



Eye Bank Association of America

PRESS RELEASE

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STEVEN STOCKWELL NAMED 2007 GIFT OF SIGHT AWARDEE BY THE EYE BANK ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (EBAA)

TUCSON, AZ – At the June 21st Awards Dinner during its 46th Annual Meeting, the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) presented the Gift of Sight Award to Detective Steven Stockwell of Washington State.

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.

Detective Stockwell's journey to aid donation began in 2002, when he initiated efforts to grant a father's wish that his son, tragically lost in a traffic collision, be a donor. Because of Detective Stockwell's initiative, that young man was able to donate tissue and corneas that benefited 19 individuals through transplantation.

In the aftermath of this effort, Detective Stockwell contacted the Northwest Tissue Center to propose a system whereby families would have the opportunity to opt for donation.

The program they developed was fittingly named *Partners in Life*.

Detective Stockwell's dedication permeated to eye and tissues banks around the country, allowing *Partners in Life* to help a larger community. In the program's first year in Oregon, there were 24 corneal transplants and over 150 tissue recipients, all from donors acquired through *Partners in Life*.

Not only has Detective Stockwell assisted in obtaining life-changing donations for others, he has also been a benefactor of the generosity of donor families. His daughter Stephanie developed lupus in 1997, causing kidney failure. In 2006, she received a life-saving kidney transplant. Detective Stockwell has truly experienced the full spectrum of donation, transplantation and how they change the lives of recipients and the transplant community.

The Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA), established in 1961, is the oldest transplant association in the nation. The EBAA is dedicated to the restoration of sight through the promotion and advancement of eye banking. 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 46,000 sight-restoring corneal transplants annually.

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