Give Sight, Give Love

Give Sight, Give Love is a fundraising campaign conducted by the Iowa Lions Foundation. It will raise funds to help Iowa Lions Eye Bank (ILEB) continue to set new standards in eye banking and corneal research through the purchase of new equipment and supplies, paving the way for innovative breakthroughs that will help preserve and restore sight now and for generations to come.

Iowa Lions Eye Bank

ILEB is a non-profit service organization established with the help of the Lions of Iowa in 1955. It is based in Coralville and has a mission to enhance the quality of life through the restoration and preservation of sight. They do this through the recovery, processing and distribution of human ocular tissue for transplantation and groundbreaking research. While their roots are in Iowa, their impact spans the globe, advancing vision care and inspiring hope for a brighter future.

Iowa Lions In Action

Lions along the I-80 corridor transport corneas from the Iowa Donor Network in Altoona to the Grinnell area where they are handed off to another transporter to complete the trip to Iowa Lions Eye Bank in Coralville.

A coordinator assigns the transport to a Lion every day, 365 days a year. Lions sign up for specific days in advance. Iowa Lions Eye Bank is the only eye bank in Iowa, serving all 99 counties in the state.

Needs List

Some of the equipment at ILEB is outdated and/or approaching the end of its productive life. A partial prioritized equipment and supplies needs list that will allow the ILEB to continue its sight-saving work and groundbreaking research includes:

- Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) Microscope enables ILEB to see cross-sectional images of the cornea and to ensure the cornea meets the surgeon's parameters. The current OCT microscope is extremely old and outdated.
- Droplet digital thermal cycler: will enable ILEB to use human donor samples more efficiently and get more information about genes involved in corneal diseases.
- One year of in-situ recovery instruments (800 kits): essential to ILEB's ability to recover the gift of sight from cornea donors.
- One year of enucleation instruments (300 kits): essential to ILEB's ability to recover whole eyes for vital research such as studying blinding retinal conditions and other diseases of the eye behind the cornea.
- pH meter & thermal cycler: will enable ILEB to hasten their experiments in tissue testing and accelerating new drug discovery for corneal diseases.

A full list of needs is available.

Goal and Timeline

The total cost of purchasing the equipment and supplies needed is $210,000. An anticipated and hoped for LCIF matching grant will reduce the amount of funds to be raised by the Lions of Iowa to $105,000. Commitments by clubs and individuals may be payable over a 2-year period. **All cash needs to be received by June 30, 2026.**

How to Donate

Donations should be made payable to:

Iowa Lions Foundation
PO Box 1
Monticello, IA 52310

Be sure to write Give Sight, Give Love in the memo field.

District & Club Community Impact Grants (DCGs) may also be used for Give Sight, Give Love.

Please join with Lions across Iowa in giving the gift of sight, which is giving the gift of love.

Restoring Sight Across the Nation

The U.S. map below illustrates the profound impact of Iowa Lions Eye Bank donors across the country. In 2024, 1,020 generous Iowa donors made it possible for 835 individuals to receive sight-restoring corneal transplants. The numbers within each state represent recipients whose lives were forever changed by this remarkable gift, reflecting the commitment of Iowa donors to improving vision care both locally and nationally.

Club Recognition

Bronze Level Banner Patch: $250

Blue Level Banner Patch: $500

Gold Level Banner Patch: $1,000

Clubs contributing at the $3,000 and $5,000 levels will have recognition plaques placed on the new equipment.

Donations are eligible for WCA

Individual Recognition

Bronze Pin = $100

Blue Pin = $250+

Gold Pin = $500+

Individual Pin = $20+

GIVE SIGHT, GIVE LOVE

Celebrating 70 Years

A CAMPAIGN TO CELEBRATE THE IOWA LIONS INVESTMENT IN

IOWA LIONS EYE BANK
OUR VISION IS YOUR VISION