GIVING
the Gift of
SIGHT
I had the honor and privilege of serving as the Chairman of the Board for LEBW from 2021 to 2022. This is my sixth year on the LEBW Board. I give great credit to our LEBW President/CEO, Stacey, and her management team for navigating LEBW through the COVID pandemic.

People always ask me, “when will we be back to normal?” The pandemic resulted in several employees working from home. For some employees, working from home, most of the time will be the new normal. The number of donors is steadily increasing, but still 20-30% under the pre-pandemic numbers. The shortage of donors has affected all eye banks, similarly, resulting in a nationwide corneal tissue shortage. The pandemic has also forced LEBW to look at revenue options. Those doors are now open, and I expect we will expand in the future.

The LEBW administration has tightened its belt to make ends meet. Unfortunately, that has also resulted in a delay in purchasing new computers and lab equipment. An equipment list is being developed with a priority ranking. We need to update our equipment to keep everything running smoothly.

We had LEBW staff and district board representatives at every district convention. I appreciate the representation and assistance of each board member.

The future of LEBW is bright. The pandemic was a true test of the mettle of the LEBW administration and the Lions of Wisconsin. LEBW will be around for a long time.

This year also had Dr. Barney retiring as our medical advisor. His oversight of LEBW has been a key element of our success. His hands-on supervision in the lab and training of lab personnel has resulted in tissue quality that is some of the highest in the country.

And finally, I want to thank Stacey, the staff at LEBW, and the LEBW Board for making my year as Chair challenging yet fulfilling. Your collective positive attitudes and work ethic have been quite appreciated. Tissue donation and transplantation will always be an emotional experience for the donor families and the recipient and their families. Everybody at LEBW respects and understands that. It truly is a GIFT of Sight.

STACEY TROHA  
Chief Executive Officer

GREG KRUG  
Board Chair

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<td><strong>$8,940,188</strong></td>
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<table>
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<td>OTHER LIABILITIES</td>
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<td>Grant Payable Less Current Portion</td>
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| NET ASSETS | | |
| Without Donor Restrictions | $9,759,194 | $8,354,737 |
| With Donor Restrictions | $104,572 | $74,153 |
| **Total Net Assets** | **$9,863,721** | **$8,428,866** |

<table>
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<th>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>$10,372,556</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,940,188</strong></td>
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</table>
LEBW is comprised of a great team of professionals dedicated to the mission of restoring the gift of sight. It is because of this team that LEBW continues to be a proven leader in the eye-banking industry.
Grateful Recipient

My name is Betty Ingwell, and I am a 46-year Lioness and a 7-year Lion inducted into Lionism by Past International President Barry Palmer of Australia. Forty-five years ago, I was diagnosed with Fuchs’ dystrophy. At that time, I had never heard of the disease until my diagnosis. It is a debilitating, incurable disease that causes fluid buildup in the cornea and causes it to swell and thicken, and eventually leads to blindness. Fuchs’ dystrophy is usually inherited and more common in women, but I have no idea which side of my family it came from. So far, no one else in my family has contracted it. I accepted my disability and occasionally would ask my doctor for a cure, to which he would answer, “not at this time.” Surgery was not an option either, as I also had cataracts in both eyes, and he was concerned that cataract surgery might do more harm, and I could go blind immediately.

In January 2021, at an eye exam, I learned that Dr. Warner had experience doing successful cornea transplant surgery with Fuchs’ Dystrophy. I was found to be a candidate for a corneal transplant – I was elated! My procedure was scheduled for April 20, 2021. I would have my cataract removed and a cornea replacement in my left eye. The surgery went very well, and immediately after the surgery, I was told to lay flat for one hour before going home and then continue lying flat for 24 hours, only rising for personal needs for five minutes at a time.

When the patch was removed the following morning, I could see clearly for the first time in years. I had an eyedrop protocol every two hours during waking hours for five days, and then every four hours with an antibiotic for ten days. Following that, I had a protocol of prednisone drops four times a day for three months and then tapering down to only once per day. Every day went on with no complications.

The cataract/cornea transplant in my right eye was scheduled for September 7. Unfortunately, I wasn’t as lucky with the second cornea, which needed three additional adjustments from Dr. Warner, following the same protocol after each one. To date, the cornea is still in place. It took a short time for the swelling and soreness to fade, but it eventually subsided. My left eye continues to be great, but the right eye occasionally has some blurriness.

The tissue donor for my left eye was 31 years old, and the right eye donor was a 54-year-old male. I can’t thank the donor families enough for donating their loved one’s corneal tissue. I am sure that decision wasn’t made lightly, and I want them to know that a piece of their loved one lives on through me. I also wish to thank Dr. Warner, LEBW Medical Director, for his talent and skill in restoring my sight.

I have always known that I wanted to be an eye donor, but I never dreamed that I would be a recipient! Thank you to all who have donated to Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin, thank you to the Lions of Wisconsin for continuously supporting LEBW, and a very

EBAA’s 2021 Total Corneal Transplant Stats

- **64,048** Total number of U.S. donors
- **49,110** Total domestic transplants
- **22,928** Total international transplants
Ednan was always giving all of himself in everything he did in life, and even though his two daughters did not know about his decision to donate until after his passing, they were not surprised.

Victoria and Alex, Ednan’s daughters, believe that the main reason their dad elected to be an eye donor is that they have family members who have experienced vision loss. Alex has a scratch on her cornea that has caused significant vision loss, with only about 30% vision remaining. The family also has a cousin who lost all eyesight by the time she turned five years old, but thankfully she is thriving now and has a family of her own.

Ednan was the most amazing, selfless, hilarious, fun-loving, hard-working, and dedicated person you’ll ever have the privilege of knowing. He had so much love in his heart for all living things and showed that to everyone he met. He would give you the shirt on his back, shoes on his feet, and pants, too (if it wasn’t too cold!). He persevered through so many tribulations in his life and never gave up. He dedicated his life to serving others. He loved trying new career paths. Once, he was a D.J., security guard, plumber, woodworker, apartment building manager/maintenance, and a truck driver for airing and cooling supplies. His last occupation was driving a bus for a senior care center to pick up/drop off the seniors and take them on field trips. But he was also so much more. He was a musician, a father, son, brother, cousin, and friend. A comedian and a cook too! Ednan was such a great cook; people would ask him all the time how to cook this or that. His favorite cooking medium was B.B.Q. He was the best at that.

He had a passion for taking pictures, he had so many cameras and memory cards packed with pictures of anything and everything. He loved getting those candid shots of people laughing and enjoying life. He also loved taking pictures of things that would remind you of the beauty of this world. That, despite all the pain and ugliness the world can throw at you, there is equal, if not more beauty, if you are open to it.

He loved older shows like M.A.S.H., Gilligan’s Island, and Happy Days. He also really loved action movies, one of his favorites was A Knight’s Tale. When his daughter Victoria was younger, she was obsessed with The Lion King and made her dad watch it with her probably a hundred times or so. He also loved sports and watching the Green Bay Packers.

During Ednan’s last day, Victoria remembers him looking out of the window a lot. Whenever she asked if he was ok, he said, “yeah, I’m just taking a look.” Even in the last hours, Ednan was still trying to take in the beauty offered to him. And that is why Victoria and Alex are so very proud of their dad and thankful that he chose to give that gift of seeing the world’s beauty to other people.
Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin is grateful for the continued support from all Wisconsin Lions & Lioness Clubs. Lions members provide not only financial contributions, but also volunteer their time transporting corneal tissue and advocating for the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation.

**WI Lions Club financial contributions**

Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin is grateful for the continued support from all Wisconsin Lions & Lioness Clubs. Lions members provide not only financial contributions, but also volunteer their time transporting corneal tissue and advocating for the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation.
Paul was, above all, kind, and he always tended to others’ needs first. His sincere ability to listen and truly empathize was rare and drew people to him. Paul became a donor hero on December 27, 2018, providing the gift of sight that would restore sight to two people in Vietnam.

**The Paul Francar Story:**
**Bridging a Connection Between Two Countries**

Paul was, above all, kind, and he always tended to others’ needs first. His sincere ability to listen and truly empathize was rare and drew people to him. Paul became a donor hero on December 27, 2018, providing the gift of sight that would restore sight to two people in Vietnam.

**Click to see the full video**
### 2021 Knight of Sight Fellowship

The Knight of Sight Fellowship is awarded to an individual or organization for their exemplary work and dedication in giving the gift of sight. The Gift of Sight Fellowship is achieved with a donation of $1,000 or more. The recipient's name will be displayed on the new LEBW donor digital interactive wall of honor scheduled to be installed in 2023.

#### A1
- Dave Mliner, New Berlin Lions Club
- William Emerich, Tichigan Lake Lions Club
- Doug Lewandowski, Big Bend-Vernon Lions Club
- Patty Redlin, South Milwaukee Lions Club
- Donald Hoernke, Waterford Lions Club
- Diane Kordus, Waterford Lions Club
- William Johnson, Waterford Lions Club

#### B1
- Leon Harder, Larsen-Winchester Lions Club
- Raymond Halbach, Shawano Lions Club
- Carolyn Cox, Appleton Noon Lions Club
- Sharon Hass, Appleton Noon Lions Club
- Barbara Leichtfuss, Van Dyne Lions Club
- Sandra Muche, Van Dyne Lions Club

#### B2
- Karl Heine, Grand Chute Lions Club
- Will Baye, Grand Chute Lions Club
- Karen Fischer, Marion Lions Club

#### D1
- Betty Ingwell, Madison Monona Lioness Club
- Joan Curtain, Madison Monona Lioness Club

#### E1
- Bunee Schultz, Rice Lake Lions Club
- Jacque Schaffer, Rich Lake Lions Club
- Elaine Edlund, St. Croix Falls Lions Club
- Ron Edlund, St. Croix Falls Lions Club
- Jerry Prokop, St. Croix Falls Lions Club

#### E2
- Gerry Ries, Hudson Lions Club
- Jack Gust, Menomonie Lions Club
- Tammy Raeder, Augusta Lions Club
- Jerome Bishop, Etrick Lions Club
- JoAnn Blaschko, Arcadia Lioness Club
- Antoinette Johnson, Arcadia Lioness Club
- Patricia Brevoort, Independence Lions Club
- Ken King, Cleghorn Lions Club

### 2021 Gift of Sight Fellowship

Gift of Sight Fellowship is awarded for continued support and participation in giving the gift of sight and recognizes the dedication and involvement in the challenge to eliminate curable blindness. The Gift of Sight Fellowship is achieved with a donation of $500 or more. The recipient's name will be displayed on the new LEBW donor digital interactive wall of honor scheduled to be installed in 2023.

#### Gift of Sight Fellowship Award Recipients

**B1**
- Roger Behm, Plymouth Lions Club

**D1**
- Mary Murphy, Madison Monona Lioness Club

**D1**
- Kathy Easland, Madison Monona Lioness Club

**D1**
- Sharon Friederick, Highland Lions Club

**D1**
- Michelle Shennan, Highland Lions Club

**A1**
- Don Drew

**D2**
- Eric Zingler

**E2**
- Ronda Bierbrauer

### 2020-21 District Level Awards

Each fiscal year, all ten districts in Wisconsin establish goals for financial contributions awarded to LEBW. District Governors are responsible for encouraging clubs within their district to make contributions throughout the year. If the district meets its goal, the District Governor is awarded either a Knight or Gift of Sight Fellowship award at the LEBW annual meeting in July. LEBW is grateful for the continued support from all Wisconsin Lions Clubs who help give the gift of sight.

#### Knight of Sight Fellowship Award Recipients

- D1 Tammy Rockenbach

#### Gift of Sight Fellowship Award Recipients

- D1 Don Drew
- D2 Eric Zingler
- E2 Ronda Bierbrauer

### 2021 Dispatcher & Transporter Awards

LEBW Dispatcher and Transporter awards are presented to individuals who make an incredible difference in the lives of others and who are instrumental in supporting the mission of giving the gift of sight. LEBW staff and volunteers nominate individuals who go above and beyond their volunteer transporting duties. The LEBW Board of Directors and staff commend you for your dedication, service, and helping to further our mission.

#### Dispatcher Awards

- Don “Butch” Lind, Stevens Point Evening Lions Club
- Georgia Lutz, Plover/Whiting Lions Club
- Duane Klabon, Wisconsin River Lions Club
- John Mitchell, Fox River Lions Club
- Arletta Trejo, Beaver Dam Lions Club

#### Transporter Awards

- Anita Kinser, Sauk Prairie Lions Club
- Bob Schmidt, Watertown Lions Club
- Peter Cerniglia, Cross Plains Lions Club
### Gifts in Honor

#### In Memory

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Lisa Young-Borkowski</td>
<td>Richard Schulte</td>
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<td>Bernadette Zinimer</td>
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<td>Mike Counsell</td>
<td>Roger Gartzke</td>
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<td>Kit Thompson</td>
<td>Phyllis Nagler</td>
<td>Trudy H Wille</td>
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<td>Len Quinn</td>
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<td>Franklin B Jones</td>
<td>Linda Frederick</td>
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#### In Honor

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<td>Rebecca Bartow, MD</td>
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<td>Jerry Murphy</td>
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#### Private & Corporate Gifts

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<td>Denise Lalumiere</td>
<td>Joan Smaelik</td>
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<td>Andrew Savina</td>
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<td>John &amp; Charlene Ennis</td>
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<td>Ann Boern</td>
<td>Diane &amp; Roger Krause</td>
<td>John &amp; Judith Dahlgren</td>
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<td>Dick Leverbartz</td>
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<td>Anonymous</td>
<td>Dick Schliewe</td>
<td>Julie Hastreiter</td>
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<td>Keryl &amp; Denver Shirts</td>
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<td>Beth Jefferson</td>
<td>Donald H. Huth &amp; Vivian H. R.</td>
<td>Linda Mason</td>
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<td>Lisa Wright</td>
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<td>Donovan &amp; Gerald Prieve</td>
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<td>Gary &amp; Kay Brummeyer</td>
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<td>Foundations</td>
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<td>Michael &amp; Elizabeth Wilken</td>
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<td>Chris &amp; Elizabeth Portman</td>
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<td>Jim &amp; Mary Olson</td>
<td>Peter Kirk</td>
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**Providing the Gift of Sight**

The charity care fund allows Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin to provide the gift of sight to individuals who do not have the means to afford their cornea transplant or aftercare. Each year, LEBW serves our residents, provides corneas for mission trips, and offers the gift of sight in countries with no other opportunity to receive a cornea transplant.

**Give Now**

https://lebw.org/give/
LEBW Transporters

In partnership with Wisconsin Lions Clubs, nearly 2,000 local Lions Club members across Wisconsin volunteer each year to provide door-to-door transportation of donated corneal tissue. Volunteers are trained through the LEBW Transporter Program, coined the “Cornea Express,” and is unique to Wisconsin. In 2021, an estimated 294 Lions Clubs in Wisconsin provided roughly 1,346 transports. LEBW Transporters provide an estimated cost savings of $255,000 annually to LEBW. Most importantly, LEBW Transporters serve as special honor guards, treating every gift with dignity and respect as they are brought to LEBW for evaluation, processing and then to our local surgeon’s door, ready for transplantation.

Today, we are proud to see second and third generations of LEBW Transporters participating in the program and volunteering their time to help make the gift of sight possible. Through our partnership with Lions Clubs, we continue to build a long tradition of dedication to raising awareness for organ, eye, and tissue donation in Wisconsin.

Over the years that Peter, and I have been Transporters, we have heard many stories. Once, a recipient came up to Peter, hugged him, and said, ‘thank you for giving me my sight!’ Wow, that was worth a million dollars.”

—Joanne and Peter Cerniglia, LEBW Transporters and Cross Plains Lions Club Members

Stat Snapshot

- Almost 2,000 LEBW Transporters volunteer each year to provide door-to-door transportation of corneal tissue.
- Over 200 Wisconsin Lions Clubs help to provide the gift of sight.
- Transporters are on call 365 days a year, rain, or shine, fighting the elements to give the gift of sight to those awaiting corneal transplant surgery.
- LEBW is the only eye bank in the U.S. who fully relies on the volunteer efforts of Lions Clubs to transport corneal tissue throughout Wisconsin.
LEBW’s New Cumulative Giving Program

On January 1, 2021, LEBW began its new cumulative gift-giving program. From that date forward, donors will be recognized for their cumulative lifetime gifts to LEBW. Gifts from Lions Clubs, private or corporate donors, donations made in memory or honor of an individual(s), contributions designated for a specific fund, and all other avenues of giving are included when establishing a donor(s) cumulative giving level. We hope that providing more recognition and benefits to our donors will highlight the need for more support for essential programs such as charity care, donor family services, donor memorial garden, education and surgical training, and general operations. In addition, the donor(s) name will be prominently displayed at the LEBW office on a new interactive digital donor wall. Completion of the wall is expected by the end of June 2023.

Donation Levels | Name
--- | ---
$500 | Gift of Sight
$1,000 | Knight of Sight
$2,500 | Founder of Sight
$5,000 | Hope of Sight
$10,000 | Angel of Sight
$25,000 | Advocate of Sight
$50,000 | Ambassador of Sight
$100,000 | Innovator of Sight
$250,000 | Visionary of Sight
$500,000 | Helen Keller’s Inspiration of Sight

Your donation supports the following areas:

Charity Care: The charity care funds allow the eye bank to provide the gift of sight to individuals who do not have the means to afford their cornea transplant or aftercare. Each year, Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin serves our residents, as well as provides corneas for mission trips and offers the gift of sight in countries where there is no other opportunity to receive a cornea transplant.

Donor Family Services: This fund helps to defray the cost of providing grief support, materials, and programs for our donor families as they recover from their loss.

Donor Memorial Garden: LEBW is raising funds to build a special garden to honor and remember individuals who helped change and enhance the lives of others through their gift of sight donation. The garden will be a lasting, living tribute to all those who gave the gift of sight.

Education and Surgical Training Fund: This fund helps defray the cost of providing education to the public, healthcare professionals, medical examiner offices, surgeons, residents and LEBW staff.

General Operating Fund: This fund helps LEBW defray the rising costs of operating the eye bank, helps us purchase necessary medical supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff to replace outdated and obsolete eye banking equipment and other necessary supplies. Reducing the cost of operating the eye bank helps us to continue to provide the gift of sight at a minimal cost and allows the eye bank to continue to evolve and grow as new technologies and services are required.

You can also support LEBW while you shop on Amazon.

1. Go to Smile.Amazon.com if you have never selected your Charity. Or, search for AmazonSmile, and it will take you to the designated link.
2. Type in Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin Inc. for your designated charity.
3. Confirm your selection.
