

You & Eye

Utah Lions Eye Bank
Spring 2011



March is National Eye Donor Month

The Utah Lions Eye Bank encourages individuals to join their state's donor registry this March.

Utah residents can sign up now at: <https://www.yesutah.org/>

Many individuals refuse to pledge to become eye donors because they believe their medical team will not work as hard to save their lives. Or they may think they cannot be eye donors because they have poor eyesight or a disease such as cancer or diabetes. In reality, the opposite is true.

What is National Eye Donor Month?

Each year, the eye banking community promotes the month of March as National Eye Donor Month (NEDM) in order to encourage eye donation in the communities that they serve. The first NEDM was observed in 1983 as a result of a proclamation read by President Ronald Reagan to note this special public awareness month. Since then, a member of Congress has continued the tradition and reads a proclamation into the Congressional Record each March.

The Need for Eye Donation

More than 59,000 individuals received the "gift of sight" last year thanks to a corneal transplant. These individuals suffered vision loss from a corneal disease or injury that compromised quality of life, making it difficult to accomplish everyday tasks such as reading or even recognizing faces at a distance.

Fortunately, through the medical miracle of corneal transplantation, sight restoration is possible. The transplantation process depends on the priceless gift of eye donation from one human to another thanks to the selfless and generous choice to pledge to become an eye donor after death.

"yes"
Utah  

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John A. Moran Eye Center Introduces The Center for Translational Medicine

Internationally renowned researcher Dr. Gregory Hageman moved from the University of Iowa to the John A. Moran Eye Center in 2009 and is the Director of the Center for Translational Research. Donations to the gift of sight program at the Utah Lions Eye Bank located in the Moran Eye Center, which are not eligible for cornea transplant, can be used for important retinal research in the Hageman Laboratory.

Dr. Hageman's prolific career studying the eye has taken him through fascinating areas of research. With a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California, he was a rising star and director of research at the University of Southern California's marine biology station on Catalina Island 1983. He became interested in eye anatomy and vision as a result of studying the eye spots of bryozoans, tiny sea creatures that live in colonies similar to coral colonies.

Six years later Dr. Hageman embarked on a 20-year study of the causes of blinding eye diseases, which continues to this day. Along this road, he began to examine and test the eyes of a diverse variety of species in his quest to identify an animal model of Age-Related Macular Degeneration. No reliable model was identified, so he began assembling, categorizing and studying what would become the world's largest collection of donated human eyes.

"The road to our discovery began when we started studying drusen in these donated human eyes," Dr. Hageman says. "Drusen are abnormal deposits that form on the back of the eyes of people with AMD.

You don't see drusen in the eyes of patients without AMD. We realized that drusen deposits in the eyes were comprised of proteins associated with the complement system. My colleagues and I have been studying drusen and these complement factors for more than two decades. We discovered that normal levels of protective Complement Factor H protein may actually protect against AMD, while variants in the gene result in poor regulation of this system, leading to the development of AMD."

Dr. Hageman's discoveries did not come without incredible perseverance and at times personal doubt. "As with most science, it has been long arduous work with rare rewards," says Dr. Hageman. "Our work was not well-received for almost a decade. Colleagues were unwilling to accept the notion that the complement system plays a robust role in the development of AMD."

Dr. Hageman has twice addressed members of the U.S. Congress about these discoveries. He has been successful in obtaining funding over the past 22 years to keep his vision alive. He brings to the Moran Eye Center a wealth of knowledge and support as the principal investigator of a \$14.6 million, R24 translational award supported by the

National Institute of Health and the National Eye Institute, involving 12 participating institutions. Helen Keller once said, "Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence." To know Dr. Hageman is to know a man who exemplifies the values of optimism, faith, hope and confidence. Based on his past record, no doubt Gregory Hageman will achieve many more pioneering breakthroughs at the John A. Moran Eye Center.



Greg Hageman, PhD

Dates to Remember Bereavement Support Groups:

May 11 - June 29, 2011

(Wednesday Evenings)

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

University of Utah College of Nursing

Annette Poulson Cumming Building

10 South 2000 East

Salt Lake City, Utah 84112

May 12 - June 30, 2011

(Thursday Evenings)

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

UUHC Greenwood Health Center

7495 South State Street

Salt Lake City, Utah 84047

May 11 - June 29, 2011

(Wednesday Evenings)

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

U of U Parkway Health Center

145 West University Parkway

Orem, Utah 84058

To Register Call (801) 585-9522 • <http://nursing.utah.edu/practice/caringconnections/>

Adults 60 years and older who have experienced the death of a close friend or family member more than 6 months ago and are struggling with grief or experiencing distress are invited to contact Caring Connections: A Hope and Comfort in Grief Program to discuss participation in a research study. For more information please contact Kathie Supiano or Shawna Rees at 801-585-9522.

Friends of the Eye Bank

The Utah Lions Eye Bank thanks the following individuals for their generous financial donations from Nov 2010 – Jan 2011:

Anita Alcabes	William & Diane Moore
Milton & Dianne Anderson	Mildred Mueller
Alma & June Austin	Edwin S. Munson
Doris E. Bailey	Bill Naegle
John Bendixen	Lewis Cliff Payzant
Neva Bentley	Barbara Peterson
John Bianucci	Maria Ramirez
Lyman R. Brothers III	Robert F. Smith
Pauline Childs	Stewart Smith
Dr. Joseph Cook	Shirley Stevenson
Paul B. Crookston	C. William Stone
Norman & Carol Ellertson	Nona Swenson
Joh Francis	Molly Taylor
Dee Ann Gornichec	E. M. Wardell
Fritz & Judith Hohmann	Gary A. White
Edward Hughes	Ross & Mary Jo Wight
George & Judy Johnson	
Irmgard Kunz	
Willard & Rona Lee Maughan	

Donations In Memory of:

Doug Beckstead ~	Barb Tingey
Kyle Carlile ~	John F. Hamner
Cecil P. Counts ~	Doris Counts
Winona Cowan ~	Dee Cowan
Henry J. Desz ~	Norma Desz
Clark Hardy ~	Evelyn Hardy
Jean D. Mears ~	Kathy Anglesey
Jean D. Mears ~	Scott & Anne Garrett
Jean D. Mears ~	Frances M. Hardwick
Jean D. Mears ~	Caroline R. Johansen
Jean D. Mears ~	Wallace & Shirley Mears
Jean D. Mears ~	Richard & Kim Plautz
Jean D. Mears ~	Roger & Beth Tucker
Jean D. Mears ~	Tamara Zagorec-Marks
Jean H. Miller ~	Lamar Miller
D. Dale Ratliff ~	Connie & Dawn Ratliff
Bob Pattison ~	J.J. Wang, Quint Star Management, Inc.
Bob Pattison ~	Moab Lions Club

Donations In Honor of:

John Fredrickson ~	Annette Fredrickson
Warren V. Kunz ~	Marvin Alleman
Dr. Matthew Parsons ~	Dr. Ray W. Alvord

Please use the enclosed envelope to make a donation in memory of, or in honor of, someone you love. Thank you for your generosity.

The Utah Lions Eye Bank Welcomes Team Members



Lindsey Floisand

Lindsey was born and raised in Farmington, UT. She received her Associate's of Science from Salt Lake Community College earlier this year. She is a University of Utah pre-nursing student pursuing a B.S. in Health Promotion and Education. Lindsey has worked in the social work field for the last five years. She loves biking, rock climbing and river rafting. She is excited to be undertaking another adventure in her pursuit to do what she loves, helping people.



Jennifer Wyllie

Jennifer Wyllie was born and raised in Queens, N.Y. She was in a very bad car accident in 1997 and moved to Utah to heal. Her brother lived here while in the Air Force. She then moved her mother here from Brooklyn, N.Y. In 2000, she had her first son and then in 2009, had her second son. She loves to read, laugh, swim and hang out with her kids, family, and friends. She is honest, loyal, funny, easygoing and has a dry sense of humor. She loves her new job and all the challenges it brings. She is also very excited to be starting a new journey this fall by going back to college.



Sarah Huber

Sarah is originally from Western Nebraska. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in 2003 with a major in biology and minor in chemistry from Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. She moved to Salt Lake City to pursue a career as a Forensic Autopsy Assistant for the Office of the Medical Examiner (OME). In July she will celebrate her two year anniversary at the OME. She enjoys all types of sports, especially basketball, football and baseball. In her free time she likes to spend time with her Shih Tzu puppy 'Madison'. Sarah is excited for the opportunity to be a member of the Utah Lions Eye Bank team.

UTAH LIONS EYE BANK

John A. Moran Eye Center
University of Utah Health Sciences Center
65 Mario Capecchi Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84132

Demonstrate Your Commitment to Saving Sight: www.yesutah.org

Heart of the Lion Courier Program

Please join us in thanking the following Utah Lions for their support of the Heart of the Lion Courier Program by delivering precious eye tissue to local hospitals and surgery centers between Nov 2010 – Jan 2011:

Participating Lion	Lions Club	Number of Tissues Delivered
Stephen Anderson	Syracuse	1
Judy Barron	Holladay	4
Tom Barron	Holladay	10
Shirley Bowe	Riverdale	1
Cindy Clinger	Holladay	2
Steven Clinger	Holladay	3
Lee Flynn	Holladay	5
Elmer Inman	South Salt Lake	13
Lynn John	Syracuse	1
Jerry Millard	Salt Lake City	1
Zella Millard	Salt Lake City	3
Joseph Thompson	Riverdale	2
Murl Thurgood	Syracuse	1
Al Woodmansee	South Salt Lake	7