



Eye Bank Association of America...*restoring sight worldwide.*

# PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
July 2, 2009

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## **JODY DOSSER AWARDED 2009 GIFT OF SIGHT BY THE EYE BANK ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (EBAA)**

SEATTLE, WA – Jody Dosser of Iowa was awarded the 2009 Gift of Sight Award at the 48<sup>th</sup> Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) Annual Meeting. While Ms. Dosser was unable to attend the ceremony, her sister-in-law, Trish Betten, accepted on her behalf.

The Gift of Sight Award is presented to a professional who works closely with the eye banking community and has gone above and beyond the call of duty in support of eye and corneal donation. This award honors a person who has had an impact on eye banking and made an extraordinary contribution to sight restoration.

After losing her son Jermiah unexpectedly in 2007, Jody Dosser began her journey toward donor awareness by making a phone call to the Iowa Lions Eye Bank (ILEB) to learn more of his cornea recipients and to share the story of his generous and caring life. A lifelong coach, Ms. Dosser and her women's volleyball team organized "Donor Awareness Week" on the Waldorf College campus in Forest City, Iowa, highlighted by two evening home court "Donor Matches."

ILEB and Iowa's Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) staff were on site to assist in promoting Iowa's successful state donor registry; customized "IMRU" green t-shirts were given to all fans in attendance; used eyeglasses were collected for the Lions Clubs; monetary donations were accepted in support of Iowa's Donor Registry; ILEB and OPO staff spoke to the crowd between matches, sharing the importance of donor designation through the story of Jermiah's final gift to others through cornea and tissue donation.

Ms. Dosser has continued to plan events, activities and speaking opportunities in her heartfelt outreach and advocacy for the importance of donor designation and honoring the final wishes of donors.

The Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA), established in 1961, is the oldest transplant association in the nation. The EBAA champions the restoration of sight through core services to its members which advance donation, transplantation and

research in their communities and throughout the world. It has led the transplantation field with the establishment of medical standards for the distribution of eyes and comprehensive training and certification programs for eye banking personnel. These standards have been used as models for other transplantation organizations. Member eye banks operate in the United States, Canada, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. These eye banks make possible more than 52,000 sight-restoring corneal transplants annually.

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