



# Selfless Giving. Renewed Hope.

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2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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Dakota Lions Sight & Health  
Eye and Tissue Donation



**Marcy Dimond, CEBT, CTBS**  
Chief Executive Officer

OVER  
**3,000**  
TRANSPLANTS  
HAVE BEEN  
FACILITATED  
THIS YEAR

# Greetings,

As we reflect on the past year at Dakota Lions Sight & Health, I am filled with gratitude and pride for what we have accomplished together in our Mission of *Helping to Enable the Restoration of the Gifts of Sight & Health*. I'm excited to share a few milestones with you, and I hope they inspire the same sense of encouragement and enthusiasm in you that they bring to me.

Over the past year, we have expanded our programs to creatively invest in our community. One such new program is the Restoration of Sight & Health Scholarship, which provided four scholarships to students in South Dakota and North Dakota who are pursuing an education in a field related to our Mission. Our hope is that these students will go on to serve in our communities and positively support eye and tissue donation in the future. We have also expanded our gratis vision program and worked cooperatively with local foundations to provide direct financial assistance to five individuals undergoing a sight and/or health-restoring surgery.

Another hallmark achievement of this year is the rapid expansion of our relatively new Birth Tissue Donation Program. We are proud to be the only organization offering this program in the region and we have increased opportunities for new mothers to donate this health-restoring tissue. Since this program began not long ago, over 2,800 transplants have been facilitated in our service area.

**Each story of restored sight and improved health reinforces our Mission of *Helping to Enable the Restoration of the Gifts of Sight & Health* for everyone in our community.**

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce plans to continue the expansion of our Birth Tissue Donation Program. Our goal is to continue to increase opportunities through education and improved processes that will allow this program to become the standard of care. However, we cannot do this alone. We continue to rely on your encouragement, advocacy, and support as we strive to meet the ever-changing needs of the community we serve.

I invite you to take a moment to reflect on the lives we have touched together. Each contribution, no matter the size, plays a vital role in shaping our community's health and well-being. Together, we can illuminate the path to a brighter future for those who need it most, enabling them to experience the gifts of sight & health.

Thank you for your dedication to Dakota Lions Sight & Health.

Sincerely,

*Marcy Dimond*

**Marcy Dimond, CEBT, CTBS**  
Chief Executive Officer



800+  
EYE AND TISSUE DONORS



1,300+  
BIRTH TISSUE DONORS



900+  
CORNEA TRANSPLANTS

# 2024 by the Numbers.

## Financial Summary

### Support and Revenue

Operations	\$6,569,625	89%
Contributions/Fundraising	\$304,646	7%
Other Revenue	\$477,932	4%

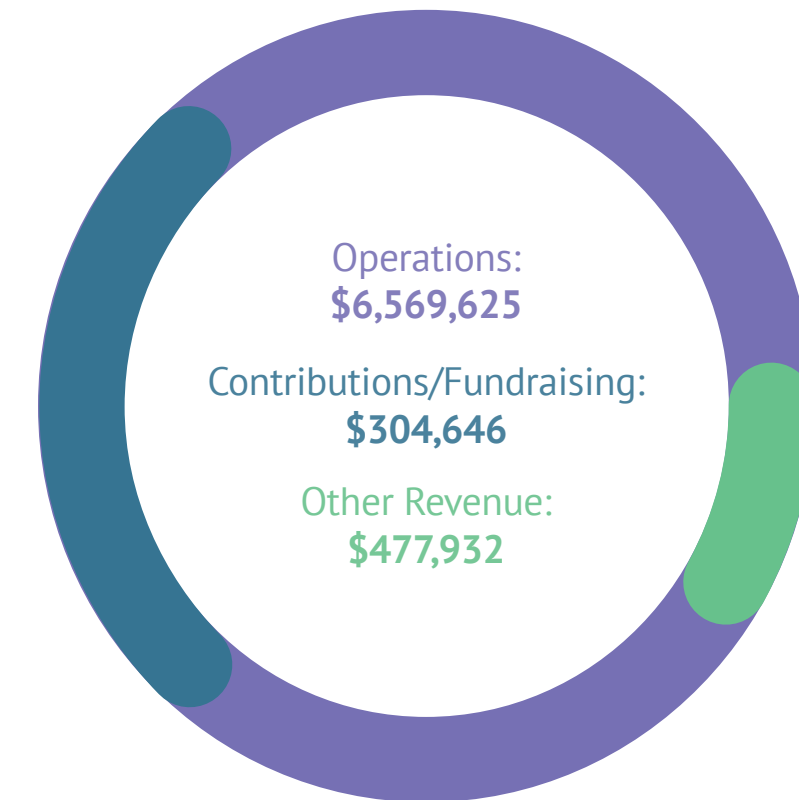
**Total Support and Revenue: \$7,352,203**

### Expenses

Lab/Program Expenses	\$4,813,070	88%
Administrative Expenses	\$614,080	11%
Other Expenses	\$25,725	.5%

**Total Expenses: \$5,452,875**

Increase to Net Assets: \$1,925,053





# Chelsea,

I am a recipient of your loved one's cornea. I want to first express my sympathy for your loss. I am incredibly thankful for your loved one's donation. I am a new mom, and being able to wake up and see my baby with clear eyes is a gift I couldn't be more grateful for. This gift has improved my life so much and I want to give major thanks to you and your loved one. THANK YOU!!

*Chelsea*  
Donor's Recipient



**10,000+**  
LIVES TOUCHED  
BY OTHER  
TRANSPLANTS

# Kelsey,

My late Husband is your donor. I am incredibly grateful that you reached out to me. Please know that your letter did bring me some peace. As a mother I cannot begin to imagine what it was like seeing your sweet precious baby clearly for the first time.

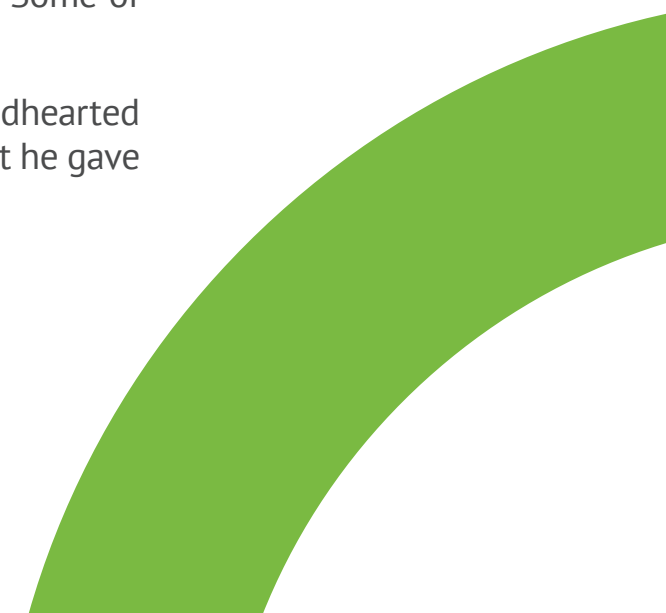
I am so incredibly honored that my husband was able to give you such a tremendous gift. My husband loved being a father. Being that you both have something in common I would like to share a few things about him. He always loved taking the kids out deer hunting. We have pictures of their first deer hanging in our home. He also loved pulling the kids on the sled in the wintertime. He especially loved his snowmobiling trips with the guys. He also looked forward to taking the whole family to the lake every summer. He loved taking the kids fishing, even though we never really caught anything. We just enjoyed being out on the lake with the kids. He also loved pulling the kids and I on the jet ski. Sometimes I think he got more of a thrill out of making us fall off the tube. Most importantly he loved the farm. He would spend countless hours there and he always looked forward to taking the kids to the farm. Some of our first dates were on the farm, truthfully that was how most of our dates were at.

One thing I personally would like you to know is that he was a very selfless and kindhearted person, and he would be greatly humbled and honored to have given you the gift that he gave you. You and your family will forever be in my family's thoughts and prayers.

*Kelsey*  
Donor's Wife



**Kelsey**  
Donor's Wife



# A Birth Tissue Donation Story.

**Our birth tissue donation program first started in January 2021 – and the spark to its beginning is a personal one.**

A few years ago, a family member of our team experienced a traumatic injury to his eye. For months he struggled with complications before receiving an amnion graft, which uses placenta tissue (or birth tissue), to aid in the healing of his cornea. That amnion graft, in combination with corrective surgery, led to a night-and-day difference in his sight. For us, that outcome was all the proof we needed to know that birth tissue donation was a worthwhile mission.

## **A Special Way to Heal.**

Birth tissue has the ability to become the support structure for new cell growth, anywhere in or on the body. Its adaptable nature enables its use in a wide range of patient treatments, including healing burns or skin infections, protecting nerves during surgery, treating dry eye, and more. This means our donors have the opportunity to help so many more people – expanding our organization’s impact.

## **How the Donation Process Works.**

Most of our partner hospitals have on-site coordinators. These coordinators meet with mothers who have just arrived to the hospital to have their baby to present the option of participating in our Birth Tissue Donation Program. If a mother consents, the paperwork and medical questionnaire takes no more than 20 minutes. After that, the birth tissue is collected without disruption to their birthing or post-birth.



**1,300+**  
**BIRTH TISSUE**  
**DONATIONS**  
**THIS YEAR**

## **A Mother's Blessing.**

As a team member of Sanford Health, Caitlin Swartz has known about birth tissue donation and its benefits for several years. Countless times she has witnessed the use of birth tissue to better the healing outcomes for many surgical patients. Unsurprisingly, Caitlin had zero hesitation saying “yes” to birth tissue donation on the day her daughter was born.

**“The birth of your baby can help so many others. So, if you don’t plan on keeping your placenta for any reason, consider donation. It’s an easy process. All I needed to do was answer a few medical questions, fill out and sign a couple forms, and that was it. Now my baby is a hero with the onesie to prove it.”**



TOGETHER, WITH  
YOUR SUPPORT,  
WE WILL KEEP  
ILLUMINATING  
THE PATH TO HOPE  
AND HEALING.

# Thank You, Contributors.

## General Contributions

Patricia Ahrendt  
Sam Amundson  
Mary Atchison  
Automatic Building Controls  
LaVonne Bangasser  
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# Thank You, Contributors.

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## In Honor Contributions

Dakota Lions Sight & Health Staff  
by Karl and Jenell Koball  
Vance Thompson Vision Surgeons  
by Ronda Roeman

## In Memory Contributions

Megan Atkins by Vicki Doolin  
John Bergeron by Alan Bergeron  
Daniel Besonen by Ethel Besonen  
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Arlene Miller by Ingrid Lindberg  
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Agnes Pape by Barbara Husk  
Elizabeth Pond by Roland and

Rita Pond  
David Price by Diane Price  
LeRoy Rath by Charlotte Rath  
Steve Rendahl by Robbin Rendahl  
Lawrence Small by Mary Ingram  
Gene Sprung wby June Van Asch  
Paul Stach by Shirley Stach  
Nancy Ward by Gary Ward  
Lion Gary Wickersham by Darell and Marileen TilbergLynn  
Woltertorff by the  
AFGE Local Union 3807  
of behalf of Steve and  
Lynn Wolterstorff; Diane Sams

## Parade of Green Contributions

Bismarck North Star Lions Club  
Bismarck Prairie Rose Lions Club  
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Williston Lions Club

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Medical Director Emeritus  
In memoriam 1943-2021

# Our Mission.

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*Helping to Enable the Restoration  
of the Gifts of Sight & Health.*



Dakota Lions Sight & Health

Eye and Tissue Donation