

## EVERY DAY, CORNEAL SURGEONS RESTORE SIGHT TO PATIENTS AFFECTED BY EYE DISEASE OR INJURY.

The teams at nonprofit eye banks, in partnership with surgeons, make these life-altering procedures possible.

Last year, more than 50,000 cornea transplants took place in the U.S., with an additional 27,000 corneas exported overseas. Still more corneas are utilized for education and research purposes. This wouldn't be possible without the dedicated and talented professionals who work for community eye banks.

### Why choose a nonprofit eye bank?

1. **Community.** Nonprofit eye banks work closely with community donor programs, hospitals, and surgeons, often resulting in donor tissue being received by a local patient. This is important to many donor families, who prefer that their loved one's final gifts benefit their communities. An eye bank's proximity to their surgeons and hospitals can also ensure smoother coordination of tissue transfer and access to tissue in emergency cases.

“It's the notion of **community**; knowing that the donor tissue for my patient comes from someone in the community is something that patients and families really value. Our eye bank gets letters and visits from recipients saying **thank you for the gift of vision.**”

*Michelle Rhee, MD, Medical Director, Eye Bank for Sight Restoration, New York, NY*

“I prefer nonprofit eye banks because **they are motivated chiefly by patient care, not by economics.**”

*Mark Mannis, MD, Chair, Department of Ophthalmology, UC Davis, Sacramento, CA*

“Knowing where the tissue is coming from gives me a peace of mind that **the quality of tissue is very high**, and that the way it is being processed for the latest techniques for corneal transplant is at the highest level.”

*Michelle Rhee, MD, Medical Director, Eye Bank for Sight Restoration, New York, NY*

2. **Relationships.** Corneal surgeons often build relationships with their community eye banks during residency or fellowship years. These personal, long-lasting connections provide a level of trust and confidence that benefits both the surgeon and his or her patients.
  3. **Quality.** Since 1944, when the first private, nonprofit US eye bank was established, eye banks have efficiently and professionally provided safe, high-quality ocular tissue to hospitals, surgeons, and researchers around the world. By prioritizing training, education, post-operative follow-up, and donor-recipient care, eye banks' services go far beyond the donor tissue.
  4. **Partnerships.** As active and engaged members of their communities, nonprofit eye banks care about transplant patients just as much as corneal surgeons do. This “partnership in caring” benefits everyone involved in restoring sight.
- “It really feels like the **eye bank is a partner** with me in providing care for my patients.”
- Joshua Hou, MD, Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota, Medical Director, Lions Gift of Sight, St. Paul, MN*
5. **Trust.** Without a trusting partnership between corneal surgeons and their community eye banks, sight restoration procedures may not be successful. Surgeons trust the eye bank teams to accurately prepare tissue that meets their patient's specific needs.

“ I prefer to work with my community eye bank because **I know and absolutely trust them.** I know they are passionate about their jobs and that I can meet with them face-to-face if I have any issues and/or I see anything new in my tissue.”

*Maria Woodward, MD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI*

NONPROFIT EYE BANKS

# DRIVEN BY PATIENT CARE



[www.restoresight.org](http://www.restoresight.org)

[www.restoresight.org](http://www.restoresight.org)