

## HONORING OUR DONORS, EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY

New Mexico Lions Eye Bank (NMLEB) has been providing safe, high-quality corneal tissue to surgeons and their patients since 1962. NMLEB helps make people's final gift – the gift of sight – a reality.

NMLEB has been supported since its inception by dedicated Lions Clubs across New Mexico who contribute their time and expertise to NMLEB's sight-restoring mission.

NMLEB helps donor families, recipients, and surgeons throughout the state by promoting donation at health fairs and other local events, and by hosting events to honor donors and their families.

For more information about eye donation, or to arrange for a presentation from the NM Lions Eye Bank, please visit our website: [WWW.NMLEB.ORG](http://WWW.NMLEB.ORG)



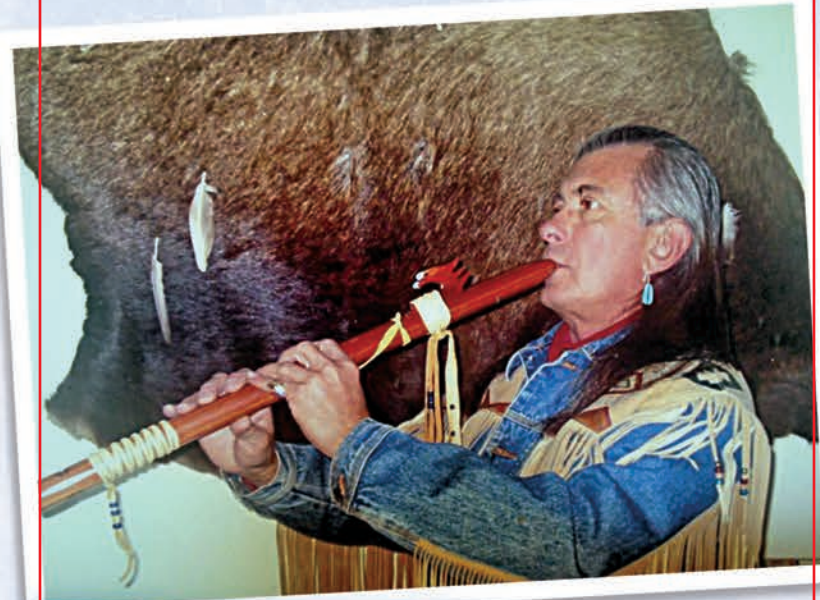
An Affiliate of  
TBI/Tissue Banks International

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# Give the Gift of Sight You Can Change Lives



Daniel, cornea donor

Register to be  
an organ,  
eye and tissue  
donor.

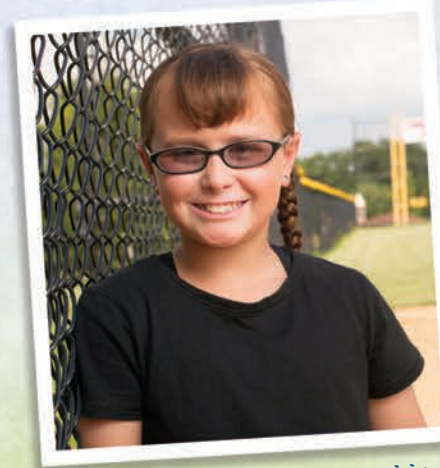


New Mexico

You have the power to change someone's world by being an organ, eye and tissue donor.  
It's about living. It's about Life.

Organ, eye and tissue transplants offer patients a new chance at healthy, productive, and normal lives and return them to their families, friends and communities.

Transplantation is one of the most remarkable success stories in the history of medicine. It provides hope to thousands of people with organ failure. In addition, transplanted tissue offers hundreds of thousands of people active and renewed lives. But transplantation requires the commitment of organ, eye and tissue donors. Unfortunately, the need for donors is much greater than the number of people who actually donate.



Morgan, cornea recipient



Betty, bilateral cornea recipient

"I can't express how thankful I have been for those families to have chosen donation so I could see again."

### Statistics on Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation

- Last year, more than 8,500 deceased donors made possible approximately 24,000 organ transplants. In addition, there were nearly 6,000 transplants from living donors.
- Nearly 48,000 sight-restoring corneal transplants were performed in the U.S. last year.
- Each year, approximately 30,000 tissue donors save and heal lives.
- The need for donated organs, corneas and tissue continues to grow. Nearly 125,000 men, women and children currently await lifesaving organ transplants. On average, 22 people die each day because the organs they need are not donated in time.

## You have the power to Donate Life.

As a donor, you can save and heal the lives of more than 50 people. Donated organs and tissue may include the following:

### Organs

heart  
intestines  
kidneys  
liver  
lungs  
pancreas

### Tissue

bones  
corneas  
heart valves  
skin  
tendons  
veins

## How the donation process works

Your commitment to donation will not interfere with your medical care. Organ, eye and tissue donation becomes an option only after all lifesaving efforts have been made. Consent for donation is confirmed, and your family is asked to participate in the process by providing your medical history.

Surgical procedures are used to recover donated organs, eyes and tissue. The body is always treated with great care, respect and dignity.

## Who receives donated organs and tissue

Organs are distributed based upon medical information like blood type, body size, and tissue type matching through a national computer network operated by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). It is illegal to distribute organs based on non-medical information such as wealth or celebrity status.

Tissue is distributed based upon patient need, availability and medical criteria.



Lany, Charles' wife, and his daughters were thrilled when they heard that he was able to help restore sight to two people.

Charles, ocular tissue donor

# Facts about Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation

- FACT:** People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential donors.
- FACT:** Your medical condition at the time of death will determine what organs and tissue can be donated.
- FACT:** Tissue is needed to replace bone, tendons and ligaments lost to trauma, cancer and other diseases in order to improve strength, mobility, and independence. Corneas are needed to restore sight. Skin grafts help burn patients heal and often mean the difference between life and death. Heart valves repair cardiac defects and damage.
- FACT:** All major religions support organ, eye and tissue donation as an unselfish act of charity.
- FACT:** Donation should not delay or change funeral arrangements. An open casket funeral is possible.
- FACT:** There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for donation. The donor family pays only for medical expenses before death and costs associated with funeral arrangements.
- FACT:** In the United States, it is illegal to buy or sell organs or tissue for transplantation.
- FACT:** It is possible to donate life to others as a living kidney or partial liver, lung, intestine or pancreas donor.

Please visit the following websites for more information.

**New Mexico Lions Eye Bank:**  
[www.nmleb.org](http://www.nmleb.org)

**New Mexico Donor Services:**  
[www.DonateLifeNM.org](http://www.DonateLifeNM.org)

**Donate Life America:**  
[www.DonateLife.net](http://www.DonateLife.net)

For John, a cornea transplant brought a whole new world into view. John lost his sight in a chemical explosion at age 20. For the next 31 years, he lived his life in total darkness. Then, at age 51, John's world changed immeasurably. A cornea transplant allowed him to see his now grown children for the first time. "I approached my children and I couldn't say anything. Not a word. For the first time in my life I was looking at my children." Through tears of joy, he was happy to see that his loving wife Anita had only changed for the better. Everyday things are part of John's life again, too. Thanks to the cornea transplant, he has put away his white folding cane for good.



John, cornea recipient



John, cornea donor



Rose, cornea recipient



Jerry, cornea donor

## WHY GIVE?

- Sight is a precious gift that allows us to see the faces of our loved ones and the beauty of the world around us.
- Each year, thousands of people lose their sight, but in many cases, sight can be restored by receiving a corneal transplant.
- Corneal transplants are only possible through cornea donation. Thousands of people would be left in the dark without the generosity of cornea donors.

## YOU HAVE THE POWER TO GIVE SIGHT.

Cornea donation, like organ and tissue donation, is an opportunity to leave a lasting legacy. As a donor, you can heal lives and restore sight to two people.

## HOW TO BECOME A DONOR

In New Mexico, you can register to be a donor when you apply for or renew your driver's license or ID card. You can also go online and sign up to be a donor at:

[WWW.NMDONOR.COM](http://WWW.NMDONOR.COM)

It is important for your family to understand your decision to be a donor, so discuss your choice with them today.