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Team Barkalow celebrates the successful steps they’ve taken for baby Peyton with the help of Lions Eye Bank. Read more on Page 6.
Expanded Laboratory Open for Business

The Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley is happy to announce the completion of our laboratory expansion! Many thanks to the generosity of the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and local Lions Clubs, whose support made this project a success.

The LCIF funds were given in the form of a matching grant: if LEBDV could secure $60,000 of donations from tri-state area Lions Clubs, then LCIF would match the $60,000. Lions District 14P took the lead on working with us for this project and, supported by other local clubs, we were able to take advantage of the match. The funds were used to expand the laboratory and to purchase high-end equipment to measure and assess cornea tissue. We are very proud of the completed project and grateful to all those who helped to make this possible!

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Demonstrating Courage, Commitment and Action

A year has come and gone so quickly! I am proud to have spent the last year serving as Chairman and CEO of the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley. The board of trustees and staff have been a pleasure to work with, and I have gained a much more in-depth understanding and appreciation of the great work this organization does.

As I began this year, I was mindful of the challenge Lions Club International President Wing-Kun Tam presented to my class of District Governors: To demonstrate courage, commitment and action in the performance of our duties. I took that challenge to heart, seeking and developing new ways to meet the goals of our organization by re-shaping the vision and administration of our board of trustees. Together, we are committed to fulfilling Dr. Tam’s counsel by demonstrating our commitment to the Eye Bank’s mission.

One of the proudest accomplishments during my tenure was to see the completion of our laboratory expansion. The grant from the Lions Clubs International Foundation was a tremendous achievement and validation of the work the Lions Eye Bank does. I am proud to have had a part in leading the project to a successful conclusion.

As we transition into a new year, I want to thank everyone who has supported me and helped me in my time as Chairman. It is an experience I will always treasure and remember.
Doctors Work Beyond Our Borders to Give Sight

The Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley believes that the gift of sight should not stop at our borders, and we are proud to work closely with doctors bringing sight restoration to people in need around the world.

Dr. Herbert J. Ingraham (pictured right), director of Ophthalmology at Geisinger Health System in Pennsylvania, traveled in the summer of 2012 to Ecuador with Surgical Eye Expeditions International, a group of volunteer ophthalmic surgeons. Your Eye Bank provided five gratis corneas to the mission trip to save the sight of the people of Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Dr. Benjamin Roberts is a missionary ophthalmologist at Tenwek Hospital, located in Bomet, Kenya. With no local functional eye bank, the hospital is completely dependent on donations from outside of the country; its waiting list had reached 60 people by December 2012. Together with Global Sight Network™, the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley provided tissue that allowed 27 transplants to take place in two weeks in January 2013.

Dr. Robert Abel (pictured below), medical advisor of the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley, has always been involved with humanitarian work to restore sight. He has travelled to Mexico, Nepal, Jordan, Tunisia, Gaza and, most recently in October 2012, to Hebron, the largest city on the west bank of Palestine. The trip was primarily to perform cataract surgery and advise the hospital staff on a more efficient and effective way to do eye evaluations. The metropolitan hospital handles 800,000 people with only two ophthalmologists on staff.

“...The Eye Bank is not only a mechanical institution, it is an opportunity to enhance lives, change conversations and transfer skills,” explained Dr. Abel. “Our ultimate goal is to try to make a difference, whether that difference is in our hometown or across the globe.”

Meet Dr. Brandon Ayres, Ophthalmologist

Meet Dr. Brandon Ayres, who has been a part of the Cornea Service at Wills Eye Institute since 2005. He’s board certified, specializing in Ophthalmology, with expertise in cornea and external disease, anterior segment and refractive surgery. He serves as an assistant surgeon at Wills Eye Institute and is an instructor at Jefferson Medical College, Thomas Jefferson University. He continues to participate in resident and fellow education and is actively involved in clinical research.

Dr. Ayres specializes in all forms of corneal transplantation, including full-thickness corneal transplants, Descemet’s stripping endothelial keratoplasty (DSEK), deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty (DALK) and the Boston keratoprosthesis. He also has an interest in the repair of traumatic eye injuries and anterior segment repair. Dr. Ayres performs all types of refractive and cataract surgery, including LASIK, multifocal intraocular lenses and phakic lens surgery for myopia. As a corneal specialist, Dr. Ayres also treats all forms of infectious diseases of the eye and ocular surface disease (dry eye).

Dr. Ayres attended Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, NJ, for his medical education. After graduating, Dr. Ayres did his internship at Presbyterian Medical Center, part of the University of Pennsylvania, and his residency at New Jersey Medical School, where he later served as chief resident. He completed his fellowship at Wills Eye Hospital Cornea and Refractive Surgery in 2005.

Dr. Ayres has won a number of awards, including Castle Connolly America’s Top Doctors® (2012), Patients’ Choice Award (2008 – 2012) and U.S. News & World Report Top Doctor (2012). He received the Golden Apple Award in his first year as an attending on the Cornea Service—the youngest recipient of the Golden Apple at Wills Eye.

“My specialties allow me to have a significant impact on my patients’ lives,” Dr. Ayres explained. “When you can’t see clearly, it affects every aspect of your life. At Wills Eye, our clinical expertise, state-of-the-art diagnostic testing and advanced surgical capabilities combine to improve the quality of life for our patients. It’s good to be a part of that.”

Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley Medical Advisory Board

Behind each of the life-changing procedures the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley helps coordinate stands an unparalleled team of corneal surgeons who serve as members of the Eye Bank’s medical advisory board.

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Your Support at Work: The Gift of Sight

Among Her Blessings: Crystal Clear Vision

Vicki’s experience as a nurse has given her a wonderful perspective on what it takes for people to get well.

Daily, she assesses patients who are in long-term care and rehabilitation. In the off-season, Vicki is a member of the well-respected National Ski Patrol, teaching outdoor emergency care classes for first-time and returning ski patrollers. Seasonally, she’s on a Pocono Mountain snow slope as a patroller and a ski and toboggan instructor. If you were injured while skiing, someone like Vicki may have carefully loaded you onto a sled for the ride down the mountain to the first aid station.

“My experience as a nurse has created many opportunities for me to help people get well,” said Vicki. Patients under Vicki’s care would be hard-pressed to guess that she, too, desperately wanted to get well. Her first bout with an eye infection was in 1976.

“I had a herpes infection in my cornea— the same Type I herpes simplex virus that causes cold sores,” Vicki explained. “Usually, it just leaves a mild scar with minimal vision loss. In my case, however, recurrent infections over the past 10 years have left me with almost no vision in my left eye.”

Vicki thought her vision loss was something she would have to contend with forever.

“It certainly did affect my volunteer activities and my hobbies, such as craft work, sewing, photography and golf,” she explained. “I also had frequent headaches from driving and working on my computer.”

After yet another bout of inflammation was resolved by her doctor, Vicki was quite surprised to learn it was possible to rehabilitate her vision. She was referred to an ophthalmologist, Dr. Sadeer Hannush, medical director of the Eye Bank, for cornea transplant surgery. There was an immediate improvement in her vision.

In September 2011, a second surgery removed a cataract. Vicki said, “My vision is now almost perfect! The most amazing thing after surgery was having peripheral vision and depth perception again. It is very surprising to see things that were never there before.”

Vicki has been a registered cornea, organ and tissue donor for as long as she can remember.

“There is always someone in need, so consider becoming a registered donor,” she suggested. “There is no greater gift. You are leaving a living legacy and helping someone else in need.”

“Every morning, when I open my eyes and have this crystal clear vision, I am amazed at what I can see. It is such a blessing to have sight again.”

Words to live by from a phenomenal woman!

If you are a cornea recipient willing to share your story, please contact Kacey O’Connor at the Eye Bank by phoning 215-563-1874, ext 126, or emailing koconnor@lebdv.org.

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Transplant Recipient Encourages Others: Do It!

It all started with a routine eye exam in 2001, when Joanne thought she might need a new prescription for her eye glasses. Instead, her optometrist referred Joanne to the Wills Eye Institute, where she was diagnosed with Fuchs’ dystrophy, a progressively degenerative eye disease. Joanne’s symptoms were minimal, and she wasn’t ready for surgery. Her doctor told her she’d know when it was time to take that step.

Slowly, Joanne’s vision began to change. Cataracts developed, and she couldn’t drive at night. When reading newspapers became impossible, her husband bought her a large magnifying glass. Cooking became less joyful. Working at a fast-paced law firm turned into a struggle, leaving her exhausted at the end of the day. Joanne was becoming a prisoner of her failing vision. Still, she wasn’t ready.

Then in 2010, Joanne and her family prepared excitedly for the birth of a fourth grandchild. En route with her elderly mother to her daughter’s out-of-state home, Joanne’s sight started to change while she was driving. She struggled to see road signs. Without warning, her vision abruptly spiraled downward. Realizing it was not safe to proceed, she carefully pulled into the closest parking lot and called for help. Joanne was now ready for her transplant.

Dr. Parveen Nagra of Corneal Associates at Wills Eye Institute performed Joanne’s corneal transplant of her left eye in October 2010 and of her right eye in January 2012 using a procedure called endothelial keratoplasty. The transplants completely eliminated her eye condition.

Joanne encourages anyone considering a corneal transplant to talk with his/her doctor, research the condition—and have the courage to do it.

“The surgery was not painful for me,” remembered Joanne. “Don’t hesitate; you need your eyes to function.”

After receiving a corneal transplant, many recipients want to find a way to express their appreciation and gratitude to their donor family. The Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley helps connect donors and recipients through anonymous letter writing. Joanne recently sent a letter to her donor’s family:

“I am eternally indebted to my donors and their families for helping me get my life back in order. I think them truly for my gift of sight. Before my transplant, there was so much I couldn’t do. With my gift of sight, I am free to enjoy my life to the fullest!”

Recipients Tell Their Stories To Encourage and Teach Others

Recipients play a crucial role in educating the public on transplantation and raising awareness of the Eye Bank’s mission when they share their journey with others.

Tom and Debbie both act as Eye Bank ambassadors to the public, sharing their stories, as well as their appreciation for their donor families, at area speaking events. Tom suffered from Fuchs’ dystrophy, a progressive eye disease affecting the cornea, for 43 years before his first transplant. When his doctor did a second transplant using a newer procedure, DSAEK (Descemet’s Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty), Tom marveled at how far medical advances had come, as well as the ease of surgery.

Debbie, in her early 30s, was diagnosed with keratoconus, a degeneration of the structure of the cornea. Her vision steadily worsened over two decades. After a transplant in each eye, Debbie was amazed to find her vision was close to 20/20.

Both Tom and Debbie recently told their stories at the Delaware Lions District 22D Sight Night. Tom also spoke at the Pennsylvania Lions District 14R Rally, and Debbie shared her journey with donor families at a community meeting. In all their talks, they emphasize the importance of giving back to the Eye Bank in appreciation for what was given them.
Since 1957, Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley has provided corneal tissue for more than 35,000 transplant surgeries, primarily for adult recipients. Whenever the tiniest member of our community, a baby, needs a cornea transplant, it becomes an especially heartfelt story.

Baby Peyton’s (far right) support system reaches beyond Tracey and Jimmy. His two older siblings, James IV and Dannicka, and his younger sister, GiGi, regularly attend Peyton’s doctor’s appointments at Wills Eye.

“Tracey and Jimmy Barkalow are a team. Both animatedly share how everything they do is to ensure their family unit is growing and thriving. Their daily lives were pretty much like any other family with toddlers. Then, in 2010, they were blessed with another child, Peyton. Life suddenly became exceptional.

Tracey recalled the day they learned of her newborn’s eye condition.

“Peyton was one day old when he was diagnosed,” she remembered. “We immediately received condolences, lots of pamphlets, information on how to obtain money for transportation and eyeglasses—but that’s not what we needed. No one could tell us how to make our son’s vision as normal as possible.” Jimmy, her husband, added, “We simply wanted to know how to help Peyton enjoy being a kid and how to succeed in life. We had many unanswered questions about how to help him rebuild his sight.”

Peyton was born with a congenital eye condition called Peter’s Anomaly. Babies with this rare condition have central cornea cloudiness, for which surgical intervention is usually needed as soon as medically possible, followed by visual rehabilitation. Peyton’s condition affected both eyes.

At age 6 months, he had his first cornea transplant; his third transplant was in January 2013.

Answers came when they met Dr. Alex V. Levin, director of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Service at Wills Eye Institute, and Dr. Brandon Ayers, corneal ophthalmology surgeon at Wills Eye Institute.

“Drs. Levin and Ayers have been phenomenal,” said Tracey. “You can tell they love the work they do with children. They treat Peyton, and they also interact with all our children. We are happy we were put in touch with them.”

Dr. Ayres, a member of the Eye Bank’s medical advisory board, explained to Tracey and Jimmy that Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley supports families making end-of-life decisions. Those families donated their loved ones’ corneas, making it possible for Peyton to have better vision.

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More answers were obtained from an instructor assigned by the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, as well as from occupational and early intervention therapists, who are all pleased with Peyton’s progress.

The Commission for the Blind gave us so many tips on how to work with Peyton, and he aced them all; he did great,” beamed Tracey. “Peyton always participates in the same activities as our other children, which helps him. Now he is doing all the things a 2-year-old does.”

Though their children are very young, Jimmy and Tracey have begun to instill in them the importance of family.

“When Peyton has medical appointments, Tracey insists that all the kids go to Wills Eye Institute and be there for him to show their support,” said Jimmy. “When Peyton has inpatient surgery, I spend the night with him. Tracey and the kids return the next day, and we are all there when he comes out of surgery.”

Their hope is Peyton will eventually transition from eye glasses to contacts. In the meantime, Peyton continues to play with his siblings, happily singing nursery rhymes and dancing, filling their home with love and laughter. Just as with his brother and sisters, Peyton’s parents have high expectations for him. As for any future challenges, Jimmy said, “It is just another hurdle we have to jump over and get through as a family, as a team.”
Love at First Sight Leads to the Gift of Sight for Someone Else

Back in high school, Valerie went to a local club to see a band and met a local boy named Jack. Though he was from her town’s rival high school, Valerie knew instantly that Jack was special. She said it was truly “love at first sight.”

As a husband and father, Jack was the kind of man who would try anything, be it hunting, golfing, motorcycle riding, skiing, playing basketball or bowling. A true Jersey boy, Jack loved to surf, and he shared the passion with his son, Jack Jr. They enjoyed travelling as a family down to Cape Hatteras, NC, to surf and spend their evenings playing board games.

Jack worked as a mechanic, and his interest in cars bloomed into a talent for restoring classics. One of his favorite projects was a 1938 Ford, which he took apart down to the frame, placing all the pieces in labeled bags and restoring it, part by part. “It was his baby,” said Valerie. “He finished it just a few weeks before he passed away.”

During his life, Valerie said Jack “always gave because he wanted to give; he was not a man to expect anything in return.” It was not until after his death, when Valerie and her son had already said yes to donation, that they realized Jack had donor designation on his license.

The legacy that Jack leaves as both husband and father lives on through the memories he created. Through his cornea donation, his spirit of adventure and can-do attitude has now touched others, giving the gift of sight to a grateful recipient who suffered from diminishing vision.

LEBDV Celebrates 30th National Eye Donor Month

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first National Eye Donor Month, opening his proclamation with, “One of the most magnificent presents that one human being can bestow upon another is the gift of sight.” Three decades later, eye banks across the nation continue to work to restore sight through cornea transplants.

To note the 30th anniversary, the governors of Delaware (Jack Markell), New Jersey (Chris Christie) and Pennsylvania (Tom Corbett) issued proclamations to recognize the work of the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley. Gov. Corbett, in his proclamation, encouraged all citizens to educate themselves, their families and their communities about corneal donation and transplantation. Gov. Christie recognized the selfless donors and donor families, corneal surgeons and eye bankers who work to recover and provide transplantable corneal tissue to patients.

Also in honor of National Eye Donor Month, Eye Bank President and COO Jim Quirk gave a presentation to a group of Temple ophthalmology residents about the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley and our role in cornea transplantation. A discussion followed the presentation, and the residents brought attention to the need for eyeglasses in the Philadelphia and Wilmington communities. The Eye Bank received a large donation of eyeglass frames and plans to work with the Temple residents to get the prescriptions filled and donate the frames to those in need.

To bring attention to National Eye Donor Month, we updated our Facebook page daily with a fact about cornea transplants and eye banking, or we posted a recipient story to raise awareness and educate the community. To check out our Facebook page, please visit www.facebook.com/lebdv.
19th Annual Gift of Sight Charity Golf Classic

It’s that time of the year again. Tee up this summer to support the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley.

Save the Date:
Monday, August 12, 2013
Radnor Valley Country Club
A Premier Private Golf Course
555 Sproul Road
Villanova, Pennsylvania 19085

FIRST EVENT – TEE-OFF
11:00 a.m. Registration & Lunch
12:30 p.m. Tee Off
$149 per Golfer Registration Fee
(includes cart, fees, dinner buffet and more)

Early Bird Special – Register before July 1, and pay only $139 per golfer!

SECOND EVENT – NOT A GOLFER?
Beginning at 4:30 p.m.
■ Dinner buffet, $39.00 per person
■ Awards
■ Silent & Chinese Auctions

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To see what’s included in each sponsorship level package visit, www.lebdv.org or phone the Eye Bank at 800-743-6667.

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Giveaway Bag – $750
Hole-in-One – $500
Putting Contest – $500
Club-Level Sponsor – $250
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3. Diane Saltar
4. Bob Osborne (left), Keith Thompson, Tai Park and Scott Connell
5. Bob Jones (left), Tommy Jones, Paul Sheridan and Mark Sheridan

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WPVI TV–6, ABC
Eye Bank Helps Superstorm Sandy Relief

With the devastation of Superstorm Sandy affecting so many members of our community, Lions Eye Bank employees wanted to help. We reached out to a nonprofit organization, Family-to-Family, which paired us with a family that had lost everything in the storm. We collected donations from our colleagues totaling more than $800 and bought as many things as we could to help the family get back on its feet. We were so touched to receive the following letter:

Hello, Lions Eye Bank!

Words cannot express the excitement my family had tonight when we received your packages. You were not kidding; those boxes were loaded! Thank you so much for the pillows, blankets, bedding sheets, towels, bathroom products, cleaning products, utensils, bakeware, cookware and, oh my goodness, everything!! There’s just too much to list it all. Right down to the big boxes! Our daughter went right into clubhouse mode with those!

We thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. You have really helped our family. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We’ll be forever grateful!

Sincerely,
A Grateful Family
Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley

10
2013

Eye Bank Support at Work

Through the generosity of donor families and financial supports, the Eye Bank recorded the following clinical outcomes ending December 31, 2012:

**CORNEAL TISSUE DONORS** 794
**CORNEAL/GLOBE TISSUE GIFTED** 1,583
**CORNEAL TISSUE GIFTED FOR TRANSPLANT SURGERY** 1,040
**CORNEAL TISSUE GIFTED FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH** 622

Since 1957, the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley has coordinated more than 35,000 cornea transplant surgeries at the request of donor families and their loved ones.

*Donor Profile:

Ages 1 to 10 = 1%
Ages 11 to 20 = 3%
Ages 21 to 40 = 15%
Ages 41 to 60 = 51%
Ages 61 to 70 = 28%
Age 70+ = 2%

**Includes corneal tissue imports

Lions Trading Pins: Hobby Now Helps Endowment Fund

PDG Jim Minnich has turned a hobby into a creative way to raise funds for the Eye Bank’s Endowment Fund. He swaps, buys and sells pins. Lots of pins…

In 1973, a “friendship pin” was designed for the 56th International meeting of Lions Clubs. The idea of commemorating Lions meetings and events with a pin became a very popular hobby, similar to sports trading card enthusiasts. Today, traders have an international organization, Lions International Trading Pin Club (LITPC). Swap meets and convention exhibits draw a huge following eager to find a coveted pin to buy, sell or trade.

Lion Jim Minnich has made significant donations to the Fund simply by selling donated pins. Well, it’s not that simple. Lorraine Minnich, his wife, said, “We travel to swaps several times each year, and that’s no easy feat considering the weight of all the pins. His collection can easily stack high on several six-foot tables. Jim has such fun as a pin trader, and I enjoy sharing it with him.”

Lion Jim Minnich encourages Lions and their family members to donate their pin collections to the Eye Bank.

“Many times, collections are kept in boxes and closets for years. Here’s an opportunity to put those pins to good use,” said Lion Jim Minnich. “The Endowment Fund ensures the growth of the organization’s operations and protects its ability to continue serving the future needs of the community.”

Many thanks to Lion Jim and Lorraine Minnich. It’s efforts such as theirs that keep the miracle of sight a reality for generations to come.

Lion Jim Minnich is Past District Governor of Delaware’s District 22D. He has been an Eye Bank Trustee since 1995 and was Chairman and CEO from 2000 to 2001. Currently, he is President of Lions International Trading Pin Club (LITPC).

Give Back to the Eye Bank Never Lift a Finger or Spend a Dime!

TD Bank customers can now help Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley receive a donation from TD Bank’s Affinity Membership Program. If you have a TD account, all you have to do is “tag” the account with our affinity code, and TD Bank will donate its own money to the LEBDV based on a percentage of the average balance of all the tagged accounts.

Want to help? If you’re in the Philadelphia area, phone Kevin Murphy, TD Bank branch manager, at 215-282-7300, or stop by a branch. Tag your Philadelphia bank account with our affinity code: A3648. Outside the Philadelphia area, please inform your local branch you’d like to “tag” your account for Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley, based in Philadelphia, PA, for the central office to input your code. Eligible accounts include business and personal checking, savings, money market, CD and retirement.

Worried about privacy? Don’t be! TD Bank will never share information about your account with the Eye Bank, including balances. This program is run solely through TD Bank. We are excited about this opportunity to support the Lions Eye Bank!

The best part? Nothing on your new or current account will change! You’ll enjoy the same interest rate and other benefits.

Still unsure or have a question? Give Kevin a call at 215-282-7300.

The TD Bank Affinity Membership Program is designed to help the growth of nonprofit organizations at no cost to its members or supporters.

By the Numbers

Here’s a look at the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley’s financials for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012.

**Revenue**

- Investments: 6%
- Contributions: 5%
- Tissue Distribution: 89%

**Expenses**

- Administrative: 10%
- Fundraising: 4%
- Program Services: 86%

**Contributions**

CORNEAL TISSUE DONORS: 794
CORNEAL/GLOBE TISSUE GIFTED*: 1,583
CORNEAL TISSUE GIFTED FOR TRANSPLANT SURGERY: 1,040
CORNEAL TISSUE GIFTED FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH: 622

**Investments**

- 6%

**Fundraising**

- 4%

**Program Services**

- 86%

**Administrative**

- 10%

**TD Bank Branch Manager Kevin Murphy (left) enrolls Eye Bank President and COO Jim Quirk’s bank accounts in the Affinity Membership Program.**
Recently, a Lions Eye Bank trustee gifted 155 shares to our Endowment Fund, representing a donation of $10,500. He had received the stock decades ago through a spin-off, so his donation to the Endowment Fund led to a tax deduction of 100% of the sale price.

“This donation to the Endowment Fund is a tremendous show of support,” said Jim Quirk, Eye Bank president and COO.

On why he chose to gift his shares to the Eye Bank the trustee explained, “The Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley is the best-run Lions project I have seen. Their professionalism and good management make it a smart company to invest in.”

Why Gifting Stock to the Eye Bank Might be Good for You

Among the many gifting options available to you, donating stock can give you several advantages over cash, particularly if you’ve held the stock for more than one year.

Let’s say you bought 100 shares of a stock at $10 a share several years ago, and it’s currently worth $50 a share. You’re thinking about gifting it to a nonprofit. If you sell the stock first, you’ll have a long-term capital gain of $4,000. If you’re in the 15% federal long-term capital gains tax bracket, you’ll pay $600 in tax (perhaps even more with state income taxes), which ultimately lowers the value of your gift (and your tax deduction) to $4,400.

However, if you were to give the appreciated stock directly to the nonprofit, it would get the total $5,000 market value of the stock, and you can claim the total amount as a charitable contribution on your taxes.

On the other hand, if the stock has depreciated in value, it would be better to sell the stock first—allowing you to claim the loss on your taxes—and donate the proceeds. Eye Bank Investment Advisor Scott Connell from Merrill Lynch recommends that you consult your tax advisor to see if gifting stock is a good option for you.

“The process is extremely easy,” said Jim. “If you have stocks you would like to donate, simply ask your broker to contact us for the account information, and we will work with him or her to complete the transaction.”

For information on how to gift stocks to the Eye Bank, as well as other ways of giving, please phone us at 215-563-1679.
Paddle Down the Mississippi and Help LEBDV

Ready to immerse yourself in the literature, music and culture of the South—and help the Lions Eye Bank at the same time? From November 16 to 24, journey through historic spots in Louisiana and Mississippi while cruising aboard the newly updated American Queen. Along the way, you’ll experience the sounds of the Delta blues and sample plenty of Southern cooking.

For as little as $2,854 per person, you can take part in this authentic paddlewheel steamboat cruise, which includes all meals, entertainment, port charges, taxes, beer and wine with dinner, soft drinks, bottled water, shore tours at each port, transfer to hotel and your overnight hotel room and a $200 IRS-deductible donation to the Eye Bank.

Reserve your space today by contacting the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley at 800-743-6667 or Georgiann Jaworskyj of Custom Travel Services at 856-663-0444. Book by August 19 to hold the price and cabin.

Calendar of Events

Annual Meeting: June 8 at the Trenton Country Club, Trenton, NJ
Governor’s Night: July 25 at Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley, Philadelphia, PA
Gift of Sight Golf Classic: August 12 at Radnor Valley Country Club, Villanova, PA
22D Sight Night: October 29 at Dover Downs Casino, Dover, DE
Fellowship Brunch: November 17 at The Yardley Inn, Yardley, PA

For more information regarding the above, please visit www.lebdv.org or call 800-743-6667.