

Mission

We serve as a global leader and partner to eliminate corneal blindness worldwide by 2040.

Organization Overview

SightLife is the only global health organization working relentlessly to eliminate corneal blindness worldwide by 2040. Sight restoration has a profound impact on recipients, their families and communities—we believe no one should have to wait to experience the joy and possibilities that vision brings.

With partners in 33 countries, SightLife is increasing the number of corneal transplants performed each year to transform millions of lives around the globe. Corneal blindness is a neglected issue in the developing world, where the majority of the world's estimated 10 million corneal blind live. SightLife addresses key systemic barriers to sight restoration in several developing countries—especially India where the current need is the greatest.

In October 2016, SightLife launched its subsidiary, SightLife Surgical, becoming a combination non-profit and for-profit organization. This mission-driven structure maintains the non-profit status of SightLife as the parent organization and adds a for-profit “engine” to power and accelerate our mission. SightLife Surgical will drive necessary innovation in cornea research, products, blindness prevention and public policy to help SightLife eliminate corneal blindness in our lifetimes.

Founded in 1969 and based in Seattle, SightLife is an accredited member of the Eye Bank Association of America and a member of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness. SightLife and its global partners provided more than 30,000 corneas for transplant in 2016.

Locations

Headquarters – 1200 6th Avenue, Suite 300, Seattle, WA 98101

Northern California – 6000 Shoreline Court, Suite 202, South San Francisco, CA 94080

Southern California – 850 Health Sciences Road, Suite 2020, Irvine, CA 92617

Northeast – 2346 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017

Southeast – 101 North Chestnut Street, Suite 303, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

India – C-11, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi 110016, India

UK – Devonshire House, 60 Goswell Road, London EC1M 7AD

Web Addresses www.sightlife.org | www.sightlifesurgical.com

Leadership Team

Claire Bonilla—President and CEO

Bernie Iliakis—Chief Operating Officer

Howard Mendelsohn—Chief Financial Officer

Gretchen Coker—Chief Talent Management Officer

Rusty Kelly—Chief Marketing Officer

Sandy Jeghers—Senior Advisor to the CEO

Bios are available for leadership team: <http://sightlife.org/About-Us/Our-People>

Our Core Strengths

- **Exceptional eye banking services.** Together, SightLife and SightLife Surgical accelerate excellence in eye banking and donor operations – modeling best business practices and the highest quality service while honoring the gift of donation, domestically and internationally.
- **Leading corneal solutions.** Through our subsidiary, SightLife Surgical, we are revolutionizing the corneal ecosystem by driving innovations in research products, prevention, policy, education and advocacy.
- **Visionary global capacity-building programs.** We passionately mentor and build eye banks in underserved parts of the world, scaling regional capacity through a combination of deep expertise, comprehensive tools, best practices, training and resources while also continually forging new, innovative approaches.
- **Passionate entrepreneurial spirit.** We relentlessly push the boundaries and explore uncharted territory through risk-taking, innovation and collaboration.

Our Work

SightLife Focus

Work with donation partners, transplant recipients and the families of cornea donors

- Collaborate with hospitals, medical examiners, coroners, funeral homes and other donation partners to offer as many families as possible the opportunity to donate and give the gift of sight.
- Educate and counsel families of the recently deceased about the benefits of eye donation and worldwide need for corneas and tissue for transplants and research.
- Recover donated corneas and other eye tissue.
- Recognize donors and their families for their gifts of sight, including oversight of a letter-writing program that allows corneal transplant recipients and donor families to connect and help each other heal.
- Help donor families access grief support groups, counseling and bereavement literature.
- Work with SightLife Surgical to ensure that surgeons worldwide have timely access to the corneal tissue they need for their patients.

Build global capacity programs:

- Work in developing countries to address the entire supply chain for corneal blindness: policy and advocacy, awareness, partnerships (hospitals, mortuaries), eye bank development, surgeon training and patient care. This program has made significant progress, including:
 - In its first year (2010), SightLife worked with five partner eye banks that provided 3,741 corneas for transplant. In 2016, SightLife's partners enabled more than 16,200 transplants.
 - The program also has trained nearly 350 surgeons since 2014, with a 37 percent average increase in the number of surgeries (10-40 more surgeries per year/per surgeon) following training.

SightLife Surgical Focus

Services for ophthalmic surgeons and their patients:

- Evaluate and prepare donated corneal tissue for use by surgeons in a variety of surgeries, including DSEK and DMEK transplants. Tissue is selected and precisely prepared to meet surgeon specifications.
- Carefully store corneal tissue until it can be used by surgeons in the U.S. or overseas.
- Safely deliver corneal tissue to ophthalmic surgeons for use in sight-restoring surgeries and research.
- Distribute the EndoSerter® corneal endothelium delivery device to distributors and surgeons in 20 countries around the globe. This device is used to place corneal endothelial allografts into the eye during transplant procedures.
- Research and development of new corneal products in conjunction with surgeons and other ophthalmic companies.

How to become an eye, organ and tissue donor

Visit registerme.org to register in any U.S. state and tell your loved ones about your decision. In many states, citizens also may become donors by checking "YES! I want to be an organ and tissue donor" when applying for or renewing a driver license or ID card.

Media Contact

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