

**Date:****JANUARY 13, 2026****List highlights of what is new with your cabinet service since our meeting on October 27, 2025**

The 2025 **Thanksgiving for Vision** event held November 1st, 2025, was a success. Thanksgiving For Vision celebrates the vision of partnership between Minnesota Lions club members and the University of Minnesota. The event is free and began in 1987, held annually.

The St Cloud Holiday Inn worked out well as a central location for visitors from all around the 5M Multiple. Great pictures can be found at the MLVF Facebook page.

The U of M Department of Ophthalmology and Vision and Neural Sciences had 3 great speakers and there were over 100 silent auction items (baskets) to bid on.

Each District was asked to donate a basket and participating 5M5 clubs were generous with their creative donations. Touching speeches from a donor family and a cornea recipient were highlighted.

The **Helen Keller speech reenactment** (100-year anniversary) was shown and Helen Keller recipients from the previous fiscal year were named. This event is a way for Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation to thank Lions Clubs and individuals and recognize all the Helen Keller Recipients from the previous fiscal year and contributions that Lions have made to advances in eye care and Ophthalmology research.

This partnership has yielded the Lions Gift of Sight Eye Bank, the Lions Children's Eye Clinic, the Lions Macular Degeneration Center, the Lions Research Building, the Lions Eye Surgery Center, and more. The crowd was especially wowed as usual by Dr. Joshua Hoa.

Lions seed money helped Dr. Hoa develop a transplant tissue procedure using Descemet's Membrane, a part of the eye usually discarded. Dr. Hoa's lab at the Gift of Sight Eye Bank is owned by the MLVF and managed by the University of Minnesota.

In 2024, LGS restored sight to 1582 people through cornea transplants. From the [med.umn.edu](https://med.umn.edu) website, a quote from Dr Hoa: "A lot of the research we're working on—developing new kinds of processing techniques for transplant tissue and new ways to modify the transplant tissue—often takes a while to get out to surgeons and patients," he says. However, "by collaborating with the Eye Bank, a lot of my research can immediately get out to patients. This is because the Eye Bank already has an established infrastructure for integrating novel tissue products into surgical practice and distributing them to surgeons."

Chair of the U of M Department of Ophthalmology and Vision and Neural Sciences department, Silvia Orengo-Nania, MD has discussed the prospect of moving the department to a better location with better parking and access. The MLVF is carefully studying options and a possible pledge to create a world-class facility. Lions have a great opportunity here to work with the University of Minnesota to envision an initiative that will shape the future of eye care, research, and education for generations to come. Our leadership and generosity will continue to illuminate the path towards a future where every Minnesotan has access to world-class Eye Care!

Since 1993, the MNLERC - Minnesota Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center - have donated just under 12,500,000 used eyeglasses. We thank Lion Bob Thompson from Pine City Lions for his hard work as Director.

Another large load was picked up at the Mid-Winter Convention.

Thank you to our 5M5 Leo's for sorting and thank you to 5M5 clubs that donated.

**List what your cabinet service is planning during the upcoming year.**

More eye care, more research, and more education!