin Rendahl
Don Richard by Vicki Wentz
Dorothy Sargent by Miller Lions Club
Bonnie Schritte by June Van Asch
Marjorie Sprung by June Van Asch
Paul Stach by Shirley Stach
Dennis Van Asch and Donella Gardner by June Van Asch
Helen Warkentien by Donna Williams
Randi Weber by Stratford-Warner Lions Club
Nancy White by Donna Flanagan; Glen and Chelaine Nelson

South Dakota Community Foundation
Vernon and JoDean Joy

Henry Baker Memorial Fellowship
Lion Henry Christensen
Lion Michal Thesenvitz

Gifts of Sight and Health Golf Tournament
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Dr. Michale Bauer
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* Key Sponsors - $7500+

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Vernon Joy by Keith and Candy Joy
Ann Keating by Sidney Nelson

In Memory Contributions
Betty Anderson by Vicki Wentz
John Bergeron by Alan Bergeron
Alvin Berry by Dave and Mavis Kruger
Daniel Besonen by Ethel Besonen
Millie Biesman by Jane Petersen
Lonny Boese by Todd and Renee Augustad

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Liberty National Bank
McKinney Olson Insurance
MED
Mike Nieman
Vance Thompson Vision*
Ophthalmology LTD*

* Key Sponsors - $7500+
A brief timeline of Dakota Lions Sight & Health

Eye and Tissue Donation

- 1963: Discussions began to start developing a South Dakota Eye Bank
- 1967: SD Eye Bank began providing corneas to Minnesota and Nebraska Eye Banks for distribution
- 1982: South Dakota Lions Eye Bank granted membership in Eye Bank Association of America and operated out of Dr. Thomas White's clinic in Sioux Falls
- 1983: Jon Soderhom of Sioux Valley Hospital offered space in their facility for an eye bank
- 1991: The Eye Bank opened as a two-room office in Sioux Valley Hospital
- 1994: Opened a satellite office in the Health Science Building at Rapid City Regional Hospital
- 1997: The ForeSight Club established an endowment to be able to provide free corneas to people in South Dakota in need of transplant
- 1997: The Eye Bank signed with the American Red Cross to start recovering tissue
- 1999: Expanded tissue donation by opening a satellite office in Aberdeen
- 2001: Formed a division named Spirit of the North Tissue Services which offered full tissue recovery services
- 2003 - 2009: Received a grant from HRSA for donation education on four Indian reservations within South Dakota
- 2009: SDLEB processes its first DSEK ocular tissue
- 2010: Moved into our own newly constructed facility in northwest Sioux Falls
- 2011: The Eye Bank fully incorporated Spirit of the North Tissue Services and changed the name to the South Dakota Lions Eye and Tissue Bank
- 2013: Participated in legislative revision to strengthen the UAGA in South Dakota
- 2014: Lions Eye Bank of North Dakota (LEBND) asks SDLETB to assist with ocular tissue distribution and regulatory compliance. A partnership between LEBND and SDLETB begins.
- 2016: SDLETB and LEBND join together as one organization, rebrands to Dakota Lions Sight & Health. Opened Fargo and Bismarck offices.
- 2018: DLSH began offering ocular processing training to other eye banks nationwide
- 2019: Developed Nerve Recovery Program in partnership with Integra. Partnered with LifeSource to expand ocular recovery.
- 2020: Navigated COVID-19; 6-week halt to cornea recovery / transplant
- 2021: Launched the only birth tissue donation program in the Northcentral Midwest
- 2022: Planned eye lab expansion and remodel
- 2023: Planned eye lab expansion and remodel
- 2024: Planned eye lab expansion and remodel