

Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation Report May 6, 2017

The MLVF Board of Directors meets each quarter at the Minnesota Eye Bank at the Westgate Center in St. Paul. The MLVF helps to fund the operating expenses of the Minnesota Eye Bank and provides a board of directors that gives fiscal oversight to the eye bank. The MLVF partners with the Lions of Minnesota, the Minnesota Eye Bank and the University of Minnesota to increase public awareness about eye and cornea donations, aids in funding research projects and equipment for the University, and collects used eyeglasses for recycling.

The MLVF has had another good year. Total assets increased 13.52% over the previous year, with increases in cash and investments accounting for most of the increase. Grants payable increased from \$50,000 to \$3,870,000 primarily due to our long term commitment to the University of Minnesota Surgery Center.

Tissue processing fees (our primary source of operating income) increased 9.96% while program operating expenses increased 8.32%. Support income (donations) increased about \$58,000 an increase of 15.74% over the prior year. During the year we paid off \$558,176 of our grant commitments with the 2 largest payments being the first payment for the surgery center of \$250,000 and \$214,273 in revolving research grants. Subsequent to our fiscal year end, the Board approved a \$100,000 grant to the Lions Kid Sight program.

Here are some highlights to take back to your clubs:

- 1) The MLEB had a record setting year in 2016 with 2150 tissue donors and 2017 is on pace to surpass this mark.
- 2) 2017 is the 25th Anniversary of the Helen Keller Sight Award and every club is encouraged to celebrate this by awarding more HKSA.
- 3) At the end of June, the MLVF will be making another contribution towards MLESC which will bring us to a total of \$1 Million in payments toward our \$4 Million pledge.
- 4) The MLVF has voted to take up the 20 year, \$21.5 Million pledge towards a Lions Eye Institute to be built at the University of Minnesota. We will be asking every Lion, Lioness and Leo in the State of Minnesota to help us work on making this dream a reality.
- 5) Semi-annual tours of the University of Minnesota Hearing and Vision clinics, along with an open house at the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, are held in the fall and spring.
- 6) At the Minnesota State Fair, Vision and Hearing has a booth to provide information to the public. 5M10's day to staff is Sunday, August 27th. Please volunteer if you can.

Thank you for your support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lions Brian Maki and Wayne Tieman