

Today is a big milestone in our history. Eye banking in the Pacific Northwest celebrates it's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday today!

On this day in 1969, a small group of Washington State Lion leaders decided that it was time that the Pacific Northwest needed to uphold that promise and establish a Lions supported eye bank. Through the creative use of ham radios, Lion members across Washington State began recovering corneal tissue and shipping those tissues to The Northwest Lions Eye Bank, located on the campus of The University of Washington. In 2006, the Board of Trustees agreed that the name needed to change to reflect our global mission and was changed to SightLife. At the same time, The Lions of MD-19 agreed that the Northwest Lions Foundation be a division of SightLife to focus on all the Lions community programs in the Washington-Northern Idaho. This division provides sight screening of over 30,000 children per year.

Today, SightLife is a non-profit global leader with a singular focus on the development of eye bank systems and to provide training and support materials to physicians, eye bank staff and village health workers. SightLife and its global partners, including Lions Clubs in multiple foreign nations have given the gift of sight, via corneal transplant, to more than 34,000 individuals, last year alone, and over 200,000 since its inception! Please help us spread the word today and celebrate the amazing impact of our history together. Below is ready-to-use information for you to shout-out on social media, and we look forward to seeing you today at the various celebrations in the offices.

Steve Noble  
Trustee, NLF