Arkansas Lions Eye Bank and Laboratory, Inc.

We recover, process and distribute donor eye tissue for corneal transplants and provide tissue for education and research.

The Arkansas Lions Eye Bank and Laboratory, Inc. is part of the big picture.

Corneal transplants successfully restore vision to most (90%) patients.

Anyone can donate corneas after his or her death. Neither cataracts nor poor eyesight prohibit corneal donations.

Eye, organ and tissue donations are consistent with the views of most major religions.

There is no fee to donate corneas. All procurement cost is absorbed by the eye bank. Corneas that are unsuitable for transplant may be used in medical research or teaching.

In 2003, 46,436 corneal grafts were supplied by eye banks in the United States.

The Arkansas Lions Eye Bank and Laboratory, Inc., like all other eye banks, is a not-for-profit organization. Because we are an Arkansas State Lions project, we rely on assistance in the form of funds and volunteer time from the Arkansas Lions Clubs.

The eye bank has 225 volunteer enucleators, 85 hospitals under contract and approximately 54 physicians throughout the state transplanting corneas to ensure that families are given the opportunity to donate eyes.

During Lions' fiscal year 2003-2004, 440 eyes were harvested in our state.

Of the 440, 268 were transplanted within our own state, 105 were exported to other eye banks and 43 were used for research.

Arkansas Lions Eye Bank & Laboratory, Inc.
4301 West Markham, Slot 523-1
Little Rock, AR 72205
Three entities work well together to accomplish like goals:

The Arkansas Lions Eye Bank and Laboratory, Inc.
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Harvey and Bernice Jones Eye Institute

By supporting researchers and educators, the eye bank enables valuable efforts to prevent and treat the leading causes of blindness including glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration.

Lions Service

Lions Clubs and members throughout Arkansas provide valuable financial and volunteer services to the eye bank. In 1925, Helen Keller spoke to the International Lions Convention and challenged them to become her “Knights of the Blind.” With that motivation, Lions have served for many years helping people with blindness and seeking means for vision restoration. With more than 180 clubs and 5,500 members in the state, Lions provide an important community link, helping the eye bank in all efforts. Lions’ Pony Express Drivers throughout the state transport donated eyes to the nearest transport site or the eye bank laboratory for preservation. These efforts ensure the safe and prompt delivery of corneas for transplant surgery.

Crystal Cornea

The Crystal Cornea is recognition of service, a contribution of time and talent that any Lions Club may bestow on an outstanding Lion or community member.

The Crystal Cornea is a special way the Arkansas Lions Eye Bank and Laboratory says thank you to clubs having contributed $500 or more per year.

The Crystal Cornea will be made available to qualifying clubs that apply in time for their annual awards night.

The Crystal Cornea is available at three levels:

- **Crystal Cornea Gold**: $2500 & above
- **Crystal Cornea Silver**: $1000 - $2499
- **Crystal Cornea**: $500-$999

An application must be received for each recipient by April each year.

Contributions to the Arkansas Lions Eye Bank and Laboratory, Inc. may be made throughout the year in any amount. During the month of April the eye bank will receive requests from qualifying Lions Clubs for the Crystal Cornea by the application attached.