

Fact Sheet: Eye Donation

Did you know that eye donation is actually the most common of all donations? Read below to learn more about the incredible gift of sight!



Who can become an eye donor?

Your health history may not prevent eye donation. People of all medical histories should consider themselves as potential eye donors. Those with LASIK surgery, poor eyesight, chronic illness and most cancers can still be potential eye donors.

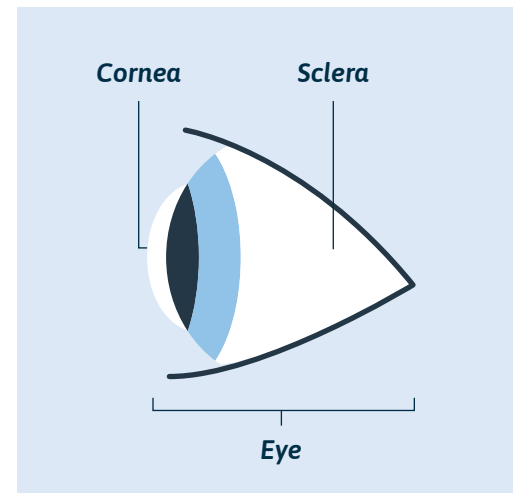


Which parts of the eye can be donated?

CORNEA - The cornea is the clear, dome-like window covering the front of the eye that allows the light to pass through to the retina, and enables us to see. A corneal transplant is a surgical procedure that replaces part of a person's cornea with corneal tissue from a donor. Cornea donation is necessary for the preservation and restoration of sight.

SCLERA - While the cornea is the only part of the eye regularly transplanted, the sclera (white of the eye) can also be used in some surgeries to repair disease or trauma to the eye.

EYE - The entire eye can be used for education and medical research.



Eye Donation by the Numbers

2,000,000 Since 1961, over 2 million people have had their eyesight restored through corneal transplants.

80,000 More than 80,000 people worldwide receive corneal transplants each year.

70,000 Over 70,000 people donate their eyes each year.

10 One eye donor alone can help heal up to 10 people through the cornea and sclera.

8 The sclera can be divided into eight parts and used to repair disease or trauma to the eye.

7 Every seven minutes someone receives a corneal transplant.

2 One person's corneas can be transplanted into two different people.

For more information, visit www.donatelifemidwest.org