

FLORIDA LIONS EYE BANK 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



3 2015-2016 Status Report

4 A Message from the Medical Director

5 A Message from the President

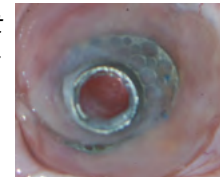
6 Cornea Recipient Profile

Dr. Robert Sutton is the recently retired Chief Historian of the National Park Service and a noted author. He has struggled with keratoconus for more than 50 years. A cornea from Florida Lions Eye Bank restored his sight.



10 Research

The quest to create a better artificial cornea makes progress at the BPEI Ophthalmic Biophysics Center with the development of the Miami Titanium Keratoprosthesis or the MiTi-KPro.



12 2015-2016 Financial Report

13 2015-2016 Donors

ON THE COVER

More commonly known as Bull Run, the Manassas National Battlefield Park in Northern Virginia is one of the nation's most popular Civil War sites. From 1995-2007, cornea recipient Robert Sutton was Superintendent of the park. SEE PAGE 6.



2015-16 STATUS REPORT

	JULY 1, 2015- JUNE 30, 2016	SINCE 1962
Total number of Eye Donors	1,049	
Eyes/Corneas Received:	2,090	90,339
Recovered for surgical use:	1,477	
Recovered for research use:	613	
<hr/>		
Eyes / Corneas Furnished for Transplant:	897	45,151
Transplanted in USA:	665	
Transplanted Internationally:	232	
Corneas Imported and Used for International Gratis Program:	203	
Sclera and preserved corneas distributed for surgery:	387	16,005
Total tissue provided for transplant:	1,487	
<hr/>		
Whole globes/corneas distributed for research and education:	688	33,437
Pathology specimen studies:	4,357	101,448
Total tissue for research and pathology:	5,045	

MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

SANDER R. DUBOVY, M.D.

Victor T. Curtin, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Ophthalmology at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and founding Medical Director of the Florida Lions Eye Bank passed away on March 9, 2016. Dr. Curtin, a world renowned retinal surgeon and ophthalmic pathologist, served as a faculty member for 57 years and medical director of Florida Lions Eye Bank for 34 years. He was the first faculty member recruited by Edward W. D. Norton and joined the faculty of the University of Miami School of Medicine in 1959. Starting from "less than scratch," the two shared an office in Jackson Memorial Hospital and went on to build the nation's number one ranked eye hospital with patient care, research and training programs.

Born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, Curtin received his undergraduate and medical degrees from Harvard University. He completed an ophthalmology residency at Cornell University Medical College where he met Dr. Norton, a junior faculty member. Prior to joining Norton in Miami, he completed fellowships in retinal surgery and ophthalmic pathology at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. Dr. Curtin served many roles at the eye institute including residency program



Victor T. Curtin

director, chairman of the residency selection committee, chairman of the credentials committee and member of the board of governors.

In 1962, in collaboration with the Lions Clubs of South Florida and the University of Miami, Dr. Curtin chartered Florida Lions Eye Bank, the first eye bank in Florida. The goals of the organization were to provide tissue for transplantation, operate an ophthalmic pathology laboratory, serve as a center for education and perform and provide funds for ophthalmic research. With the help of the Lions clubs and the staff, including founding Executive Director Pearl Goldberg and later Mary Anne Taylor, Florida Lions Eye Bank quickly grew in size and scope. More than 60,000 patients have received corneal and scleral tissue that has restored the gift of sight. While the majority of the tissues have been used locally, corneal tissues have been provided to patients nationally and internationally who otherwise

would not receive transplant surgery. The ocular pathology laboratory, one of very few specialty specific laboratories in the nation, has processed over 100,000 specimens and provided diagnoses that might not otherwise be rendered. Hundreds of residents and fellows have learned valuable ophthalmic lessons through the ocular pathology laboratory and eye bank which serves as the cornerstone of education at BPEI. The more than 160,000 patients served at the institute are a part of Dr. Curtin's legacy.

Often called "the moral compass" of the institute, Dr. Curtin was involved in every major decision at BPEI and molded its character by interviewing every resident, fellow and faculty member through 2005. He was thoughtful, principled and modest, with a quick wit and dry sense of humor. He was a mentor to many and when confronted with an issue, I often ask myself, "What would Dr. Curtin do?" Inevitably, this allows me to come to a measured, pragmatic decision. Dr. Curtin's efforts on behalf of the Florida Lions Eye Bank are immeasurable and the sacrifices he made allowed us to grow in size and scope. He will be missed by many and is owed a debt of gratitude which can be repaid by continuing to put "institution above self" which will allow the Florida Lions Eye Bank to flourish for years to come, just as he envisioned back in 1962.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BOB HILLIARD



In June of 2015 I had the honor and pleasure of passing the Florida Lions Eye Bank presidency on to a talented individual, Lion Blair Anderson. President Blair led the Board of Directors at its annual retreat to set its goals and strategic plan. At this meeting Blair inspired the board to continue its efforts to reach out to the community and increase fundraising activities. This led to discussions about creating a foundation that would be dedicated to increasing funds available for our philanthropic work.

Sadly, just three short months after his presidency began, Blair unexpectedly passed away. While his passing left a hole in our hearts we tirelessly worked to move his vision forward. During the year we solidified plans to create a foundation that would assist the eye bank in continuing to serve the less fortunate in our communities.

Each year Florida Lions Eye Bank provides over 500 donor eyes at no cost to researchers looking for cures and treatments for ocular diseases.

In addition, Florida Lions Eye Bank donates between \$150,000 and \$250,000 each year to fund promising research to advance the field of ophthalmology. Finally, the eye bank allocates over \$350,000 each year to fund the pathology laboratory whose services are provided free of charge. All of this would not be possible without the continued donations from the community and from Lions.

While we are just in the planning stages for creating a foundation that will help us increase our philanthropic efforts, I am confident that Blair would have been pleased with our work this year. We are dedicated to continuing to serve our community and to fulfilling our mission to *Restore the Beauty of Sight*.

A special thank you to the Board of Directors and to the staff of Florida Lions Eye Bank who helped this year to be a successful one. As I have said before, service, like success, is a journey, not a destination!

2015-16 FLORIDA LIONS EYE BANK OFFICERS

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Renowned Historian and Author Keeps Looking Forward With Help from Florida Lions Eye Bank

Robert Sutton's life experiences have made him an expert on battles of all types.

From serving for 12 years as the Superintendent of the Manassas National Battlefield Park to fighting a life-long struggle with an eye disorder that has required five corneal transplants over his lifetime, this renowned historian is an expert in both famous battles that shaped our nation and personal ones that define our lives.

Seventeen-year-old Robert Sutton, better known as "Bob," was about to begin college at Stanford University when he first received a troubling diagnosis: his failing vision was not just poor eyesight. He was suffering from keratoconus, a chronic disorder of the cornea which often begins in adolescence. He enrolled in classes, but struggled during his freshman year to read books and even see the blackboard.

Keratoconus causes a progressive thinning of the cornea and in 1965, Sutton learned that he would require a cornea transplant in his left eye. At the time a corneal transplant was still a relatively new and costly procedure. Sutton's father was a minister in Stockton, California and did not have the means to pay for the operation. When the local Lions Club heard about Bob Sutton's situation, the Club donated \$500 towards the surgery, a sum equivalent to \$4,000 today. The transplant was a

success and the donated cornea faithfully served him for 45 years. This would not be the last time that the Lions would play a role in restoring Sutton's sight.



Dr. Robert Sutton at the Manassas Battlefield National Park in northern Virginia, where he served as Superintendent before receiving the prestigious position of Chief Historian for the National Park Service in 2007.

Sutton graduated in 1968 with a major in theology, planning to follow his father into ministry. But anticipating that he would need another job to make ends meet, he earned a teaching certificate, majoring in history – a subject he had loved since childhood. Sutton had grown up listening to stories from his grandparents about how their parents had come to Oregon in covered wagons along the iconic Oregon Trail. As a boy, he read everything he could get his hands on about the Oregon Trail and western migration. As an adult he would become a nationally-recognized expert on the subject.

Sutton went on to earn a master's degree in history at Portland State University and a doctorate in history at Washington State University. Sutton's career with the National Park Service began fortuitously during his graduate studies when his professor asked if he was interested in part time work at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, located on the north bank of the Columbia River in Washington.





Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

On his first visit to the park he was hired on the spot, and started working as a park ranger the next day. This position marked the beginning of a stellar 33-year career with the National Park Service, culminating in his appointment as Chief Historian of the National Park Service, one of the most prestigious historian positions in Federal government.

During the early years of his career, Sutton's transplanted cornea in his left eye performed perfectly. It was his right eye that would cause problems over the decades. In 1976, a corneal transplant in his right eye was unsuccessful and he developed a serious eye infection. A second corneal transplant in that eye led to the development of a cataract due to the steroids he took to prevent rejection of the graft.

Despite the challenges caused by the keratoconus, the setbacks did not impair his professional success. Sutton worked as a museum curator with the Oregon Historical Society and as a historian for the Oregon State Parks. In the early 1980s, Sutton moved east to Philadelphia where he worked as



In 2016, Bob Sutton with son, Lee and wife, Harriet.

a historian and architectural historian with the National Park Service. In 1986, he accepted a position with the Southwest Regional Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico and taught at Arizona State University as an assistant professor.

Although his career kept him busy, Sutton made time for personal pursuits. While vacationing in Mexico, he met Harriet Davidson, an attorney from New York. Their romance led to marriage and a son, Lee.

In 1990, the couple moved to Washington, D.C. where Sutton was appointed Assistant Superintendent and historian at National Capital Parks-East, an administrative grouping of dozens of National Parks in and around Washington, D.C. and Maryland. He also took a position as adjunct professor of history at George Mason University.

In 1995, Sutton was named the Superintendent of the Manassas National Battlefield Park, one of the nation's most famous and popular Civil War sites. During his 12-year oversight of the park, he solidified his stature as a historian, administrator

and interpreter of America’s heritage and cultural resources. Sutton also managed the restoration of a 100-acre section of the park through a creative partnership with the Smithsonian Institution and initiated a major Civil War symposium that attracted renowned scholars and led to new ways for park rangers to interpret the Civil War.

By 2004, Sutton again began having medical problems that threatened his sight. He was diagnosed with bilateral keratoglobus, a rare condition in which the thinning and protrusion of the cornea becomes more advanced than keratoconus. Because of this, he had difficulty wearing contact lenses. He also developed glaucoma in his right eye. Fortunately, living and working near Washington, D.C. put Sutton close to some of the country’s best ophthalmologists and eye specialists, in nearby Baltimore at the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins University. Because of his eye complications, his doctors decided against a repeat corneal transplant.

Instead, his vision improved thanks to scleral contacts, large diameter lenses designed to completely cover the cornea and part of the sclera. These customized lenses essentially provide a smooth optical surface to correct the vision problems caused by the irregularly-shaped cornea. This temporary solution was successful for the next several years.

In 2007, Sutton was named the Chief Historian of the National Parks Service. In this prestigious role, Sutton provided guidance, direction and leadership to the national parks while interpreting the significance of historic places to Americans.

It was Sutton’s goal to stay in his position and coordinate projects connected with the Centennial of the National Park Service through 2016. By 2010, his eye condition had worsened to the point that the scleral contact lenses were no longer an option. His wife encouraged him to

Dr. Robert Sutton being interviewed in 2015 for the History Channel at the National Conference of Historians.



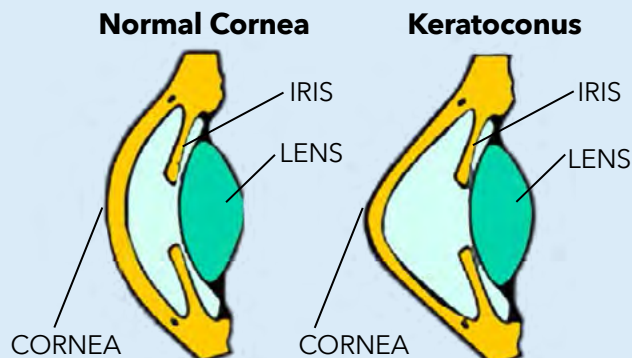
contact Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and arrange an appointment with world-renowned ophthalmic surgeon Dr. William Culbertson.

Sutton came to Miami hoping for a different outcome from the previous three corneal transplants that had been performed on his right eye in the past 35 years.

“I first performed a corneal transplant in his left eye followed by cataract/lens implant surgery one year later,” said Dr. Culbertson. “In 2015, I exchanged the lens implant in his right eye and since that procedure, he has enjoyed 20/30 vision in each eye

ABOUT KERATOCONUS

Keratoconus is caused when the collagen in the eye’s cornea weakens or becomes thin and the cornea bulges out. It often runs in families and usually affects both eyes. The changes can stop at any time or continue for decades. Severe keratoconus can cause swelling and scarring and may eventually require a cornea transplant.



without glasses. This made a huge difference in his life.”

While recuperating in his hotel room after his last surgery, Sutton could finally declare a battle against his eye conditions had been won.

“When I removed the bandage the day after the surgery, I looked out of the balcony. I turned to my wife and said it was the first time I could remember seeing perfectly without glasses or contacts,” Sutton said. “I’m a religious person. I called it a miracle.”

With his sight restored, Sutton went on to many significant achievements in his role as Chief Historian. He is particularly proud of the outcome of his major project, a symposium on the Civil War which highlighted the need for better interpretation of the history provided by the National Parks.

“We do a terrific job talking about who shot whom, where, when and how; but not such a good job about what caused the war, how it impacted families and what was the aftermath,” he said. “We recognized the need for a national site that focuses on the Restoration Period.”

For more than a decade, Dr. Sutton and his colleagues worked to change that. He solicited input and research from the most esteemed historians in the country while convincing leaders from the Department of the Interior to create such a site in America’s south. The group applauded when President Obama signed a proclamation in 2016 establishing a Reconstruction Era National Monument located in and around Beaufort, South Carolina.

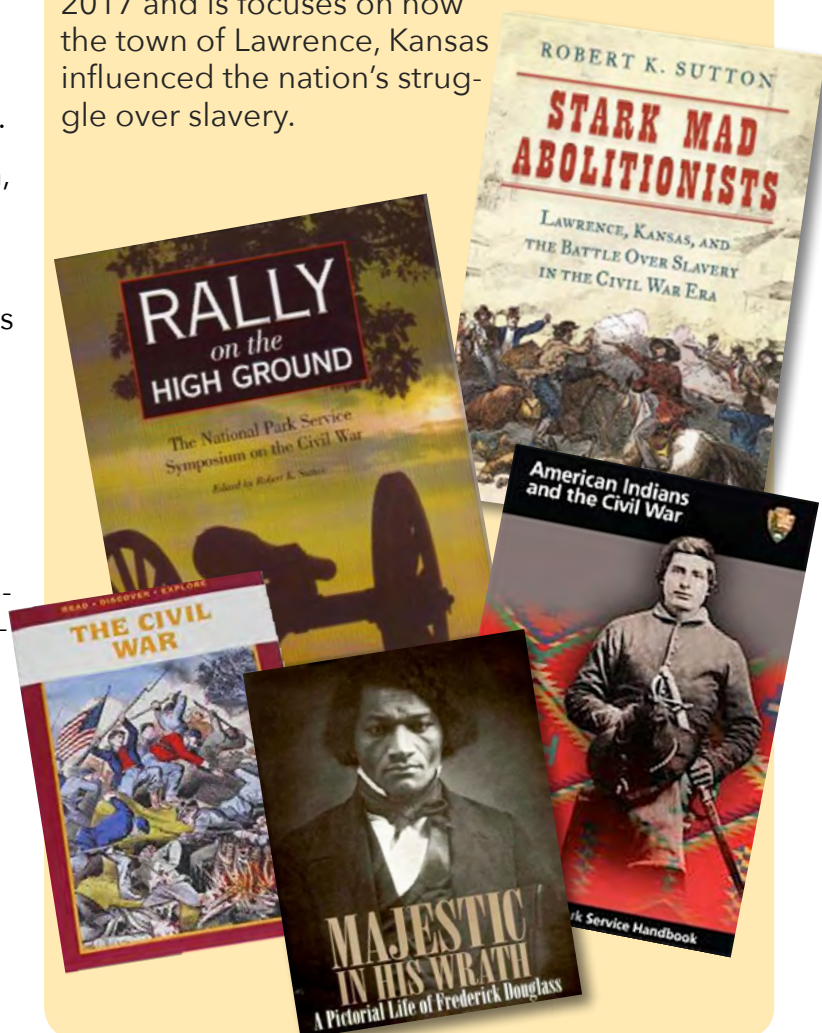
It is part of the impressive legacy Sutton has created for the enjoyment and education for future generations of Americans. A legacy Sutton has seen come to fruition thanks to donated corneas that restored his sight.

BOOKS BY DR. ROBERT K. SUTTON

“The Civil War is one of the most momentous eras in American history,” said Robert Sutton, who has edited, written and co-written several books on the popular subject.

He is the editor of *Rally on the High Ground: National Park Service Symposium on the Interpretation of the Civil War*, the coauthor of *Majestic in His Wrath: A Pictorial Life of Frederick Douglass* and co-edited the 2013 book of essays *American Indians and the Civil War*.

His latest book is *Stark Mad Abolitionists*, Sky Horse Publishing, which will be available in 2017 and is focuses on how the town of Lawrence, Kansas influenced the nation’s struggle over slavery.



Research Efforts Focus on Creating a New Artificial Cornea

INTRODUCTION

The quest to develop and perfect an artificial cornea, or keratoprosthesis, has been underway for decades. Over past 25 years, Florida Lions Eye Bank has supported research efforts at the Ophthalmic Biophysics Center to improve the outcomes for patients needing this procedure. The Ophthalmic Biophysics Center's efforts to create a better keratoprosthesis or "K-Pro" has been reported in several of Florida Lions Eye Bank's previous annual reports. Led by Director Dr. Jean-Marie Parel, the Ophthalmic Biophysics Center has explored a number of different experimental prototypes of the KPro. These prototypes incorporate a variety of synthetic materials and shapes and novel methods of implantation in the anterior of the eye.

Why a synthetic cornea? In most patients with corneal disease or damage, a corneal transplant using tissue from a deceased donor is best option to restore sight. In certain cases, however, the patient's cornea and surrounding ocular tissue is too damaged to support a corneal transplant. This is sometimes the case in instances of severe trauma or chemical or thermal burn injuries to the eye.

Florida Lions Eye Bank's 2009 Annual Report featured a patient who experienced a severe allergic reaction to medication, resulting in vision loss. Her cornea was damaged to the point that she was not a candidate for a traditional cornea transplant. Instead she became the first patient in the United States to receive a modified osteo-odonto keratoprosthesis (MOOKP). This complex procedure, which was completed in several lengthy steps over the course of six months, involved removing

a portion of her tooth and jaw bone. A hole was then drilled into the tissue and a lens placed into the hole. The tooth-lens was then implanted back into the cheek of the patient for several months, until living tissue grew around the implant. Finally, the tooth-lens was transplanted into the patient's eye, significantly restoring her eyesight.

SEEKING A NEW OPTION

While surgeons and their patients have had success with the MOOKP and a similar procedure called ostero tibia keratoprosthesis, the team at the Ophthalmic Biophysics Center believed that testing different designs and techniques could lead to an implant that does not require several months of extensive and complex surgeries.

With the support of Florida Lions Eye Bank and the U.S. Department of Defense, their research efforts have resulted in a novel synthetic cornea called the Miami Titanium Keratoprosthesis or the MiTi-KPro.

Now in its third generation, the MiTi-KPro provides a faster and easier method to restore vision to patients in whom a traditional cornea transplant would fail.



FIGURE 1

The titanium "skirt" attaches to the cornea and holds the lens in the center hole.

EARLY RESULTS SHOW ADVANTAGES

The patented MiTi-KPro implant consists of a perforated oval titanium skirt, made from the same metal that is used for artificial teeth (Fig. 1). An optical lens company in California developed the set of two custom lenses that are secured inside the central tube of the skirt. These lenses are made of a special material to prevent dangerous ultraviolet rays from reaching the patient's lens and retina. Experiments showed that these innovative lenses not only provide a greater field of view, but result in a much higher optical resolution than other commercially available keratoprosthesis. The results of these experiments were presented at the 2015 KPro Symposium (Fig. 2).

During the implantation surgery, the MiTi-KPro is placed over the recipient's cornea and under a sheet of their buccal mucosa. The ocular surface is covered with the MiTi-KPro and the optical lens is incorporated with a medical cement that is extremely durable under high impact force. In experiments with animal models, the implant procedure was successful, showing excellent

attachment between the recovered buccal mucosa tissues and the titanium skirt. There was no infection or damage to the crystalline lens. There was no effect on the retina and no apparent increase in intraocular pressure. It is the opinion of the research team that the high-quality optical surfaces was a factor in preventing intraocular infection (Fig. 3).

CONCLUSION

Experimental research on the third generation of the MiTi-KPro is currently underway, but the scientific results already show that the MiTi-KPro could be a viable option for patients with severe corneal burns, neovascularized corneas, and in cases of Stevens-Johnson syndrome.

The MiTi-KPro can be implanted quickly and at a much lower cost than both the modified osteo-onto and osteo-tibia keratoprosthesis. The MiTi-KPro could be readily available and stored in operating rooms, providing an easier and more affordable method to restore sight to visually-impaired patients.

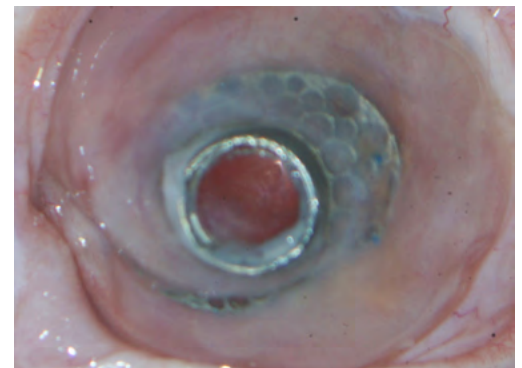
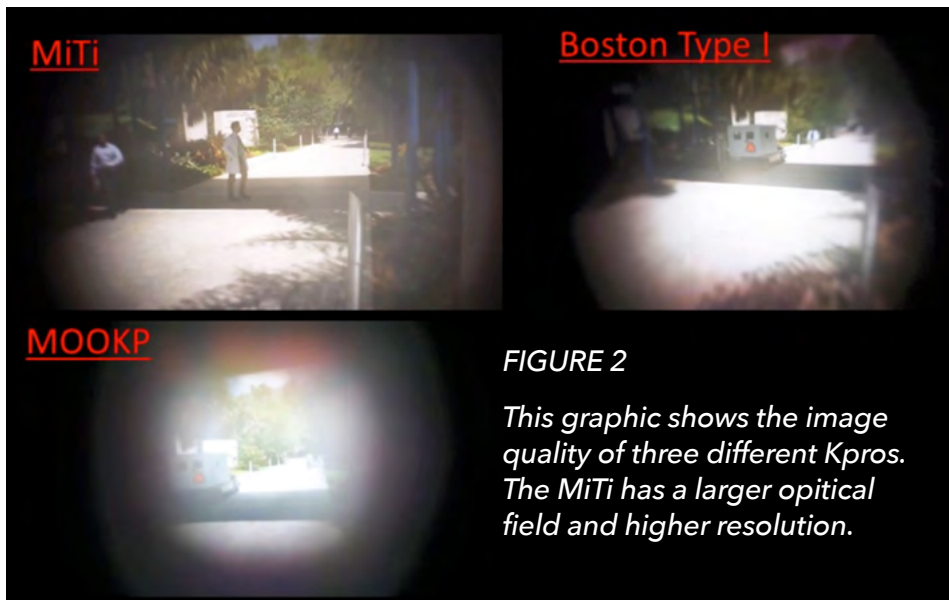


FIGURE 3
MiTi-KPro three weeks after surgical implantation.

FINANCIAL REPORT

	2016	2015
REVENUES AND GAINS		
Program Service Fees	\$ 2,554,874	\$ 2,541,590
Contributions		
General Public	22,868	37,882
Bequests	269,708	111,379
Lions Clubs	26,805	46,535
Donated Facilities & Services	115,854	115,091
Interest & Dividends	366,634	420,811
Net unrealized and realized (loss) gain of long term investments	(598,590)	(461,150)
Total Revenues and Gains	\$ 2,758,153	\$ 2,812,138
EXPENSES		
Program Services		
Medical Services	2,398,769	2,482,336
Research Grants	223,264	128,015
Supporting Services		
Management & General	186,509	205,586
Development	205,654	140,037
Total Expenses	3,014,196	2,955,974
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ (256,043)	\$ (143,836)

DONATIONS

to Florida Lions Eye Bank

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

General Donations

Roberto Aguilera	Elio Cruz	Nancy Kranz	Emily N. Ratner
Maria T. Alvarez	William E. Davis	Luke Leitz	Marc Rehm
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	H. Robert Koltnow		

DONATIONS

to Florida Lions Eye Bank

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

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Aventura North Miami Beach Lions Club	Miami Lakes Lions Club
Belle Glade Lions Club	Miami Lautaro Lions Club
Bellevue Noon Lions Club	Miami Lions Club
Boca Raton Lions Club	Miami Managua Lions Club
Bonita Springs Lions Club	Miami Peruvian Lions Club
Bradenton Lions Club	Middleburg Black Creek Lions Foundation
Chattahoochee Lions Club	Moore Haven Lions Club
Coral Way Colombian Lions Club	Mount Dora Lions Club
Englewood Lions Club	Naples Nites Lions Club
Florida E-Lions	North Fort Myers Noon
Fort Pierce Lions Club	North Port Lions Club
Ft. Lauderdale Lions Club	Oviedo Winter Springs Lions Club
Hialeah Pan American Lions Club	Palm Bay Happy Lions Club
Hollywood Colombian American Lions Club	Sebastian Lions Club
Key Biscayne Lions Club	Sopchoppy Lions Club
Key Largo Lions Club	South Florida Asian-American Lions Club
Lake Placid Lions Club	South Florida Maritime Lions Club
Lake Wales Lions Club	The Lake Sumter Lions Charities
Lake Worth Lions Club	The Lutz-Land O Lakes Foundation
Marathon Lions Club	University City Lions Foundation, Inc.
Miami Buena Vista-Biltmore Lions Club	West Miami Sunshine Lions Club
Miami Colombian Lions Club	West Palm Beach Lions Club
Miami Dade Interamerican Lions Club	Wildwood Sumter County Lions Club
Miami Interamerican Ecuador Lions Club	Zephyrhills Lions Club

DONATIONS

to Florida Lions Eye Bank

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

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Richard T. Cornelia	Bill Gladstone	Joel H. Lebow	Dan Weintraub
Victor Curtin, M.D.	Joann Harpster	Margaret Lowing	Lloyd Zachary
Robyn Curtiss			

Bequests

Estate of Wilma L. Daniels	Estate of Florence Herwitz	Estate of Elizabeth Hughes	Estate of Edna J. Priest
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Supporting Florida Lions Eye Bank

Florida Lions Eye Bank is grateful for the generosity of our many contributors. We appreciate their support of our mission to *Restore the Beauty of Sight*. **To make a contribution or for more information, contact us at (800) 329-7000 Ext. 6359 or visit www.fleb.org**



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