



PRESS RELEASE

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Eye Bank Association of America Announces 2018 Crystal Cornea Award

Washington, D.C. (June 13, 2018) – Each year, the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) awards individuals and organizations that dedicate their time and expertise to restore sight to the blind and visually impaired.

EBAA is proud to announce that Peyton Barkalow of Margate City, New Jersey is the recipient of the 2018 Crystal Cornea Award. The Crystal Cornea Award is given to an individual or organization not directly affiliated with eye banking but who advances the profession's interests and EBAA mission.

Peyton was just one day old when he was diagnosed with a rare eye condition called Peters Anomaly, a disorder of the eye which involves thinning and clouding of the cornea and attachment of the iris from the cornea, causing blurred vision, which affected both of his eyes. At six-months of age, Peyton had his first cornea transplant surgery and since that time has had three additional transplants. EBAA member eye bank, Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley (LEBDV), in Philadelphia, recovered, prepared, and ensured the safety of the tissue used for each of Peyton's surgeries.

While all transplanted corneas transform the lives of their recipients, the impact is particularly pronounced when the recipient is a child", said Kevin Corcoran, EBAA's President and CEO. "Peyton has his entire life before him, and we are honored to have helped him enjoy so many childhood experiences that rely on his vision. This award recognizes his, and his family's commitment to make that opportunity available to others."

For the past seven and a half years, Peyton and his family have gone above and beyond to share the story of his restored vision. Because of the precious gift of sight and his supportive family, Peyton and his family are tremendous and enthusiastic advocates of LEBDV and the gift of sight. Peyton's parents continuously update the LEBDV staff with his progress by sending report cards, awards, and pictures.

EBAA honored Peyton at its 57th Annual Meeting on Friday, June 8, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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About the Eye Bank Association of America

The Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA), established in 1961, is the oldest transplant association in the nation and sets standards, provides education, and engages in advocacy to support eye donation, and cornea transplantation and research. EBAA has led the transplantation field with the establishment



of medical standards for eye banking, and comprehensive training and certification programs for eye bank personnel. Over 90 member eye banks operate in the United States, Canada, and Asia. These eye banks made possible 84,297 sight-restoring corneal transplants in the United States in 2017. To learn more, visit www.restoresight.org.