



Contact: Tami Kelly

Tami@brazercommunications.com

925-640-9997

Seattle, WA – (February 18, 2016) – SightLife is proud of the program we have built with the Pierce County Medical Examiner’s office to support cornea donation in the community. Approximately 80 percent of adults in Washington State have indicated an intention to be an organ, eye or tissue donor. For these individuals and their families, the only opportunity to see this intention realized is the collaborative programs that provide notifications for donation evaluation. Since implementing this program in 2014, Pierce County residents now have the opportunity to make their own choice about donation.

In 2015, individuals who received sight-restoring transplants from Pierce County donors numbered 1,167. Of those, 326 were from the program with the Pierce County Medical Examiner and the other 841 came from elsewhere in Pierce County.

SightLife takes its role seriously as steward of the precious gift of sight and adheres to the highest standards in the industry, as set by the FDA, Eye Bank Association of America and state law.

SightLife balances the need to recover tissue in a timely manner for those waiting for a cornea transplant with approaching families sensitively at one of the worst times of their lives, after the loss of a loved one. It's empowering for families that have donated their loved one's corneas to know that one generous donor will offer two people the gift of sight. At SightLife, in collaboration with our donation partners, we educate and counsel grieving families to ensure their donation choices are honored.

About SightLife

Founded in 1969, SightLife is the largest and most experienced provider of corneas for transplant in the world, and is the only non-profit global health organization and eye bank solely focused on eliminating corneal blindness worldwide. SightLife and its global partners provided over 24,600 corneas for transplant in 33 countries in 2015.

For more information, visit www.sightlife.org

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