

Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation Report by Directors Brian Maki and Wayne Tieman

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The Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation has worked to help the blind and visually-impaired since 1960. They have been in partnership with the University of Minnesota.

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank The Minnesota Lions Eye Bank helps restore sight by providing corneas for transplant and eye tissue for research and medical education. In the 55+ years of operation, the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank has distributed more than 30,000 corneas for transplant and 29,000 eyes for research and education. Staff members work around the clock to offer people the option of eye donation.

Lions Children's Eye Clinic More than 8,000 children are treated every year at the Lions Children's Eye Clinic. Lions donations helped equip the clinic and support studies in gliomas (eye tumors that affect children under the age of 10) and retinoblastoma (eye cancer typically striking children 3 and under).

Lions Macular Degeneration Center The MAC studies and treats macular degeneration, the leading cause of blindness in the United States. MAC doctors provide the best possible clinical care for individuals with macular degeneration or other retinal diseases and educate tomorrow's patient care providers.

Lions Funded Research: Tomorrow's Hope New medications, improved surgical techniques, progress in the treatment and cure of diseases—all of these rely on research. In 1993, the Lions gave \$3 million to help build the Lions Research Building and continue to support research, knowing that research is the key to ending blindness.

Minnesota Lions Eye Surgery Center With the aging of the population, demand for the medical and surgical expertise of ophthalmologists will increase more than 33% in the next 5 years. So the MLVF is helping make sure that doctors have the best tools and space to give patients the eye care they need.

Lions Eye Institute The MLVF is excited to announce a new level of partnership between the Lions and the University of Minnesota. The U of MN will provide a single, centralized site that conducts ground-breaking vision research, translates discoveries to patient care, and trains the next generation of ophthalmologists and physician-scientists. **The LEI on the U of MN will be the first major building on campus to be done entirely with private funds—no taxpayer dollars will be used.**

Together, WE SERVE" continues. Remember that Lions Brian and Wayne, your Vision Foundation reps are willing to visit your clubs and speak on the MLVF. brianmaki@frontiernet.net
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Thank you for being Knights of the Blind. Thank you for your support.