



HOW TO HOST A DONOR DRIVE



IOWA LIONS
EYE BANK
OUR VISION IS YOUR VISION



BETTER VISION STARTS WITH YOU

Thank you for your interest in hosting a donor registration drive.

In 2022, Iowa Lions Eye Bank was able to provide tissue for corneal transplants to 687 people. None of these opportunities for restored sight would have been possible without the generosity of those who decided to say yes to eye donation.

This guide was developed to help you explain the donation process, dispel myths about donation, and assist others in signing up for the donor registry.

People can sign up to be eye, organ and tissue donors in Iowa when they register for their driver's license, receive a hunting, fishing or trapping license, or by filling out a form online. Our form is available by going to iowalionseyebank.org and clicking the green register now button.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Partner & Community Relations Coordinator, Francie Williamson, at (319) 335-4087 or email francie-williamson@uiowa.edu.



STEPS TO HOST A DRIVE

1

Time, date and place

Decide which date and time would maximize your ability to reach out to your chosen audience. Maybe you're looking to recruit college students? Being in a highly visible place on campus where a lot of people congregate might be the best place to set up. Is it cold out or windy? Maybe you want to be indoors.

2

Permission granted?

Wherever you set up, make sure you are allowed to be there. Some locations may require permission ahead of time. Make sure you know the parameters of your chosen location.

3

Reach out to Iowa Lions Eye Bank

Someone from Iowa Lions Eye Bank will try to be on site with you to help and answer any questions. We can also provide you with giveaways like lens cleaning cloths, chip clips or pens, and other marketing materials. Email francie-williamson@uiowa.edu or call 319-335-4087.

4

Staff and prepare your table

Make sure you have a few people to answer questions and attract people to your table. Have a tablet, laptop or smart phone available for people to sign up for the donor registry at iowalionseyebank.org/

5

Publicize the event

Use social media, post flyers, or reach out to local media. Let people know that you'll be available.

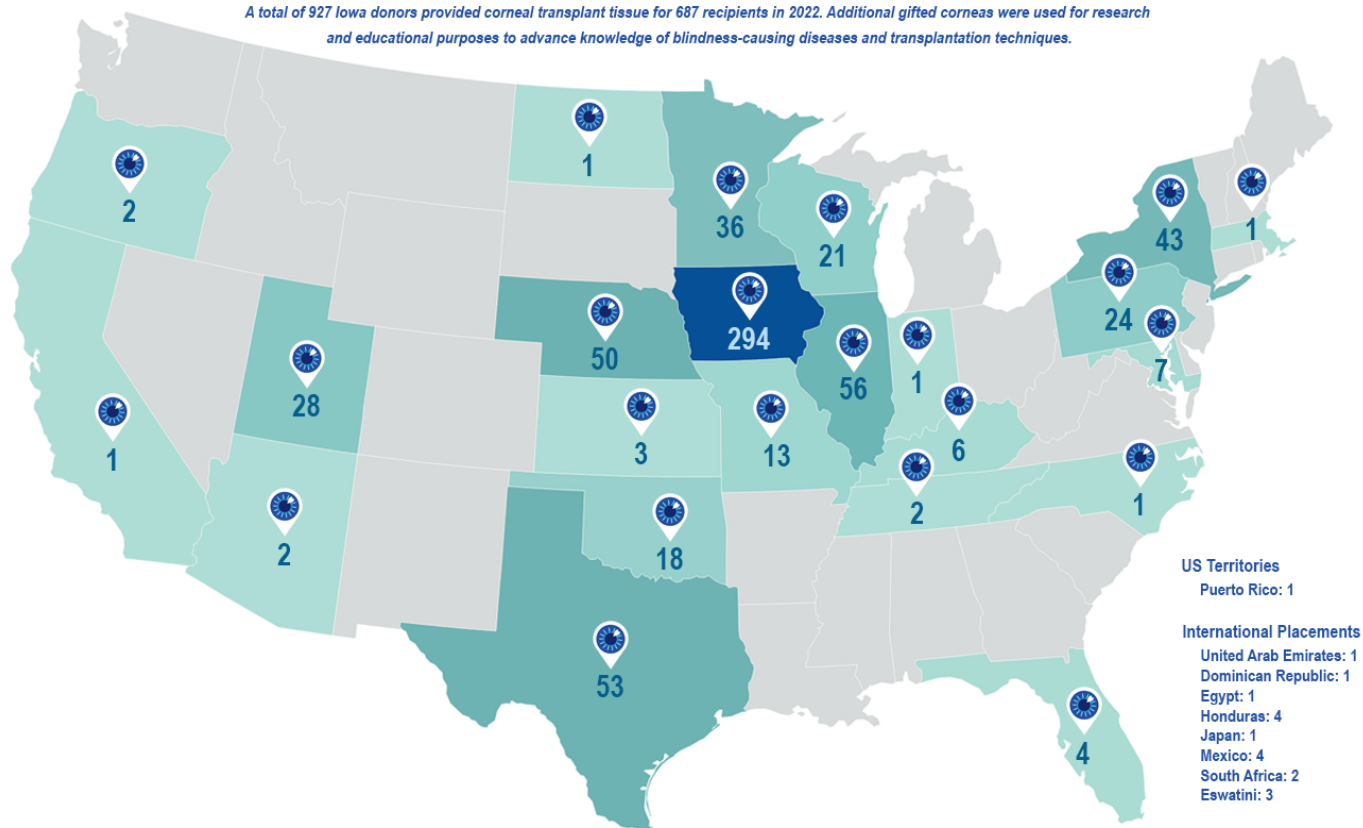
EYE DONATION FACTS

- The cornea is the eye's outermost layer, the clear, dome-shaped surface that covers the front of the eye. It is the only part of the eye that can be transplanted to another person. The iris is the colored part of the eye and is not transplantable. Your eye color will not change if you receive a cornea from someone with a different eye color. Blood type also does not matter because the cornea receives oxygen from the air, not blood.
- Whole eyes can be donated for use in research into eye disorders, as well as educational purposes.
- Common reasons for a corneal transplant are corneal scarring or tearing, infection, and disorders including kerataconus and Fuchs dystrophy.
- More than 97 percent of cornea transplants will be successful.
- Since 1961, more than 2 million people have had a cornea transplant worldwide. However, it is estimated that about 18 million people worldwide are in need of a cornea transplant. Iowa Lions Eye Bank annually sends cornea tissue not only to surgeons in Iowa, but throughout the United States and the world as well.



2022 Iowa Lions Eye Bank Impact Map

The number within each state indicates how many grateful cornea patients received a transplant through the generosity of our 2022 Iowa donors. A total of 927 Iowa donors provided corneal transplant tissue for 687 recipients in 2022. Additional gifted corneas were used for research and educational purposes to advance knowledge of blindness-causing diseases and transplantation techniques.





MYTHS TO DISPEL

- **“DOCTORS WON’T SAVE MY LIFE IF THEY KNOW I AM AN ORGAN DONOR.”**

In an emergency, it is the entire medical team’s first priority to save the life of their patient, and they will not check to see if you are an organ donor. Doctors work hard to save the patient’s life, but sometimes there is a complete and irreversible loss of brain function. The patient is declared clinically and legally dead. Only then is donation an option.

- **“MY HEALTH IS BAD.”**

Even if you drink or smoke, you could still be a donor! Let the doctors decide when the time comes. A medical evaluation is done by donation professionals at the time of death to determine eligibility. Anyone can register regardless of his or her medical history.

- **“I’M TOO OLD TO DONATE.”**

Anyone can be a potential donor, regardless of age. One out of three donors is over the age of 50. In 2022, the youngest cornea donor was 3 years old, and the oldest was 101.

- **“IT’S AGAINST MY RELIGION.”**

All major religions support organ, eye and tissue donation as one of the highest expressions of compassion and generosity.

- **“MY FAMILY DOESN’T WANT ME TO.”**

Donation is a personal choice, but it is important to discuss it with your family and loved ones. Make sure that they know your wishes.

- **“IT’S TOO EXPENSIVE.”**

There is no cost to the donor’s family or estate for eye, organ and tissue donation.

- **“I CAN’T HAVE AN OPEN CASKET FUNERAL IF I DONATE.”**

An open casket funeral is possible for donors. Donation will not impact any other funeral arrangements either.