Ashley’s Gift of Sight
- Bernadette Schendel, Mother
Submitted by Minnesota Lions Eye Bank

From a very young age, Ashley Schendel was interested in everything, and her mother often called her Curious George. She was always singing, which was how her parents could tell that she was happy. Life was one big musical with Ashley around.

Not at all shy, Ashley had an outgoing personality and was a bit of a daredevil. (She had to be to keep up with her older brother and cousins!) She was in Girl Scouts, school plays, band, choir, and orchestra. She coordinated crafts and activities for her siblings and her mom’s daycare children. She was a caretaker at heart.

Ashley loved her friends and family very much and enjoyed joining them for fishing and bonfires at the lake, concerts, and camping. She helped take care of her two younger sisters, showing a compassionate and caring heart, as she grew older. Always eager to help others, Ashley donated blood to the American Red Cross and served meals at the Salvation Army. During college, she worked as a nurses’ aid in a local nursing home.

Ashley made the decision to be a donor as a young child, when a friend received a heart transplant. She made her wish known by putting it in writing and by telling others the importance of donating. Struggling with health issues of her own, she became an eye donor at just 19 years of age. Ashley’s eye donation gave a 66-year-old man and an 81-year-old a second chance to see.