



Anne Ngo Moug is a mother of two from Cameroon, Africa. After giving birth to her second child, Anne was alarmed to notice that she was quickly losing vision in one eye. She needed a new cornea and fast. Fortunately, Anne was referred to Lions Eye Institute for Transplant & Research to try to help restore her sight. Through our Gratis Ocular Tissue Program, we were able to secure a donated cornea at no cost to Anne or her family. Now, Anne says her sight and her hope have been restored for a lifetime.

We hear inspirational stories like Anne's every day. However, the need is still great, and more people need our help. The Lions Eye Institute Foundation is the fundraising arm of the Lions Eye Institute for Transplant and Research. Our goal is to support the Institute's mission to set new standards for ocular endeavors that will improve visual outcomes and quality of life for those who are blind or visually impaired.

[Gratis Ocular Tissue Program](#)

This program allows us to provide free or reduced fee corneal tissue to people who suffer from corneal blindness but cannot afford sight-saving surgery because they are under-/un-insured. Last fiscal year, our Gratis Ocular Tissue Program restored sight to 198 people just like Anne, in Florida, the United States, Albania, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Mexico, Pakistan, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Syria, Uzbekistan, and Venezuela. ***A contribution of \$3,500 can restore sight to two people.***

[Invest in the Next Generation of Ophthalmologists](#)

The Lions Eye Institute Cornea Fellowship is a year-long program that allows five cornea fellows to come to our campus twice a year. Through this program we help train future leaders in ocular medicine as they work to restore sight to the 45 million people around the world who are blind or visually impaired. ***A contribution of \$2,000 can cover the cost of training, accommodations and airfare for one Cornea Fellow.***

[Vision Health Program](#)

This new program serves the eye care needs of underserved pre-K and elementary school children in Hillsborough and Pinellas County school systems. Our Vision Health Program provides vision screenings, glasses/lens fittings, and referrals for advanced clinical care. ***A contribution of \$1,500 can cover the cost of vision screenings and glasses to the students in one Title I school in Hillsborough or Pinellas County.***

[Transplant Laboratory](#)

We support the needs of the Transplant Laboratory with equipment and supplies required to fulfill the mission of restoring sight. The transplant lab is constantly adapting to the ever-changing needs of surgeons who perform sight-saving corneal transplants.

Optisol is a cornea storage medium that contains antibiotics and nutrients essential to preserving ocular tissue from the time it has been recovered until it is transplanted. It is an essential supply for eye banks. ***A contribution of \$1000 can cover the cost of Optisol for our transplant laboratory for one day.***

Advancing Research for Treatments and Cures for Blinding Eye Diseases

We advance research to provide treatments and an eventual cure for age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy, among other blinding eye diseases. Our Ocular Research Center was built in 2009 and since then, our Director of Scientific Research and Research Coordinators have worked tirelessly to empower researchers to conduct real-time studies of healthy and diseased ocular tissue.

Cryogenic vials are designed for storing human cells, at temperatures as low as -196°C. ***A contribution of \$500 can cover the cost of one case of cryovials to preserve tissue samples.***

The F. Lozano Cigar Factory - Lions Eye Institute Headquarters

The maintenance of our 113-year-old building, previously known as the F. Lozano Cigar Factory, is the building in which we fulfill the mission of the organization. This 1907 cigar factory building not only houses our transplant lab in which we process and distribute all the corneal tissue that is recovered, but it is also incredibly important as part of our identity as a member of the Ybor City and Tampa Bay Community. As such, it is our responsibility and privilege to maintain this beautiful, historical structure. ***Contributions of \$250 can support a project to replace the existing retaining wall to protect soil erosion and prevent water intrusion.***



Ways to Give: There are many ways you can support the mission of the Lions Eye Institute.

- **Give a gift to commemorate a special occasion.** Whether it be for their birthday, anniversary or other special occasion, this is a great opportunity to show someone that you care about them.
- **Remember a loved one by giving a gift in their memory.** All gifts will be personally acknowledged by correspondence from the Foundation and we will notify anyone you would like that a gift has been made.
- **Invest in transformational change.** Major investments help us establish new programs, purchase needed equipment, and transform lives. Naming opportunities are available, and we would love the opportunity to discuss them with you.
- **Include Lions Eye Institute Foundation in your estate plan.** Planned gifts and bequests are established for future legacy and are recognized today. Gifts are arranged through a will or a trust. Life Insurance policies, annuities and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) are examples of assets that can be used, in full or in part, to fund planned gifts and bequests.
- **Or contribute online through our website to restore someone's sight and transform their life:**
<https://lionseyeinstitute.org/foundation/contributions/>