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**SightLife board member honored with first Diane Sabin Mission Impact Award created in her name**

**Seattle, WA (January 24, 2017)** – SightLife has established a new award to honor volunteers making significant contributions to SightLife and SightLife Surgical’s mission to eliminate corneal blindness by 2040. Named for SightLife board member Diane Sabin, who became the first award recipient earlier this month, The Diane Sabin Mission Impact Award recognizes a role model who embodies all of SightLife’s key values: passion, responsibility, innovation, transparency, efficiency and customer focus. Future winners must exemplify the high standards set by Diane, who has dedicated countless hours of her time to help SightLife and SightLife Surgical thrive, thereby making the reality of a world without corneal blindness possible.

“Since day one, Diane has brought her passion, experience, time, attentiveness, collegiality, toughness, professional skills, eagerness and support to the table,” said SightLife President and CEO Monty Montoya. “The award itself is made of high quality-crystal to embody the high quality of service Diane gives with subtlety and finesse.”

Diane has been a devoted member of the SightLife Board of Directors since 2000, serving as board chair from 2007 through 2011. Most recently, Diane spent countless hours leading the committee that laid the foundation for the formation of SightLife’s new, for-profit subsidiary, SightLife Surgical. She played a significant role in making SightLife Surgical a reality, ensuring that one day, no one will have to wait for a corneal treatment to see the beauty of the world around them.

After receiving the award at SightLife’s year-end celebration on January 7, 2017, Diane wrote to Monty Montoya, “you have pushed SightLife to huge accomplishments and it has been a pleasure to watch. From 2,500 to 30,000 annual cornea transplants [in a few years] is just amazing growth. I cherish that the wording on this award clearly says I have made a difference. It is lovely to be recognized.”

**About SightLife**

Founded in 1969 and based in Seattle, 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—no one should have to wait to experience the joy and possibilities that vision brings. With the launch of its subsidiary, SightLife Surgical in the fall of 2016, SightLife became 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 achievement of the mission. With partners in 33 countries, SightLife is increasing the number of corneal transplants performed each year to transform millions of lives around the globe. [www.sightlife.org](http://www.sightlife.org).

**About SightLife Surgical**

SightLife Surgical was founded in fall 2016 to challenge the status quo of the cornea ecosystem, primarily by driving the systemic change needed to enable innovation and access to treatments for corneal blindness. This cornea-focused organization provides comprehensive services to support ophthalmic surgeons, from corneal tissue and devices to reimbursement consulting and political advocacy. Based in Seattle, SightLife Surgical is a for-profit subsidiary of SightLife, a leading non-profit global health organization working relentlessly to eliminate corneal blindness worldwide by 2040. 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 achievement of the mission. [www.sightlifesurgical.com](http://www.sightlifesurgical.com)