

# RAYS *of Light*

Newsletter of the North Carolina Eye Bank

## From 1951 to 2011 – CELEBRATING 60 YEARS –

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#### A Most Grateful Recipient

– A corneal transplant recipient's thank you letter

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#### **The North Carolina Eye Bank Mission**

The mission of The North Carolina Eye Bank is to recover, process and distribute ocular tissue for the restoration of sight through corneal transplantation and related medical therapy and research.

Hannah Marie Loy  
Faces of Donation 2010

# *Faces* 2011 OF *Donation*

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE  
HONORING 2010 DONORS

"It was taking me out of the darkness and putting me into the marvelous light. I did not realize I had so many freckles on my face until my transplant."

**Donna**

"Losing my only daughter was devastating to me. Knowing that a part of her lives on and helps someone else is a comfort to me."

**George**

THANK YOU

The North Carolina Eye Bank (NCEB) hosted a memorial service for the donor families and their loved ones that gave the gift of sight in 2010. NCEB had a record crowd this year with more than 700 people in attendance.

Guest speakers included double corneal transplant recipient, Gary Gross and donor mom, Dee Luster. Both guests shared their personal stories of how eye donation changed their lives. A video presentation of the 2010 donors was the highlight of the service; each family graciously submitted photos of their loved ones.

In 2010 NCEB provided the gift of sight to over 3000 people and aided in research for cures to corneal disease. Through the gift of eye donation we have provided sight to people in North Carolina, across the United States and around the world. We change lives through the miracle of corneal transplantation and provide hope for a brighter tomorrow.

We are dedicated in our mission to support and honor the wishes of our donors and our donor families. For the courage and grace they show under extraordinary circumstances, we offer our deepest thank you. ☺

# A Letter From A Thankful Recipient

To The Family And Friends Of My Transplant Donor,

In December of 2009, I received the gift of my lifetime...a corneal transplant.

My vision improved immediately and has continued to improve every day. This is only possible because of the generous, unselfish gift of tissue donated by your loved one.

I just wanted to let you know that a part of your loved one lives on allowing me to appreciate and enjoy all the wonders of life we so many times take for granted.

May 2011 bring much love, good health, peace and happiness to you and yours.

A Most Grateful Recipient



## ARE YOU A CORNEAL TRANSPLANT RECIPIENT?

We would love to hear your story.

If you have experienced the pain of corneal blindness, both physical and emotional, you know that receiving the gift of sight is truly life changing. We would love to hear your transplant story. Tell us what it was like to be visually impaired and how your life was transformed by regaining your sight through a corneal transplant.

Please share your story with us in writing, then mail it to us in the enclosed donation envelope. You also can email your story to Penny LaBrecque at [plabrecque@nceyebank.org](mailto:plabrecque@nceyebank.org). 🌟



The North Carolina  
EYE BANK

[www.nceyebank.org](http://www.nceyebank.org)

## About The North Carolina Eye Bank



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The North Carolina Eye Bank (NCEB) was established in 1951. Since its inception, NCEB has consistently ranked among the top eye banks in the world.

Our commitment is as follows:

- Educating the public and medical communities about the need for eye and tissue donors.
- Ensuring that the wishes of donors and donor families are carried out to the greatest extent possible.
- Maintaining procedures to maximize quality of tissue distributed.
- Working cooperatively with ophthalmologists and other professional clients to ensure optimal results for the recipient. 🌟

**You Have The Power To Change Lives**

## Partner Spotlight

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## The North Carolina Eye Bank & Wake Forest University Medical School



Wake Forest University Eye Center and The North Carolina Eye Bank partner with international guest ophthalmologists from economically developing nations.

The guest ophthalmologists, who are highly talented and carefully selected, toured NCEB to learn about the many aspects of eye banking.

Visitors were: Lala Ceklic, MD, PhD from Bosnia-Herzegovina; and Michael Twumasi, MD from Ghana on the continent of Africa. 🌟

**Bridging The Gap Between Hope and Possibility**