



NEWS FROM
THE EYE-BANK
FOR SIGHT
RESTORATION, INC.

WINTER 2023

eye to eye

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Everyday New Yorkers Can Become Heroes

THE EYE-BANK HAS LAUNCHED ITS 2023 MULTI-MEDIA AD

CAMPAIGN urging adults ages 16 and up to enroll in the New York State Donate Life Registry to become eye, organ and tissue donors. This year's theme emphasizes that everyday New Yorkers are turning into heroes when they sign up to become eye, organ and tissue donors at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) or online at Eyedonation.org. Different tag lines across the various types of ads in the campaign range from "New Yorkers...become a hero at the DMV," to "Heroes Wanted," and all emphasize the fact that New Yorkers become heroes by enrolling in the Donate Life Registry when they conduct transactions at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The ads also have been produced in Spanish for Spanish-language newspaper; radio and digital placement. As an option to signing up at the DMV, one can access the Donate Life Registry and enroll from The Eye-Bank's website at Eyedonation.org.

According to Donate Life New York State, the non-profit organization that administers the state's donor registry in conjunction with the Department of Health, approximately 80% of all New Yorkers who are currently enrolled to be eye, organ and tissue donors have done so through the Department of Motor Vehicles. Currently, about 65% of residents in The Eye-Bank's service area, which includes New York City, Long Island and the Lower Hudson Valley, have yet to enroll in the registry, which makes visiting the DMV a prime opportunity for New Yorkers to sign up and become heroes.

The Eye-Bank's year-long, multi-media campaign includes television, radio, newspaper and social media advertising as well as an email marketing component. David Goodnight, creative specialist for The Eye-Bank, is credited with the concept, design and production of the very dynamic 2023 advertising campaign. 



Eye-Bank Resumes In-Person Program for Cornea Fellows

ON AUGUST 6, THE EYE-BANK ONCE AGAIN HOSTED THE WING CHU, M.D. CORNEA FELLOW DAY at its office location at 120 Wall Street in New York City. Named in memory of Wing Chu, M.D., The Eye-Bank's medical director of more than 30 years, Cornea Fellow Day was instituted in 2016 to provide an opportunity for physicians specializing in cornea to become familiar with the mission and techniques of eye banking.



Having resumed for the first time since 2019, the one-day program featured a didactic session, followed by a wet lab designed for participants to receive in-person instruction on performing Descemet's Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty (DMEK) surgery. The wet lab provided the opportunity for a total of five physicians to practice performing an advanced procedure that they otherwise might only be able to observe in an operating room. In attendance were three physicians who are currently in fellowships, one physician who was a cornea fellow in 2021 and one visiting physician from Greece.

The Eye-Bank's Executive Director Patricia Dahl, Medical Director Michelle K. Rhee, M.D. and Laboratory Manager Mudassir Razvi, CEFT were joined by The Eye-Bank's Medical Advisory Board Secretary Himani Goyal, M.D. and Medical Advisory Board Member George Florakis, M.D. who served as faculty for the learning experience. Special thanks to manufacturer Zeiss US for providing microscopes needed for the wet lab. 

Participants at the Wing Chu, M.D. Cornea Fellow Day wet lab watch Eye-Bank Medical Advisory Board Member George Florakis, M.D. (at the microscope) demonstrate a surgical procedure.

Eye-Bank Board Elects New Member



Rocío Sanz

THE EYE-BANK'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTED ROCÍO SANZ as its newest member at its October 2022 meeting. The 19-member Board comprises professionals from diverse fields who offer their expertise and experience in helping the organization fulfill its mission of sight restoration.

Ms. Sanz is the Chief Executive Officer of Sanz Property Management Inc. and is the owner of the Tío Pepe Restaurant Group, which includes four Spanish- and Mexican-themed eateries in the West Village: They are Tío Pepe, the group's flagship restaurant, Las Ramblas tapas bar, Burrito Loco and the Taco Shop.

Ms. Sanz received her B.A. from Hunter College in Manhattan. Her volunteer work currently includes serving on the board for Manhattan Community Board 2 as well as for the Community Housing Improvement Program. She is personally connected to The Eye-Bank's mission as both her husband and her mother have received the gift of sight through cornea transplantation. The Board and Executive Director Patricia Dahl extend a warm welcome to Ms. Sanz and look forward to The Eye-Bank benefiting from her valuable insights and contributions. 

People Who Help Make a Difference

THE EYE-BANK IS PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE THE NURSING STAFF OF NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/KINGS COUNTY FOR THEIR DEDICATED EFFORTS TO INCREASE EYE DONATION in their medical and neurosurgical intensive care units (MICU/NSICU). Led by Assistant Director of Nursing Gem Snagg, RN, the MICU/NSICU hosted several Eye-Bank in-service nursing education programs in 2022, which helped to cultivate an increasingly supportive and collaborative culture of donation among the units' critical care staff. These efforts resulted in a 75% increase in cornea donations.

The critical care nurses of Kings County Hospital are proactive and helpful when Eye-Bank staff reach out to gather information telephonically and coordinate donor recoveries. Eye donation is extremely time-sensitive and each donation depends on the assistance of hospital unit staff to ensure the recovery process is successful and timely.

Nursing leaders like Ms. Snagg also play an active role in the hospital's donor council, which meets quarterly to review eye, organ and tissue donation data and implement initiatives to improve practices and increase the number of recovered donors across the hospital. In 2022, the Kings County Donor Council's efforts, in collaboration with The Eye-Bank, helped to double the number of cornea donations over the previous year.

Thank you, Kings County Hospital Center nurses, for your valuable commitment to helping our fellow New Yorkers receive the beautiful gift of sight. 



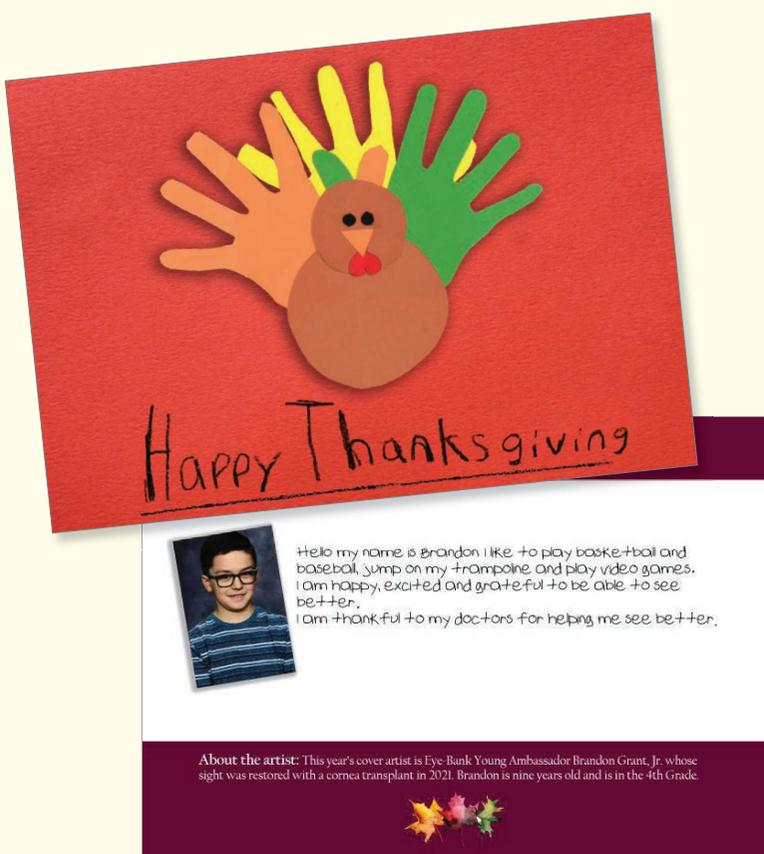
L-R: George Joseph, RN; Eye-Bank Hospital and Community Liaison Chelci Bidos; Assistant Director of Nursing Gem Snagg, RN; Taniesha Belvitt, RN; Alexandra Prophete, RN; Respiratory Therapist Quwon Morris; Jusette Guthrie, RN and Michel Silvanus, RN

Nine-Year-Old Recipient is Featured Artist

A KEY PART OF THE EYE-BANK'S YOUNG AMBASSADOR PROGRAM FOR CORNEA TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS AGED 5 TO 17 is the opportunity to submit original artwork for the organization's annual Thanksgiving card. This year, the card features the "handiwork" of Brandon Grant, Jr., a nine-year-old cornea recipient and patient of Eye-Bank Medical Advisory Board Member Danielle Trief, M.D. who performed his sight-restoring transplant at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center's Edward Harkness Eye Institute.

After having his sight-restoring transplant, Brandon, who is in the fourth grade, is able to do his favorite activities like jumping on his trampoline and playing sports and video games. According to the young recipient, he is very thankful to his donor and his doctors for helping him to see better.

The Eye-Bank's Thanksgiving card is sent to our many colleagues; cornea surgeons; frontline healthcare workers; volunteers and generous contributors whose efforts help us accomplish our mission of sight restoration. And we thank Brandon for his colorful interpretation of Thanksgiving and join him on behalf of all our cornea transplant recipients in expressing sincere gratitude for the beautiful gift of sight. 



Tractor-Trailer Driver Shares his Journey to Restored Eyesight

By Gilad Granot

WHEN KELVIN BALRAM, A RESIDENT OF MIDDLE VILLAGE IN QUEENS, FIRST NOTICED HE WAS HAVING AN ISSUE WITH HIS VISION,

he was taking a break while driving a route from Connecticut to New York, a routine task in his job as a tractor-trailer driver. "During my break, I usually take a 30-minute nap. After waking up, I noticed that the vision in my right eye was blurry and cloudy. At first, I thought it was a result of having just woken up, but when I rubbed my eye to see if the blurriness and cloudiness would go away, it didn't." Given the vital role that clear vision plays in his line of work, Kelvin was understandably concerned. He wondered, "How am I going to drive a semi-truck from Connecticut back to New York with vision in only one eye?" After waiting an hour, his vision cleared so that he felt it was possible to drive home. However, according to Kelvin, it took him almost twice as long because he was being very cautious.

The experience alerted Kelvin, who is also a husband and father, that he needed to seek medical attention quickly. He went to a cornea specialist and was diagnosed with keratoconus, a progressive eye disease that causes the cornea—the clear, outer covering of the eye—to thin and become cone-shaped and which can ultimately lead to blindness. In the months following his diagnosis, Kelvin's doctor attempted various treatments for the ailment, but the condition only worsened and made driving a truck impossible. According to Kelvin, "The cornea disease was progressing quickly. I was unable to pass the required NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) physical because of my poor vision and therefore unable to perform my job."

Outside of work, his poor vision began to limit everything Kelvin did including his ability to care for and spend quality time with his six-year-old daughter. With few options remaining, Kelvin's doctor recommended a cornea transplant as the best course of treatment. Without hesitation, Kelvin accepted. "I needed to pass my physical for work, watch my daughter grow up and get back to doing the things that I love."

In April of 2022, Kelvin received a cornea transplant in his right eye, a procedure performed by Richard Najac, M.D. of Mount Sinai Health System using healthy donor tissue provided by The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration. The care he received from the medical staff he says was "nothing less than spectacular. Everyone involved in the process made me feel at home and comfortable. They turned my fears and doubts into strength and confidence." Following a successful surgery and a steady recovery, Kelvin has enjoyed a drastic improvement in his quality of life. In addition to enabling him to pass his DOT physical and live his life without the limitations of a blinding illness, Kelvin says his cornea transplant restored his peace of mind. "I have the confidence to go outside, interact with people and live life again with my head held high."



As a husband and a father, Kelvin appreciates his restored eyesight and how it allows him to spend time with his wife, Paola, his young daughter, Mikaela, and the family's two dogs.

"I needed to pass my physical for work, watch my daughter grow up and get back to doing the things that I love."

Kelvin is extremely grateful to his donor and his donor's family for providing him with the gift of sight. "Words cannot express my gratitude to the donor and their family," he says. "Because of their generosity, I can take my daughter to the park, I can drive with confidence, I can walk my dogs and do everything in life that is important to me." After getting his life back because of the generosity of a donor, Kelvin has also become a strong advocate for eye, organ and tissue donation and signing up in the New York State Donate Life Registry. On the importance of becoming a donor, Kelvin says, "giving the gift of sight is an extraordinary gift and a selfless act. Why not help others if you can?"

As part of his commitment to advocacy, Kelvin volunteered to be the subject of The Eye-Bank's latest testimonial video. The three-minute video features wonderful, heartwarming footage of Kelvin at the playground with his young daughter Mikaela and walking the dogs with his wife Paola at the family's favorite neighborhood park, showing viewers real-life examples of how receiving a cornea transplant has improved his quality of life. Eye-Bank Creative Specialist David Goodnight directed the shoot with assistance from Communications Department staff.

To watch Kelvin tell the story of his sight-restoring cornea transplant, visit www.eyedonation.org/videos. 



Top: The Eye-Bank's Creative Specialist David Goodnight filmed Kelvin's testimonial video at Juniper Valley Park in Queens.

Bottom, L-R: Eye-Bank staffer Gilad Granot; Kelvin Balram and his daughter, Mikaela; and Eye-Bank Creative Specialist David Goodnight

Giving Tuesday Raises Funds for Eye-Bank Programs

GIVING TUESDAY IS A GLOBAL DAY OF CHARITABLE GIVING CELEBRATED EACH YEAR ON THE TUESDAY AFTER THE U.S. THANKSGIVING. This year, on November 29, The Eye-Bank once again participated as a non-profit organization with fundraising email and social media campaigns, featuring videos of cornea transplant recipients expressing gratitude for the generosity of their donors and donor families. The campaign, which was conducted for three weeks in November, concluded by applauding our financial contributors, whose continued support enables The Eye-Bank to give New Yorkers in need the beautiful gift of sight.

The Eye-Bank is grateful to all of those who responded to the Giving Tuesday campaign, helping us raise over \$10,500 in support of Eye-Bank programs. A special thank you is extended to Eye-Bank Board Member Manish Krishnan and the Krishnan Charitable Fund for generously matching the campaign's first \$5,000 in donations. ➡

THIS #GIVINGTUESDAY EDUARDO CELEBRATES THE GENEROSITY OF HIS CORNEA DONOR!



"I don't think I can ever fully express how happy and grateful I am for my donor's generosity and how it changed my life. I know I will never take this gift for granted!"

#EyeBankNY

THIS #GIVINGTUESDAY JOE CELEBRATES THE GENEROSITY OF HIS DONORS



"The gift of sight for me was a gift of life that causes me to constantly strive to honor the kindness of my donors and their families."

#EyeBankNY

Leadership Council Hosts Special Fundraiser

ON DECEMBER 12, THE EYE-BANK'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL HOSTED A HOLIDAY HAPPY HOUR FUNDRAISER at The Green, a beautiful, private event space in Midtown Manhattan.

More than 40 friends and their guests enjoyed delicious light bites courtesy of the acclaimed restaurant Charlie Palmer Steak and were introduced to several grateful cornea transplant recipients, including Leadership Council Member Alexis Zorrilla who spoke about how having her sight restored has allowed her to pursue her professional goals as well as her love of traveling.

Thank you to The Eye-Bank's Board of Directors who generously double matched the first \$1,000 raised by the event and to Leadership Council Member Marsha-Ann Hay who procured the spectacular raffle prize of the evening—dinner for two at the classic Morton's Steakhouse and a stay at the top-rated Club Quarters Hotel. A successful evening, the event raised more than \$6,000 in support of Eye-Bank programs.

The Leadership Council comprises a group of mid-career professionals who promote The Eye-Bank's mission through outreach and fundraising efforts aimed at increasing awareness of the need for and benefits of eye donation.

For more information about joining the Leadership Council visit www.eyedonation.org/leadership-council or email Robert Hankins, rhankins@ebsr.org. ➡



L-R: Leadership Council Secretary Patrick K. Corbett and Leadership Council Members Alexis Zorrilla, Christian Gonzalez and Eduardo Gonzalez. Alexis, Christian and Eduardo are all cornea transplant recipients.

Honor/Memorial Gifts from June 16, 2022 – December 31, 2022

Memorial and honor gifts are given to recognize loved ones or to mark a special occasion. To make a gift in honor or memory of someone, please use the enclosed envelope, visit www.eyedonation.org/give or contact The Eye-Bank's Development Department at **212-742-9000**.

IN MEMORY OF...

Paul Abrams
America Amoroso
Winnifred Anderson
Mayme Andrews
Gaetano Barile
Gloria Barrish
Pauline Battisto
Michael T. Betjemann
Philip A. Bilotti
Robert Boles
Burnett Brown
Genevieve L. Bruno
William Burns
Patricia Ruth Chetuck
Agnes Clifford
Flora Cohen
Marie M. Corcoran
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Maria D'Uva
Margaret A. Eyre
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James Fabian
Susan R. Faulkner
Albert Firestein
Doris Flax
Edward Gelb
Charles T. Haddad
Theresa P. Haggerty
Eve Hartman
Adam G. Heffner
Brian Holcomb
Jason M. Irizarry
Brian M. Jackel
Edith Korszowsky
Paul Koster
Rita Kriesberg
Michele Levy
John and Brett MacDonald
Sean Madden
Rosemarie E. Mattern
Ruth Merriman
Esther Misthal
Robert Morales
Dolores Moran
Mr. and Mrs. Otero

Emma Parthe
Maryanne L. Pohl
Barbara J. Pommer
Marc Powell
Michael Pregon
Walter Pressler
Elizabeth Reidy
Irving S. Roberts
Dennis Rosenzweig
Gail Rosenzweig
Willie Mae Hansen Rowell
Stanley Rubin
Sol Ruskin
Joan Ruth
Lawrence Schwartz
Yehoshua Siletski
Irene and Sidney B. Silverman
Louis Steisel
Linda Jean Stever
Maksym Sugarovskiy
Charles S. Trovato
Seymour Tyson
Joseph M. Wargo

IN HONOR OF...

David R. Adler
Elliot Bardavid
Ann Di Bartolomeo
Sandra C. Belmont, M.D.
Richard E. Braunstein, M.D.
Rosemarie Crofts
Joan and Eugene J. Daly
Elizabeth Flanagan
George J. Florakis, M.D.
John Gately
Michael Irizarry
Kate Jerry
Doreen A. Kovach
Jan A. Lewis
Maksym's Giving Tree Foundation
Sid Mandelbaum, M.D.
Roy Marshak
Charlotte May
Helen McGray
Patricia McLaughlin-Haight, M.D.

National Society for Southern Dames of America
Jayshree Patel
Joanne Ptak
Gabriel Rand, M.D.
Michael L. Renna
Gene and A. Rennay's caregiver Kathleen
David C. Ritterband, M.D.
Dr. Robert C. Rowell
Suzanne Rysanek
Albert Schilling
John A. Seedor, M.D.
St. Lucy
Leejee H. Suh, M.D.
Dennis and Linda Tarzian Transplant patients
United States Military
Joanna and Chris Villani
The visually impaired community
Michael Wasserman
Gerald W. Zaidman, M.D.

Eye-Bank's Fall Benefit Hits a High Note

ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, THE BOHEMIAN HALL ON MANHATTAN'S UPPER EAST SIDE WAS FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT AS GENEROUS FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS GATHERED IN PERSON TO ENJOY THE 2022 FALL BENEFIT—JAZZED FOR SIGHT—AN ELEGANT EVENING OF MUSIC, FINE DINING AND RAISING FUNDS FOR EYE-BANK PROGRAMS.

The night began with autumn cocktails followed by a three-course Italian dinner, presented by celebrated Chef Michele Mazza of Il Mulino Restaurants. After dinner, guests enjoyed wonderful desserts provided by Umber Ahmad, Eye-Bank Board treasurer and award-winning pastry chef and owner of Mah-Ze Dahr Bakery. The highlight of the evening was an intimate performance by world-renowned jazz guitarist and vocalist John Pizzarelli, who charmed the crowd with both his musical virtuosity and personal stories about meeting and performing with icons of American music. The evening ended on a high note as on-site contributions pushed The Eye-Bank beyond its ambitious \$100,000 fundraising goal, achieving a record-breaking \$107,000 for our sight-restoring mission.

A special thank you goes to the Benefit Co-Chairs, David Adler, member of The Eye-Bank's Board of Directors, and Himani Goyal, M.D., secretary of The Eye-Bank's Medical Advisory Board. We also very much appreciate this year's Benefit Committee and the event's many generous sponsors for their support, all of which contributed to making the annual Fall Benefit a resounding success! ▶



Benefit Co-Chairs: Himani Goyal, M.D., secretary of The Eye-Bank's Medical Advisory Board, and David Adler, member of The Eye-Bank's Board of Directors



Governor Signs Bills to Improve Donor Registry Enrollment

THE EYE-BANK'S LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS IN 2022 MET WITH ELEVENTH-HOUR SUCCESS as Governor Kathy Hochul signed into law on December 24 the Doorways to Donation Act of 2022, which had passed both houses of the state legislature in May. The new law, introduced by Assemblymember Aileen M. Gunther (Orange and Sullivan Counties) and Senator Neil D. Breslin (Albany and Rensselaer Counties), adds the donor designation question to private health insurance plans' member portals and will allow New Yorkers completing their applications or annual renewals to register as eye, organ and tissue donors. The Eye-Bank supported a grassroots letter-writing campaign in December urging the Governor to sign the bill without amendment and we sincerely thank the members of our Board of Directors and Medical Advisory Board for contributing to this successful effort.

Also, in November, Governor Hochul signed the Registry Modernization Act, a bill that improves the process by which enrollees receive their written notification of enrollment in the New York State Donate Life Registry by immediately providing required information and instructions to them at their point of decision – information that was previously sent to enrollees via first-class mail. This legislation, sponsored by Assemblymember Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes (Buffalo) and Senator Neil D. Breslin (Albany and Rensselaer Counties), increases communication efficiency and reduces the number of New Yorkers removed from the registry due to undeliverable letters of enrollment sent through the United States Postal Service.

In a statewide effort to advance these two new laws which comprised this year's legislative priorities designed to help increase eye, organ and tissue donation, several of The Eye-Bank's staff and volunteers joined other member organizations of Donate Life New York State (DLNYS) in April's Legislative Education Event.



Eye-Bank Board Member and cornea transplant recipient David Adler (top left) and Eye-Bank Communications Coordinator Chadwick Shank (top right) met virtually with Isaac Smith, staffer for Assemblymember John Salka (Broome, Chenango, Delaware and Otsego Counties).

In virtual meetings conducted from April 25–27, the group spoke with approximately 80 lawmakers and their staffs regarding the importance of donation and the NYS Donate Life Registry.

The Eye-Bank especially thanks our donor family members and cornea transplant recipient volunteers for participating and making these efforts so successful by sharing their personal donation stories with legislators and their staffs. 👁️

SAVE-THE-DATE

The 2023 Legislative Education Event will be conducted virtually May 1–3 and the Issue Briefing Webinar will be on Thursday, April 27. Volunteers are needed! For more info, contact Chadwick Shank (cs Shank@ebsr.org).

New DMV Partnership Designed to Increase Donor Registration

THE EYE-BANK FOR SIGHT RESTORATION IS HELPING TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF NEW YORKERS WHO ENROLL IN THE DONATE LIFE REGISTRY by partnering with Donate Life New York State (DLNYS) in a pilot program launched in collaboration with the state's Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The program, endorsed by DMV Commissioner Mark J. F. Schroeder, is designed to engage the staff at state DMV offices in the Greater New York City area and garner their support for helping individuals to sign up in the Donate Life Registry when conducting other DMV transactions. New Yorkers getting a new or renewed driver license are offered the opportunity to enroll in the NYS Donate Life Registry.

According to Donate Life New York State, a statewide organization of eye, organ and tissue recovery agencies, approximately 80% of all enrollments in the Donate Life Registry occur through the Department of Motor Vehicles. However, there still is a big opportunity to increase donor registration in counties with lower than average donor designation shares—the percentage of eligible New Yorkers who have documented their decision to donate by signing up in the Donate Life Registry. Many of these counties are within The Eye-Bank's service area, which comprises New York City, Long Island and the Northern Suburban counties. As a result, The Eye-Bank has committed to this pilot partnership in order to increase Donate Life Registry enrollment, thereby increasing the number of New Yorkers whose lives can be saved or improved through organ, eye and tissue donation.

Since the November 2022 launch of the program, The Eye-Bank's Hospital and Community Liaisons have visited 16 DMV offices and shared their appreciation with more than 700 DMV frontline staff, educating them on the importance of eye, organ and tissue donation and how they play a pivotal role in enrolling New Yorkers as donors.



The next step after these initial visits will be to conduct training sessions with educational materials provided by DLNYS and be joined by transplant recipients who can share first-hand the good that eye, organ and tissue donation can do.

Special thanks to DMV Commissioner Schroeder for championing these efforts and wholeheartedly supporting the New York State Donate Life Registry, to the wonderful DMV site managers who organize each visit and to mission-connected volunteers, Ira Copperman and Glenda Daggert of Transplant Support Group, who provide invaluable examples of the ways in which donation changes lives. "This pilot program offers great promise," said DLNYS Executive Director Aisha Tator, "and the positive response from DMV staff has already demonstrated it is a highly worthwhile investment." 👁️

The Eye-Bank Partners with Hospitals to Increase Awareness

NOVEMBER IS EYE DONATION MONTH, a designated time for eye banks across the country to focus on raising awareness about the importance of eye donation and cornea transplantation. This year's observance was particularly special, as The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration celebrated with in-person activities for the first time since 2019. Our Hospital and Community Liaisons gathered with staff at health systems across our service area, which includes New York City, Long Island and the Northern Suburban counties, to express gratitude and provide education about the life-changing benefits of the work we do together.

This year, The Eye-Bank also expanded our promotional collaborations with an increased number of hospital partners. Throughout November, the social media platforms of several major health systems featured the cornea transplant recipient stories of individuals who received the beautiful gift of sight with tissue provided by The Eye-Bank. These included the story of nine-year-old Brandon, who received his cornea transplant at NewYork-Presbyterian; the story of retired nurse Mila, who received her transplant at NYU Langone; and the story of tractor-trailer driver Kelvin, who received his cornea transplant thanks to the generous gift of a NYC Health + Hospitals eye donor.

The Mount Sinai Health System also featured co-branded Eye Donation Month ads on their social media platforms as well as on prominent digital signage in their affiliate hospitals throughout The Eye-Bank's service area. It is very meaningful for the community to see the healthcare systems they access endorse eye, organ and tissue donation.

The Eye-Bank is grateful for the continual and strong support of our hospital partners during November and throughout the year and for the generous gifts of the eye donors in our service area who make sight-restoring transplants possible for New Yorkers like Brandon, Mila and Kelvin. 👁️

NewYork-Presbyterian @nyphospital

November is #EyeDonationMonth. Did you know that eye color and blood type don't impact one's ability to become a donor? Sign up today to give the gift of sight to those in need: on.ny.gov/3hbEERG

@eyebankny @DonateLifeNYS #EyeLoveNewYork

November is Eye Donation Month.

Nine-year-old Brandon is "happier, excited, and grateful to be able to see better" after receiving his sight-restoring cornea transplant at NewYork-Presbyterian. Sign up today to become an eye, organ and tissue donor.

Brandon - Cornea Transplant Recipient

THE EYE-BANK OF NEW YORK EyeDonation.org

NewYork-Presbyterian

NYC Health + Hospitals @NYCHealthSystem · 23h

Official

November is #EyeDonationMonth. Together with @eyebankny, we're encouraging New Yorkers to sign up to help others like Kelvin to see again. Sign up today to become a donor: eyedonation.org

#GiftofSight @DonateLifeNYS

November is Eye Donation Month.

Kelvin received a sight-restoring transplant thanks to a generous NYC Health+Hospitals cornea donor. Sign up today to become an eye, organ and tissue donor.

Kelvin - Cornea Transplant Recipient

THE EYE-BANK OF NEW YORK EyeDonation.org

NYC HEALTH+HOSPITALS

Mount Sinai

November 2022

Eye Donation Month

Give the gift of sight... and life. Sign up to become an eye donor today.

THE EYE-BANK FOR SIGHT RESTORATION, INC.

mountsinainyc · Follow

mountsinainyc · November is #EyeDonationMonth. @MountSinaiNYC and @eyebankny encourage New Yorkers to give the beautiful gift of sight. Sign up today to become a donor. #GiftofSight @DonateLifeNYS

Students Wanted: Apply Now for a \$3,000 Scholarship

THE EYE-BANK FOR SIGHT RESTORATION OFFERS TWO SCHOLARSHIPS ANNUALLY TO STUDENTS who meet the specific scholarship's criteria and further our mission of sight restoration through their compelling applications.



For students pursuing higher education in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM), The Eye-Bank's STEM Scholarship requires qualifying applicants to submit an applied research

proposal that helps to increase the number of New Yorkers enrolled in the state's Donate Life Registry as eye, organ and tissue donors.

Both have a \$3,000 scholarship prize and an application deadline of May 15, 2023. Visit www.eyedonation.org/scholarship for more information about scholarship criteria and to access the application forms. 👁️



The Eye-Bank's Young Ambassador Scholarship is available to eligible and qualifying applicants under the age of 25 who are entering or are currently enrolled in a two- or four-year higher education

program or college and have conducted notable and creative efforts to increase public awareness of the importance of eye donation.

120 Wall Street
New York, NY 10005
(212) 742-9000

www.eyedonation.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

eye to eye is published by The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc., a non-profit organization located at 120 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005-3902. The Eye-Bank was founded in 1944 for the purpose of collecting and distributing corneal tissue for transplants, research and medical education. More than 70,000 people in the greater Metropolitan area have had their sight restored through the work of The Eye-Bank.

Patricia Dahl

Executive Director/CEO

Noël Mick

Editor

Chadwick Shank

Associate Editor

Gilad Granot

Contributor

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Of Interest...

ON SEPTEMBER 30, THE CORNEA AND EYE BANKING FORUM, HOSTED BY THE CORNEA SOCIETY AND THE EYE BANK ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (EBAA), WAS HELD IN CHICAGO.

In attendance from The Eye-Bank were Executive Director Patricia Dahl; Associate Director Edwin Roberts, who serves on the EBAA Medical Advisory Board; Director of Communications Noël Mick, who is EBAA Immediate Past Chair and Medical Director Michelle K. Rhee, M.D., who serves on the EBAA Medical Advisory Board and Accreditation Board. Preceded by the World Cornea Congress and proceeded by the annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Cornea and Eye Banking Forum featured 25 scientific abstracts highlighting the latest research developments in cornea transplantation and discussions about the future of eye banking. Two members of The Eye-Bank's Medical Advisory Board, Drs. Viral V. Juthani and Joann J. Kang, serve on the Cornea and Eye Banking Forum's Program Committee. 👁



Patricia Dahl



Edwin Roberts



Noël Mick



Michelle K. Rhee, M.D.



Viral V. Juthani, M.D.



Joann J. Kang, M.D.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EYE-BANK OCULAR LABORATORY TECHNICIAN EITAN QUITORIANO

who recently passed the Eye Bank Association of America's (EBAA) Certified Eye Bank Technician (CEBT) exam. The Eye-Bank's laboratory technicians are required to meet EBAA Medical Standards consistently while providing quality ocular tissue for transplant. Eitan joined The Eye-Bank in September 2021 and holds a M.S. in Biological and Physical Sciences from Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine and a B.S. in Biomedical Science and Public Health from the University of South Florida. 👁



Eitan Quitariano

