

ENVISION

Volume 3 • Issue 2 • Fall/Winter 2015



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PHOTO BY

BRENDA SISON- NEW ORLEANS, LA

Read more about the Photographers

Perspective on Page 1



Q: How long does a blink last? (answer on page 4)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



THE MISSION OF SOUTHERN EYE BANK:

“To preserve and restore sight, Southern Eye Bank recovers, processes, and distributes donor tissue for ocular surgery and research based on need.”

As President of Southern Eye Bank, it is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you to another edition of Envision. In this edition, we will discuss Southern Eye Bank’s community outreach and impacts including: the Mobile Vision Bus; our latest project with Lafayette General Medical Center and much more.

This year, Southern Eye Bank was able to distribute grants to multiple organizations, including St. Thomas Community Health Center and The Childhood and Family Learning Foundation. We partner with each organization to help supply equipment in order to continue the success of our aligned goals which include supporting our local community by educating and providing ocular care.

We also hosted our first annual blindfolded bowling event, Strikes-for-Sight, at Rock ‘n’ Bowl in New Orleans, LA and will host a blindfolded kickball tournament, Scores-for-Sight, in the Lafayette area in 2016. Many thanks to those who participated and the staff and volunteers who made the events successful. We are encouraged and excited by the difference we are making with these investments and hope that you will read about them in the pages to follow.

Our organization would not exist without those who sustain it: our cherished donors, our generous community partners, and our fearless doctors pushing our mission ever forward with new methods and technologies.

I invite you to learn more about Southern Eye Bank in this volume of Envision. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions regarding this newsletter.

-Olivier Clé Dabezies

PHOTOGRAPHER'S PERSPECTIVE

To me, sight means the ability to see all the splendor life has to offer. As a photographer, sight is the ability to see emotions, color, action and energies and try to capture it into a memory that you can relive over and over. I couldn't imagine not having the ability to see all the beauty in this world. Sight invokes emotion, it is truly the most precious sense we have and I truly understand why people believe the eyes are the windows to the soul. Not because others can see in, but because you can look out. -Brenda Sison, Sison Photography



MUSEUM CONTRIBUTIONS

Two children's museums in south Louisiana have been a part of Southern Eye Bank's community outreach this year. The Children's Museum of Acadiana in Lafayette and the Children's Museum of Lake Charles are both recipients of a new eye exhibit, which will allow users to see the anatomy of their own amazing eyes in a larger than life-size model! It offers visitors a hands-on opportunity to understand the structure and function of the eye. The projected installation date is right around the holiday season, in time for children to enjoy this gift on their school break. More information will be available on our website before the installation date.



THE COURTYARD

Organ, tissue and eye donors at Lafayette General Medical Center will be individually honored with an engraved brick placed in the courtyard of La Place de Vie. This year, for the first time, a cooperative agreement between Southern Eye Bank and Lafayette General Foundation has created an opportunity for donor families to see their loved one's name in the walkway around the lovely garden at the front of the hospital. While bricks may be purchased to honor a loved one, these bricks are a gift from our organization to our donors' families. It is our hope that the garden and brick courtyard become places of inspiration and peace grounded in the generosity of our donors.



Q: How much of the eyeball is exposed to the outside world? (answer on page 5)

ASK THE DOCTOR

How successful is the corneal transplant?

Approximately 94% of all corneal transplant operations successfully restore the recipient's vision.

True or False: As long as you can see well, you don't really need an eye exam.

The answer is false; there's a lot more to an eye exam than just checking your prescription. During a comprehensive eye exam, your doctor will check your overall eye health, which can sometimes show signs of other serious health conditions like diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol. Eye exams are an important part of taking care of your overall health, so make sure to see your eye doctor every year.

Send in your questions to info@southerneyebank.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Three memorial trees will be erected this holiday season to honor eye donors and their selfless Gift. Please join Southern Eye Bank and LOPA as we honor your hero at our annual **Tree of Life Celebrations** in Lafayette, Lake Charles and New Orleans. You are invited to attend one or all ceremonies. Please bring an ornament to adorn the Tree of Life in honor of someone who gave the Gift of Life and/or the Gift of Sight. The memorial tree in New Orleans will pay tribute to our pediatric donors. Information on admission times can be found on our website at SouthernEyeBank.com.

2015 MEMORIAL TREES:

- **November 27, 2015 through January 1, 2016** - New Orleans' City Park
- **Friday, December 4 at 10 AM** - Lake Charles Memorial Hospital Atrium
- **Sunday, December 6 at 2 PM** - Lafayette General Medical Center Cafeteria

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

8TH ANNUAL GIFT OF SIGHT CELEBRATION

- Saturday, March 19, 2016
- 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Audubon Zoo's Corporate Picnic Pavilion



SOUTHERN EYE BANK IN THE COMMUNITY

Southern Eye Bank understands that we are part of a community and we seek to help other organizations who share our passion for educating and making a difference in the healthcare industry. To this end, Southern Eye Bank is ecstatic to announce our continuing partnerships with the **ST. THOMAS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**, and our new partnership with the **CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY LEARNING FOUNDATION**. We were able to provide grants for these organizations and subsequently see first hand how this has helped our community.

On August 27, 2015, the **CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY LEARNING FOUNDATION (CFLF)** and William Buras of Southern Eye Bank headed to Esperanza Charter School to test out their latest equipment, two Vision Screening Cameras. Using a grant provided by Southern Eye Bank, the Childhood and Family Learning Foundation was able to purchase two of the SPOT cameras that will be used for hundreds of vision screenings throughout the greater New Orleans area. With this technology, the CFLF has so far provided 562 screenings and discovered cases of anisometropia, astigmatism, hyperopia and myopia. Out of the 562 students screened at 5 different schools, 110 students (roughly 20%) failed the vision screening.



Members of the Southern Eye Bank and Childhood and Family Learning Foundation spend time at the Esperanza School.

Early diagnosis of vision problems will substantially improve the quality of a child’s learning experience as 80% of learning is visual. Can glasses lead to better behavior? If you can see the board, you are more likely to retain the information and remain engaged.

Southern Eye Bank has also decided to continue its support and provide a grant to Dr. Donald Costello at the **ST. THOMAS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**. The new grant will allow the eye clinic at St. Thomas to purchase a Retinal Camera and a Vision Testing System Letter Chart. Both pieces of technology will help the multitude of patients that St. Thomas caters towards and address eye issues that are common in this community; often the by-product of diseases such as diabetes. The retinal camera will allow the staff to perform diagnostic testing of the retina without dilating the pupils. This will decrease the time it takes to perform these tests, as well as the time required to diagnose and monitor retinal diseases. The retinal camera is WiFi-ready for telemedicine and is user friendly, allowing various staff members to perform the necessary tests.



The DRS non mydriatic retinal camera purchased by St. Thomas Community Health Center.

A: Only 1/6 of the eyeball is exposed to the outside world.

Hero Spotlight: Bill Mizelle

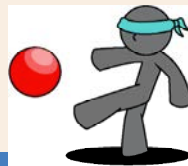
Our oldest son Bill tragically took his life on March 28, 2010. It was an event that forever changed our lives. Bill was an organ donor, but circumstances only allowed his corneas to be used. Since I am an Optometrist, our family has received some comfort knowing that Bill's corneas were used to give two people the precious gift of sight. I have always supported the Southern Eye Bank in my practice and will continue to do so in the future. My wife Cindy, our youngest son Thomas, and I are all signed up as organ, eye and tissue donors.

-Dr. Thomas Mizelle



Picture from left to right: Bill, Cindy, Don, and Thomas Mizelle

GETTING ACTIVE FOR SIGHT



Southern Eye Bank hosted its first annual bowling event at Rock 'n' Bowl in New Orleans, LA where participants were blindfolded while bowling. This event, called Strikes-for-Sight, was organized in order to understand the challenges that people with corneal blindness face. All proceeds went towards Southern Eye Bank's Community Education and Eye Donor Awareness Programs.

caught or stopped, that counts as one out. Three outs per team, per inning. A total of three to five innings are played per game. Please check our website for further information on the event.

In the Spring of 2016, Southern Eye Bank will host their first annual Beep Kickball tournament, Scores-for-Sight. Beep Kickball is played with two teams of five people each. Each member of the teams is blindfolded. The kicker places the beeping ball, kicks, and then must run to the base that is beeping. There are two bases that beep at random. The runner must reach the base before the ball is caught or stopped. If the runner does not reach the base before the ball is



MOBILE VISION BUS



Local resident receiving eye glasses.

Southern Eye Bank is pleased to announce that Vision Service Plan’s Mobile Vision Bus was a huge success. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to host VSP again and look forward to bringing eye care to those who would otherwise not be able to afford it.

The Mobile Vision Bus made an overwhelming impact throughout the Greater New Orleans Area. In just 3 days, 118 patients were examined on the mobile vision bus and another 128 patients were given gift certificates to accommodate their needs due to time restraints or handicap accessibility issues. Southern Eye Bank also received 72 pairs of multi-focal or prescription glasses that could not be made on the bus, and worked with Orleans Parish Coroner Jeffery Rouse, MD, to hold the “eyeglass pick-up day” at his office.



Southern Eye Bank’s Co-Medical Director, Dr. Clifford Hendricks, III and a local resident receiving an eye exam.

The Orleans Parish Coroner’s Office provided food for those who attended the event. Loyola University of New Orleans Delta Gamma sorority provided face painting while Laurence, the “Book Bus” librarian, provided free books for those in attendance. Pastor Smith, from the Israelites Baptist Church, was generous enough to lend the location and facilities to us.

Southern Eye Bank would like to thank everyone who donated their time and services, including Ophthalmologists Austin Pharo, MD, Andrew Pazandak, MD, Megha Pansara, MD, Lena Al-Dujaili, MD, David Patrick Kennedy, MD, Clifford. A. Hendricks, MD, Ginny Kullman, MD, Scott Lanoux, MD, Daniel Lemor, MD, Pulin Shah, MD, Brendon Sumich, MD, Anjali Tapadia, MD, and Optometrist Don Costello, OD.

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK: IRLLEN SYNDROME

This perceptual processing disorder is deceptively not an optical problem, but rather an issue with the brain’s ability to process visual information. Therefore, it is undetectable by standard visual and educational testing.

The syndrome often affects areas including: academic and work performance, behavior, attention, ability to sit still and concentration. Although the disorder varies in manifestation for every individual, the common symptoms include being bothered by glare/bright lights, headaches, tired, dizzy, restlessness and anxiety.

Irlen Syndrome can be resolved with Irlen colored overlays and Irlen Spectral Filters. Color has the ability to reduce stress on the brain and allow it to function better. When light acts as a stressor on the brain, the ability to process the visual information is not done correctly, leading to the brain working harder, subsequently slowing down productivity and increasing strain and fatigue.

To find out more about this syndrome or to take a test and see if you may have symptoms, visit: <http://irlen.com>, or talk to your eye doctor to discuss symptoms and diagnosis.





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YOU DECIDE!

Southern Eye Bank will host the 8th Annual Gift of Sight Celebration at the Audubon Zoo on March 19, 2016. In the past, the staff has selected images that were used on T-shirts and the celebration invitation. This year, Southern Eye Bank is asking Envision readers to help us select the 2016 image. Crawfish? Bridges? Butterflies? The sky is the limit...Send us your ideas to: info@southerneyebank.com

