

**The Lions Eye Bank for Long Island,
Serving Nassau, Suffolk,
Brooklyn and Queens**



The
Lions'
Eye 

Newsletter of the Lions Eye Bank for Long Island
Franklin Hospital - North Shore - LIJ Health System

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THE LIONS EYE BANK'S JOURNEY TO ITS NEW HOME

For about a decade, the Lions Eye Bank had been discussing the need for larger quarters. The Eye Bank's technical team and its technical needs had outgrown the Eye Bank's laboratory, in existence since the inception of the Eye Bank in 1986. The Eye Bank's lab, located on the campus of North Shore University in Manhasset, and the Eye Bank's administrative offices, located on Northern Boulevard in Great Neck, also were separated by about 2 miles, a fact which added to the Eye Bank's operational challenges.

As the Eye Bank transitioned out of the Department of Ophthalmology, plans were finally discussed to house the Eye Bank at 1554 Northern Boulevard in Manhasset, in the same building as North Shore Hospital's Kidney Transplant Program. Plans were drawn up but as the design process evolved and the feasibility analyzed, the cost estimates for the project exceeded \$1 million. The costs related to HVAC issues and the difficulty of remodeling an old building were largely to blame.

Efforts to relocate shifted to 225 Community Drive, which seemed more conducive towards lower construction costs. Yet, as this process evolved as well, it was determined that over \$700,000 would be needed to create the Eye Bank's new space. This plan too was ultimately rejected. Frustrated by delays and wanting to support the Eye Bank, Susan Somerville, the Executive Director of North Shore University Hospital, made it her mission to find another home for the Eye Bank within the North Shore - LIJ Health



Michael Dowling (r), CEO of NS-LIJ Health System assists Catherine Hottendorf, Executive Director of Franklin Hospital at the ribbon cutting of the labs that house the Lions Eye Bank for Long Island.

System, even if it meant the Eye Bank would leave North Shore University Hospital. One day she sent out e-mails to the hospitals in the North Shore - LIJ System and within eight minutes, Franklin Hospital answered the call. Joe Manopella, then Executive Director of Franklin Hospital, indicated Franklin was in the midst of redoing their entire basement due to flooding and would be ecstatic to house the Eye Bank at their facility. This was in December of 2010. In anticipation of the expansion, the Lions applied for and received a grant of \$75,000 from Lions Clubs International Foundation. This was matched by the Eye Bank. A committee from the Eye Bank Board subsequently met with Susan Somerville to be sure that this move would come to fruition. In January of 2011, the committee went to Franklin Hospital to see the space that they would allot for the Eye Bank.

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EYE BANK'S NEW HOME (continued)



Members of the Eye Bank Board and other dignitaries in the Eye Bank's new home at Franklin Hospital in Valley Stream.

After various additional delays due to insurance settlement issues at Franklin, construction on the Eye Bank space finally began. In October 2012, the project was completed and the Eye Bank moved into its new quarters at Franklin Hospital. An Open House was held January 5, 2013 to commemorate the opening of Franklin's laboratories and the Eye Bank. Michael Dowling, CEO of NSLIJ as well as other dignitaries attended the official ribbon cutting.

Now that the Eye Bank has its new space, it can soon expand its scope of services to include "pre-cut" DSAEK corneas in demand by today's transplant surgeons. The \$150,000 grant paved the way for the purchase of equipment necessary for the development of this program.

The Eye Bank purchased a Moria microkeratome console with cutting head, a new HAI slit lamp microscope with video and photographic capabilities and a new state of the art OCT machine to measure corneal thickness and analyze corneal topography. A new laminar airflow processing hood and plasma freezer were also purchased.

Within the next few months, the Eye Bank will be fully operational with the DSAEK program. The Eye Bank staff is excited about its new capabilities and elated to have the new space, a place where the entire program is housed. The new Eye Bank suite, moreover, has allowed the Eye Bank to regain its identity, and serves as a symbol of something for its team and its legions of Lions supporters to be proud of.

THE LIONS EYE BANK FOR LONG ISLAND TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

When the Eye Bank began, a messenger service was used to transport the cornea from our laboratory to the various hospitals. When we had to import tissue from other eye banks, a messenger was also needed to pick up from the airport and deliver to the various hospitals. The cost of the messenger service was extremely high.

At the end of 1988, after surveying the figures, our chairman, Dale Buley, brought up the fact that a committee should be formed to discuss a more economical method of transporting the corneas.

Elliot Krakauer became the committee of one to start a transportation network. At first, he wrote letters to the fire departments for volunteers to help in the transporting. He also wrote to the Lions asking for their assistance in this task. He sent a letter to the Lions clubs for a list of members who would be willing to volunteer to transport the corneas. The response was overwhelming. The Lions all came to the aid of the Eye Bank. Our first Lions volunteer was Bob Harvey on March 7, 1989, with a trip to Mercy Hospital.

At the beginning of 1990, we were still spending monies for the messenger service, due to the fact that our Executive Director, Betty Heldman, did not call upon the Lions to make the trips to the airports. She did not think they would do it. Past District Governor Al Bloomer, suggested that the Lions get more involved. Al and Linda Bloomer became the first volunteers on a rainy, foggy night. They first went to Kennedy Airport but due to bad weather, the plane was diverted to LaGuardia Airport. When the Bloomers got to LaGuardia Airport, the package and the passengers had been put on a bus back to Kennedy Airport. The Bloomers went back to Kennedy to retrieve the package and proved that the Lions could get the job done, no matter what the problems they might encounter.

Since inception, we have had 410 drivers making over 11,800 trips. The Lions have saved the Eye Bank a total of over \$600,000.

LIONS EYE BANK RECOGNITION DAY



Transporter Chair Elliot Krakauer (L.) with 1,000 + trip driver Bob Needham and his wife and copilot Ruth.

On Sunday, April 28, 2013, Lions Recognition Day was held in honor of the Lions Eye Bank's volunteer drivers and the Eye Bank's new facility. The venue for the event was the Marriott Inn in Plainview where everyone enjoyed a buffet luncheon

and good company. Turnout for the festivities was nice especially since the event was a change of pace from the usual event held many years at the Rust Auditorium at North Shore University Hospital. Everyone who attended agreed that the new format and venue for the event was great and that we should do the same for next year's Recognition Day. Hopefully, even more people will turn out in celebration next year and share in the festivities.

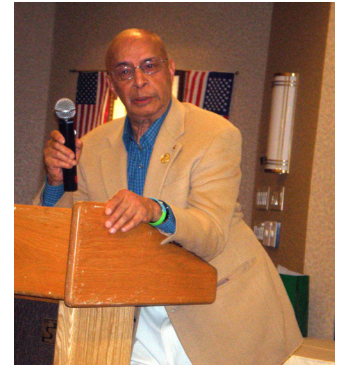
Since the transportation networks inception, 410 drivers have made over 11,800 trips transporting the Gift of Sight at a savings to the Eye Bank of over \$600,000. The Lions can be very proud of the work they are doing.

Our Journal this year celebrated the new Eye Bank facility at Franklin Hospital. The Eye Bank would like to thank the Lions clubs for their support by taking ads in our Journal. The funds raised by the journal will help the Eye Bank continue its sight restoration mission and its work in promoting awareness of the need for organ, tissue and eye donations.

During the celebration, awards were given to recipients of various categories, ranging from First Time Drivers, all the way to the Eye Bank's first 1000+ driver, Lion Bob Needham. Yes, Bob and his wife Ruth have made over 1000 trips transporting the Gift of Sight!

The Chairman of the Board, PCC Steve Tremaroli welcomed all who attended. The Eye Bank Director, Ken Manger made a Power Point presentation showing the pictures of the new lab and equipment purchased with the help of the LCIF grant and the Lions of our surrounding three Districts.

Further into the program, a new Eye Bank Board member, Lion Balan Nagraj, spoke about his son Joseph, who was diagnosed with a brain tumor and died at 29 years of age. In honor of their son and knowing that he would have wanted to be remembered in this manner, Balan and his wife Helen donated his organs and eyes. Joseph's story is tragic, but his legacy is amazing thanks to his thoughtfulness and the generosity of his family members. His heart went to a 61 year old man, his liver to a 49 year old man, his pancreas and left kidney to a 41 year old man, his right kidney to a 50 year old woman and a 32 year old woman received his lungs. Somewhere, someone has also received the Gift of Sight as well.



Eye Bank Board member Balan Nagraj speaks about the passing of his son, a multiple tissue and organ donor.

Everyone was very touched by Mr. Nagraj's story and how important it is to become an organ/tissue donor. Remember to be sure to let your family be aware of your wishes.

The Eye Bank would like to thank those who worked so tirelessly to make the Recognition Day and the Journal such a great success.

Drivers who received awards at Lions Recognition Day

First Time Drivers	Bruce Beaver, George Hannau, Les Rumel
10 Trip Drivers	Linda Ruggiero, Joseph Cambareri III
25 Trip Drivers	Diana Biehayn, Pam Harris, Richard Wright
50 Trip Drivers	Rochelle Goring, Patricia McNally
75 Trip Driver	Ken Manger
100 Trip Drivers	Robert Hoffman
125/150/175 Trip Driver	Lois Bisca
150 Trip Drivers	Esmeralda and Rogerio Justino
175 Trip Driver	Andrew Umreiko
200/225/250 Trip Driver	Herman Green
550 Trip Driver	Elliot Krakauer
1000/1025 Trip Driver	Bob Needham

Lions Eye Bank for Long Island

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**We're on the
Web!**

www.lebli.org

Did You Know?

- Corneal transplants are the most common of human transplant procedures performed with over 40,000 performed in the United States last year alone.
- One eye donor may help as many as 8 people.
- The Eye Bank is enthusiastically supported by the many Lions Clubs of Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk counties. The Lions Clubs donate to the Eye Bank for the funding of increased public awareness and education regarding eye donation and the purchase of necessary equipment.
- Volunteer couriers, primarily Lions club members, donate their time to transport eye tissue to and from various sites all across Long Island. In 2012, volunteers made 300 such trips. Since the inception of the program, over 11,800 trips have been made, saving recipients thousands upon thousands of dollars.

Considering making a financial contribution to the Gift of Sight?

As part of our program to increase public awareness regarding eye and tissue donation, the Long Island Lions Eye Foundation is now accepting your tax-deductible donations. Money raised will be used by the foundation to support the Eye Bank's vision restoration programs. For more information please contact the Eye Bank at (516) 256-6990. To send a contribution, please mail a check made payable to the Long Island Lions Eye Foundation to 900 Franklin Avenue, Valley Stream, New York 11580 Thank you for joining our crusade in the fight against corneal blindness!

About Our Organization...

The Long Island Lions Eye Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of sight. The Lions Eye Bank for Long Island has 28 member hospitals located throughout Nassau, Suffolk, Brooklyn, and Queens. Our mission is to restore sight to those in need of a corneal transplant.

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