

ANNUAL REPORT
FY 2021

1991 – 2021

CELEBRATING

30 YEARS

IN THE CRUSADE
AGAINST DARKNESS



Dakota Lions Sight & Health
Eye and Tissue Donation

FOUNDED IN 1991

dakotasight.org

Letter from the CEO

This year, our organization celebrates our 30th anniversary. Over the past 30 years we've helped to restore sight and health to tens of thousands of individuals through eye and tissue donation. We've cultivated strong partnerships, opened offices in multiple cities, employed dozens of dedicated staff, and honored the donors and their families.

However, while the organization as it exists today celebrates 30 years, we would not be here today if it were not for the foundation that was built by several individuals nearly 6 decades ago.

In 1966, with support from Lions Club members in South Dakota, the Sight & Service Foundation (who built the state's first school for the blind) launched an initiative to start an eye donation program. This early program utilized hospitals, physicians, and even the highway patrol, to recover and transport corneas donated in South Dakota to surgeons in Minnesota and Nebraska.



Marcy Dimond, CEPT, CTBS
Chief Executive Officer

Medical Directors

Medical Director for Ocular Tissue
John Berdahl, MD

Medical Director for Ocular Tissue
Michael Eide, MD

Medical Director of Non-Ocular Tissue & Research
Michael Bauer, MD

Associate Medical Director for Ocular Tissue
Michael Greenwood, MD

This arrangement worked for many years until the need for cornea tissue in South Dakota exceeded the capabilities of the volunteers. By 1990, a task force was developed to work towards establishing a fully functioning eye bank in South Dakota that would be governed by the Lions of South Dakota. Through this task force and support from the community, startup funds were raised and on February 14, 1991, the South Dakota Lions Eye Bank officially opened.

Since the startup and founding of our organization, we've grown into a multi-state organization serving the region through excellence in our programs. We've employed state-of-the-art equipment and techniques to improve transplant outcomes. We've expanded our donation options to include the first birth tissue donation program in the upper Midwest. We've done all of this with one goal in mind: fulfilling our Mission of *Helping to Enable the Restoration of the Gifts of Sight & Health*.

To all who have supported this organization over the years – thank you!

Here's to another 30 years!

Current Board of Directors

President: Lion Mel Olson

Vice-President: Lion Rick Swenson

Secretary: Lion Carolyn Lean

Treasurer: Kendall Kliever

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Lion Dave Jackson

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Financial Summary



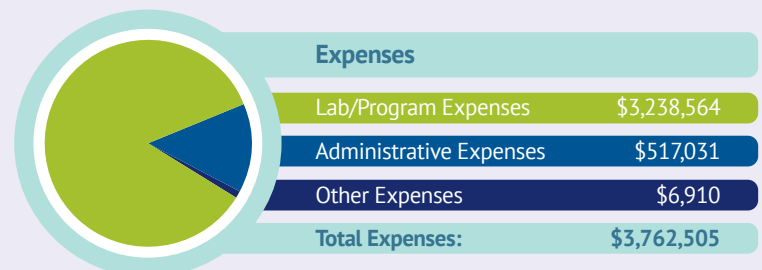
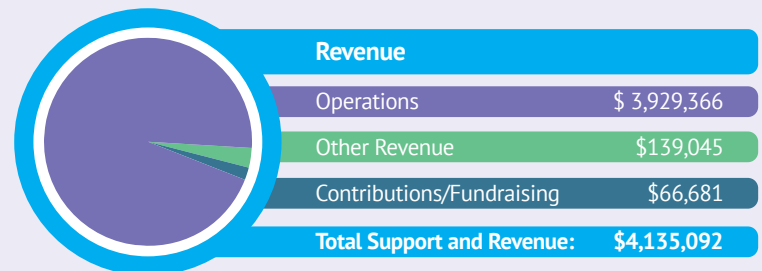
Support and revenue

Operations	\$3,929,366	95%
Other Revenue	\$139,045	3%
Contributions/Fundraising	\$66,681	2%
Total Support and Revenue:	\$ 4,135,092	

Expenses

Lab/Program Expenses	\$3,238,564	85%
Administrative Expenses	\$517,031	14%
Other Expenses	\$6,910	1%
Total Expenses:	\$3,762,505	

Increase to Net Assets **\$372,587**



Dakota Lions Sight & Health marks **30** years of service

Since its founding 30 years ago, Dakota Lions Sight & Health (DLSH) has remained dedicated to restoring sight and health through excellence in eye and tissue donation throughout the region. What was once a small volunteer organization has grown into a large professional organization, serving a multi-state region, and helping to restore sight and health worldwide.

Today, Dakota Lions Sight & Health recovers a variety of tissues from selfless donors and provides those tissues to transplant surgeons for restoring sight and health and also to researchers for the advancement of medical science. The service area encompasses the states of South Dakota and North Dakota, along with northern Nebraska and western Minnesota.

In addition to preparing tissue for transplantation, Dakota Lions Sight & Health also serves the region through a compassionate donor family bereavement program as well as providing education and training to medical professionals. The organization has gained a positive reputation for its training program, including providing CEU credits for nurses, social workers, and first responders.

In recognition of Dakota Lions Sight & Health's 30th anniversary, Dr. Michael Greenwood of Vance Thompson Vision Fargo and DLSH Associate Medical Director, said, *"I am proud to work with Dakota Lions Sight & Health. Not only is the technology among the best in the country, the people are the best in the world. Having Dakota Lions Sight & Health in our community has made countless lives better over the past 30 years!"*

Dr. John Berdahl of Vance Thompson Vision Sioux Falls and DLSH Medical Director, shared his thoughts about Dakota Lions Sight & Health. *"Dakota Lions Sight & Health eye bank has been steadfast and wonderful stewards of vision in our community. Not only do they provide a high-quality cornea transplant and tissue for humans in our local community and around the world, they have also been instrumental in training medical personnel and helping advanced science through research. I am grateful to work alongside each and every member of Dakota Lions Sight & Health."*

From the 99 corneas placed in Dakota Lions Sight & Health's first year in 1991 to more than nearly 1,000 corneal transplants in



In the mid-1960s, a task force comprised of Lions Club members was formed to start an eye bank in South Dakota with the support of Lions Clubs International. At the time, eye banking was not regulated and funeral directors, doctors, and nurses often recovered the eyes from donors. Lions Clubs members would then transport, in relay fashion, the ocular tissue to the borders of Minnesota and Nebraska for further transport to the established eye banks in Minneapolis and Omaha.

In 1991, through the help of the Lions Clubs and Dr. Thomas White, the South Dakota Lions Eye Bank was established in Sioux Falls, SD. By the end of the first year, 99 corneas were placed for transplant. The organization quickly grew and in 2010, non-ocular tissue was added as a service as well as the relocation into the new state-of-the-art headquarters facility in Sioux Falls. In 2014, the organization collaborated and partnered with the Lions Eye Bank of North Dakota, eventually becoming one unified organization named Dakota Lions Sight & Health.

Throughout the organization's history, the eye bank has worked closely with surgeons and hospitals. This approach is vital to providing the best options for both healthcare providers, tissue donors, and transplant recipients.

2021, we continue to strive to ensure surgeons have the materials they need, prepared to their exact specifications, to significantly improve lives.

"Dakota Lions Sight & Health has provided high quality access to transplant tissues for 30 years. The service they provide has restored vision and function, improving the lives of patients and the communities they serve." said Dr. Mike Eide from Ophthalmology Ltd and DLSH Associate Medical Director.

While celebrating 30 years of service, Dakota Lions Sight & Health is looking forward to growing or expanding their birth tissue donation program that is another important step in furthering their Mission of *Helping to Enable the Restoration of the Gifts of Sight & Health.*

"The achievements of this organization are built upon the foundation laid by Dr. White and the Lions Club members those many years ago," said Marcy Dimond, CEO of Dakota Lions Sight & Health. *"I am thankful for their hard work and I am proud to work with a team of professionals who strive every day to serve our communities and meet our Mission of restoring sight and health."*

2021
Stats

885
TOTAL
Donors

881
CORNEA
TRANSPLANTS

TOTAL
TISSUE
160

TOTAL 42 RESEARCH

Our Mission

To help enable the restoration of the gifts of sight and health.



Dakota Lions Sight & Health

Eye and Tissue Donation

Dakota Lions Sight & Health is a
501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

2021 Contributors

General Contributions

Aberdeen Lions Club
Alexander Lions Club
Dona Andvik
Donald Arne
Mary Atchison
Bob Audette
Automatic Building Controls
Barbara Bartmann
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Wanda Bergh
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Bismarck Prairie Rose Lions Club
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 Williston Lions Club
 Norma Wittmeier
 Glen Wollman
 Yankton Lions Club

In Honor Contributions

LaVergne Hedman by Clayton and Peg Hedman
 Vernon Joy by Keith and Candy Joy
 Ann Keating by Sidney Nelson

In Memory Contributions

Betty Anderson by Vicki Wentz
 John Bergeron by Alan Bergeron
 Alvin Berry by Dave and Mavis Kruger
 Daniel Besonen by Ethel Besonen
 Millie Biesman by Jane Petersen
 Lonny Boese by Todd and Renee Augustad

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 Kenneth Carlsen by Jeanne Nelson
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Harold Narum by David and Pam Narum
 Terry Narum by Loweel and Ann Latimier; Minot Lions Club

Dr. James R. Olson by Susan Blue; James and Judith Bradshaw; Charles and Nancy Evans; Martha Klevay; Linda Shaw-Elgin; Kirk and Joan Smith; Marilyn Youngman; and Charles and Colleen Zick

Agnes Pape by Barbara Husk
 Lorraine Perkins by Deuel County Lions Club
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 Diane Price by David Price
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 Don Richard by Vicki Wentz

Dorothy Sargent by Miller Lions Club
 Bonnie Schulte by June Van Asch
 Marjorie Sprung by June Van Asch
 Paul Stach by Shirley Stach
 Dennis Van Asch and Donella Gardner by June Van Asch
 Helen Warkenthien by Donna Williams
 Randy Weber by Stratford-Warner Lions Club
 Nancy White by Donna Flanagan; Glen and Chelaine Nelson

South Dakota Community Foundation

Vernon and JoDean Joy

Henry Baker Memorial Fellowship

Lion Henry Christensen
 Lion Michal Thesenvitz

Gifts of Sight and Health Golf Tournament

Alamo Tissue Service
 Beal Distributing
 Boen & Associates
 Carnival
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* Key Sponsors - \$7500+



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Serving •OUR• communities through:

Education & Training



Eye Donation



Tissue Donation



Research

A brief timeline of



Dakota Lions Sight & Health

Eye and Tissue Donation

