



ROCHESTER/FINGER LAKES EYE & TISSUE BANK COMMUNICATOR

A Bulletin For The Healthcare Professional

WINTER FEBRUARY 2004

JANUARY – DECEMBER

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DONOR STATISTICS =

Facility	Eye	Tissue	Transplant Corneas
Cayuga Medical Center at Ithaca	6	4	10
Charles Cole Memorial Hospital	2	*	4
Claxton Hepburn Medical Center	4	4	6
Clifton Springs Hospital & Clinic	14	6	10
Corning Hospital	10	5	13
E. J. Noble Hospital, Gouverneur	2	1	4
F. F. Thompson Health System	15	12	7
Geneva General Hospital	13	3	10
Highland Hospital of Rochester	27	4	8
Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital	4	1	2
Lakeside Memorial Hospital	15	3	4
Lewis County General Hospital	3	1	6
Monroe Community Hospital	1	0	0
Nicholas H. Noyes Memorial Hospital	6	2	5
Robert Packer Hospital	25	*	20
Samaritan Medical Center	11	*	8
Schuyler Hospital	5	2	2
Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital	5	1	6
St. James Mercy Health System	2	1	2
St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center	20	*	19
Strong Memorial Hospital	103	35	70
Troy Community Hospital	3	*	4
Unity Health, Genesee St. Campus	1	0	2
Unity Health - Park Ridge Hospital	34	9	18
ViaHealth of Wayne, Newark	11	1	8
ViaHealth, Rochester General Hospital	72	26	43
Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office	1	2	0
Other (non-acute facilities)	24	3	4
TOTAL	439	126	295

* eye donations only

Eye Donor Month

March is Eye Donor Month

Last year 295 individuals in our region suffering from corneal blindness received the gift of sight through corneal transplantation. Nationwide the number of people receiving corneal transplants was more than 47,000. Since 1960, more than 1 million men, women and children of all ages have been helped.

- Corneal blindness is caused by disease, injury or infection
- There are about 200 people who receive corneal transplants every year in the R/FLETB service region
- Educational programs are available to any organization or group by calling our office at 1-800-568-4321

From the Director of Professional Services



Jennie Towne, CEFT

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have been a part of making this past year successful in restoring sight for so many. I will never forget one experience. While I was training with our Medical Director, Dr. Steven Ching, I had the opportunity to meet many of his patients. One stands out in my mind and always will. She had just had her corneal transplant the day before I met her. She was in the office to be examined, and to have the bandages removed. It was on her 83rd birthday, and what a gift for her to receive – the gift of sight. She hugged Dr. Ching, and then she hugged me, and then she cried tears of happiness. I was so proud to be a part of her joy. I thank the donor family that made it possible for her to receive this gift.

I thank each of you for your part in giving others a brighter tomorrow.

"FAMILY SERVICES" OPTION AVAILABLE TO HOSPITALS

R/FLETB is offering a "Family Services" requesting option to outlying hospitals. This program fulfills hospital requirements for designated requestors, without training healthcare staff. As a "Family Services" hospital, R/FLETB trained designated requestors would approach families for donation.

R/FLETB designated requestors are employees of the agency, many with years of experience both in the technical area as well as interacting with grieving families. This has proven to be a valuable asset when speaking with families.

R/FLETB completes all documentation of outcomes and provides data concerning the approaches in the compliance report provided to hospitals on a regular basis.

If you are interested in learning more about the "Family Services" option, please contact Jennie Towne at 1-800-568-4321.

Show Your Support

Host an Eye Donor Month Display
It's easy

If you're interested in setting up a display at your facility, please contact the office for some "eye-catching" materials.
1-800-568-4321

Always respect the family's right to decide!



NEWS to SHARE

≡ Neonatal Kidney Donation Program: In early December 2003 the Rochester / Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank partnered with Cell Dynamics, a biotech laboratory specializing in the processing of kidney cells to make Urokinase, an anti-clot drug. The kidneys that provide the needed cells must come from neonatal kidney donations.

Until now, there has been no suitable donation option for parents experiencing neonatal deaths. We can now offer families who have suffered this type of loss a choice in donation. Our trained designated requestors are compassionate and knowledgeable, offering families the information they need to make an educated decision regarding donation.

For more information about the Neonatal Kidney Program please contact Jennie Towne at 1-800-568-4321.

≡ R/ FLETB Educational Display at RGH: Jennie Towne will staff the agency's educational display, located near the hospital's information desk (main lobby), 11 am – 2 pm from March 1 – March 5.

≡ Incorporating Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank name: You will notice the new heading on COMMUNICATOR. The agency operates as Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank in Central and Northern New York.

≡ River Hospital, Alexandria Bay, NY: R/FLETB began working with River Hospital on August 15, 2003, in the recovery of eyes and tissues.

≡ New Eye Bank Technician: Kathy Mallard, RN, from Lewis County General Hospital is now trained in the recovery of eye tissue. She will recover tissue at Lewis County General Hospital and Samaritan Medical Center.

The United Way of Greater Rochester will begin its community-wide campaign. Each year, funds that are raised during this time help many local health and human service agencies.

Through the Donor Choice Program, you can designate all or part of your United Way gift to our agency. Your gift will insure that the programs and services we offer continue to be available to others in need.

Our agency receives contributions only through the United Way Donor Choice Program. Ask your employer for a Donor Choice Designation Form, or call our office, 1-800-568-4321.

OUR DONOR CHOICE # IS 0476

and is listed under Rochester Eye & Human Parts Bank



Rochester Eye & Tissue Bank

524 White Spruce Blvd.
Rochester, NY 14623

APRIL

National Donate Life Month



Talk to your family about donating. . .LIFE

**PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
WILL MEET ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY
IN THE MONTHS OF
APRIL AND SEPTEMBER 2004.**



Mark Your CALENDAR

March: Requestor Training Class 3/5/04 (9 am – 1 pm)

Classes held at the agency office,
524 White Spruce Blvd., Rochester, NY.

Call Tammi Sharpe, CEPT,
to register at least 2 weeks prior to class dates.

1-800-568-4321

"COMMUNICATOR"- a bulletin of the Rochester/Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank, 524 White Spruce Blvd., Rochester, N.Y., 14623

The Rochester/Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank is a nonprofit agency serving the Finger Lakes, Central and Northern NY regions as well as North Central PA.

Medical Director: Steven S.T. Ching, MD; Associate Medical Director: Ronald D. Plotnik, MD; Executive Director: Linda K. Fraser; Director of Professional Services: Jennie Towne, CEPT.

Your comments/suggestions are welcome. (585)272-7890/(800)568-4321
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