

*The World's First Eye Bank*



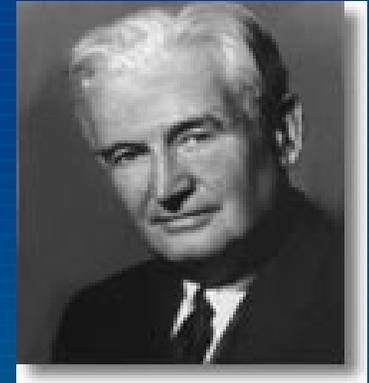
THE EYE-BANK

for Sight Restoration, Inc.



**Eye Donation Information for  
Patients & Families**

# History of The Eye-Bank



- The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration was established in 1944 by Ophthalmologist R. Townley Paton, MD as the world's first Eye-Bank and transplant organization. Since that time the Eye-Bank has helped to restore sight to 54,000 individuals that otherwise would have been blind.
- The mission of the Eye-Bank is to restore sight through eye donations and cornea transplants, as well as to provide ocular tissue for reconstructive ocular surgery and for research into treatment and cures for other eye diseases.

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# The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration



- The Eye-Bank serves New York City, Long Island and the Lower Hudson Valley.
- In its state-of-the-art, 24-hour laboratory facility cornea tissue is evaluated, preserved and stored for several days before being distributed for transplant.
- Since the demand for ocular tissue is so great most tissue is distributed within a couple days after recovery.

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# Eye-Bank Laboratory



- Eye-Bank Laboratory Technician evaluates corneal tissue using slit lamp biomicroscopy and specular microscopy.



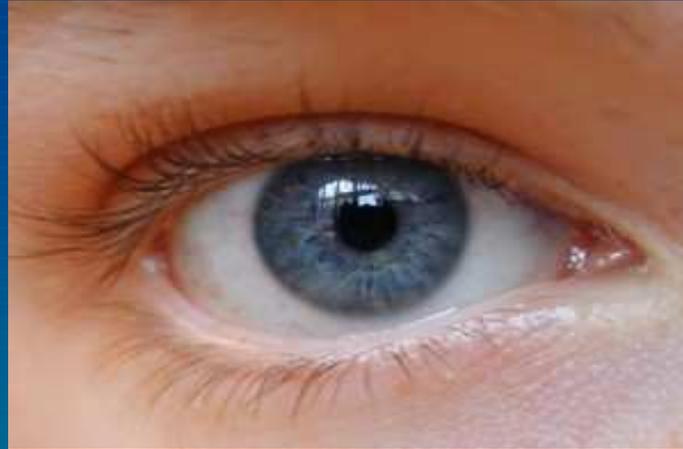
- Cornea tissue is preserved in a tissue bank refrigerator

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# Eye Donation & Cornea Transplant

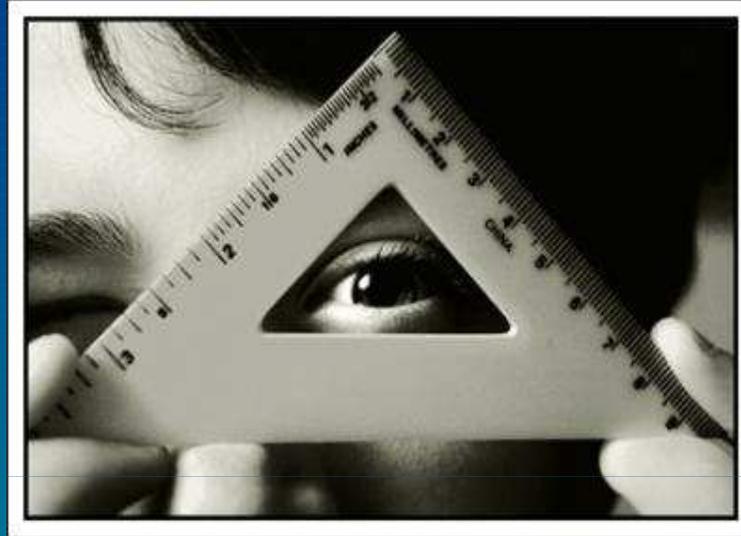


- The cornea is the transparent tissue that covers the front of the eye. It is about the size of a dime. Its purpose is to refract or bend light rays into the eye allowing them to focus on the retina, accounting for approximately two-thirds of the eye's total optical power.
- If the cornea becomes clouded through disease or injury, vision is impaired and sometime lost entirely.

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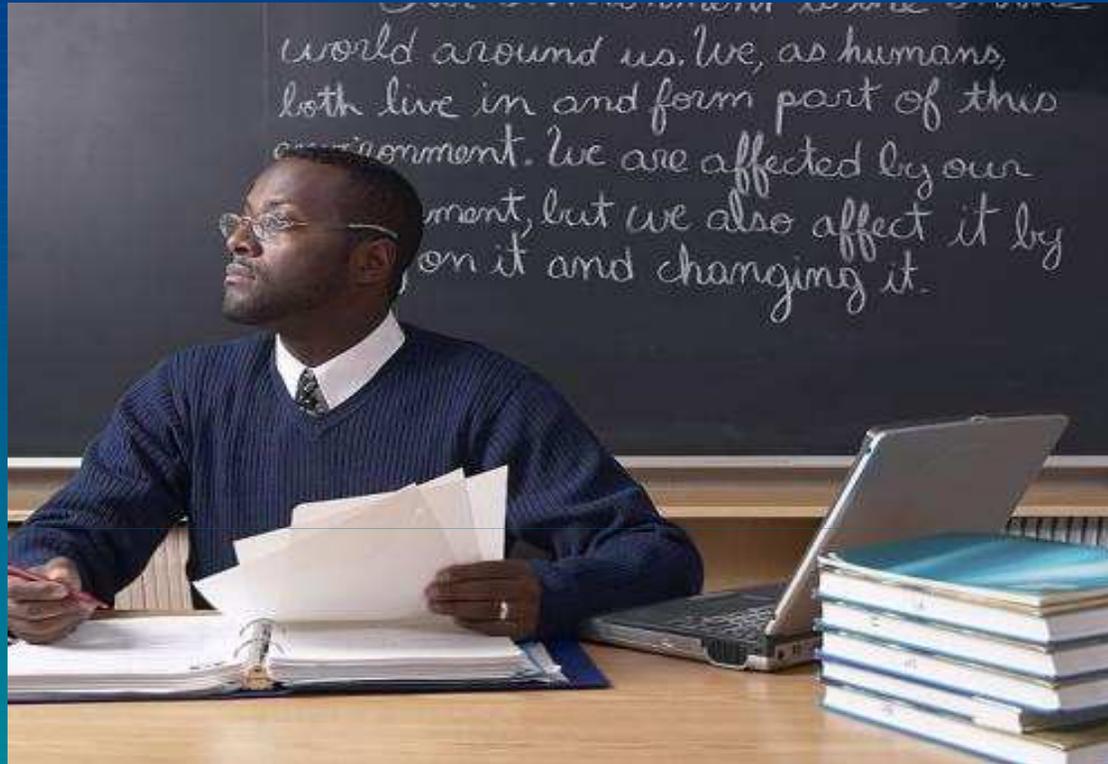
# Eye Donation & Cornea Transplant



- There is no artificial substitute for a human cornea. This is the reason eye donation is so important. The only substitute for it is another human cornea donated at death by someone who thus leaves a living legacy.
- Awareness about the need for eye donation is a key component of The Eye-Bank's efforts to restore sight to thousand of men, women and children each year.

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# If I wear glasses can I still donate ?



- Yes, you can! People who have poor vision and wear glasses or have had previous eye diseases or surgery can still donate, since these conditions may not affect the cornea. Eyes donated to The Eye-Bank that are not medically suitable for transplant may be used for medical research and education.

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# Donation Criteria



- The age limit for eye donation is 1 to 75 years of age. The Eye-Bank can accept donors older than 75 years of age and these donations would be used for medical education and research.
- Almost anyone can be an eye donor including people who have cancer. Patients who die of cancer may meet eligibility for eye donation, with some exceptions such as leukemia, lymphoma or myeloma.
- Donation for research purposes is very important. Donor tissue not suitable for transplant may be used for research. Medical scientists are looking to find treatment and cures for other blinding eye diseases.



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# Cornea Transplant



- Cornea transplant surgery was the first successful human transplant that opened the door to all other organ & tissue transplants. Today, about 40,000 cornea transplants are performed in the United States each year with a 95 % success rate depending on the type of disease or injury.

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# Cornea Transplant



- Cornea transplants are performed routinely throughout the U.S., typically on an outpatient basis. Local or general anesthesia is used, depending on person's health and age.
- The period of recovery is different for each patient, but many patients can return to normal activity after 1 to 3 weeks following surgery. Patients see great improvement in their vision after surgery.
- There is little need for immunosuppressant medication after cornea transplant surgery.

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# Eye- Donation Facts



- Most religions support organ, tissue and eye donation.
- There is no cost to the donor family.
- Donation should not affect funeral arrangements.

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# Success Story- A cornea recipient

- At age 28, Tim Oakes, was diagnosed with Keratconus, a coning and thinning of the cornea. He was saved from a lifetime of blindness with a cornea transplant. A year later, he finished the NYC Triathlon with a sense of relief and thanks for his restored eyesight.



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# Eye Donor



Jerry Orbach gave his heart and soul to acting, and the gift of sight to two New Yorkers.

You knew Jerry Orbach for his roles on Law and Order and on Broadway. But for two New Yorkers, his greatest role was that of an eye donor. Years ago, Jerry decided to donate his eyes. So when he passed away, he could give the beautiful gift of sight.

There are thousands of New Yorkers who are losing their sight, and they are depending on you to help. Be an eye donor.

Call the Eye-Bank of New York, or sign up online. It only takes a minute. Promise the gift of sight to a fellow New Yorker. Do it today.

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See what your eyes can do for others.

212-742-9000  
[www.eyedonation.org](http://www.eyedonation.org)

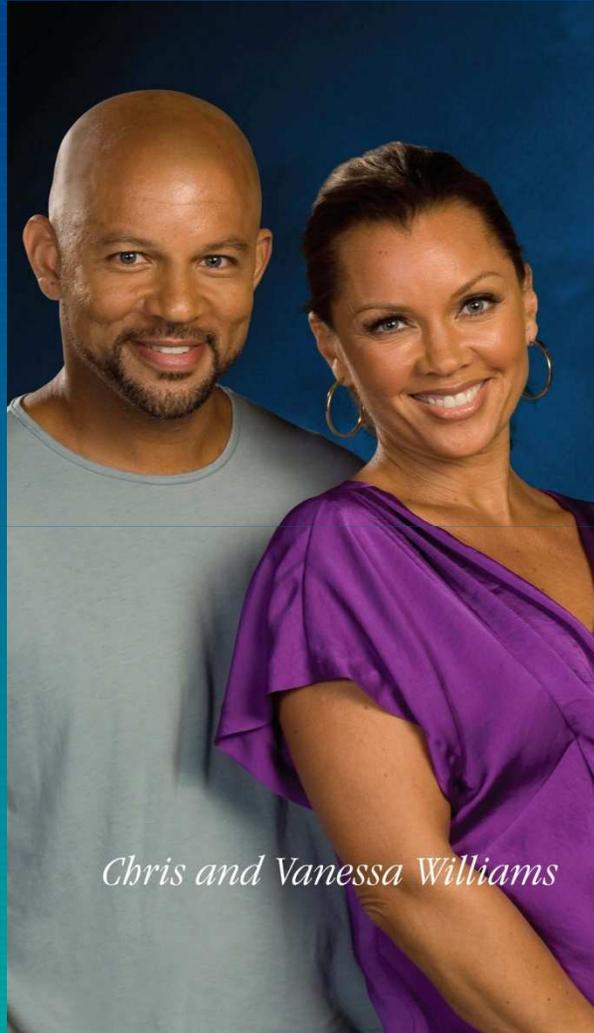


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# Eye Donor Family



*Chris and Vanessa Williams*

**“Our dad gave his love of music to 10,000 students and the gift of sight to one New Yorker.”**

Milton Williams was a gifted music teacher for over 43 years, right here in New York. And his greatest lesson was that of being an eye donor. When he passed away, he gave the beautiful gift of sight.

It only takes a minute to sign up to be an eye donor. Do it today.

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# Giving the Gift of Sight

- The benefits of donation extends not only to the recipient but also to the donor family who can gain something positive after their loss, and also gain comfort in knowing that their loved one lives on through someone else. One donor can help two people regain sight through cornea transplants and perhaps two other people can be helped through reconstructive ocular surgery using sclera tissue.



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# Give the Beautiful Gift of Sight

## ■ New York State Organ and Tissue Donor Registry

As of July 2008, NY State has a first person consent registry. If you registered before July 2008 you may re-register by renewing or applying for NYS driver license or non- driver ID or by completing a new Donor Enrollment Form. Visit one of these websites:

- [www.eyedonation.org](http://www.eyedonation.org)
- [www.nyhealth.gov](http://www.nyhealth.gov)
- [www.donatelifenys.net](http://www.donatelifenys.net)



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