Iowa Lions Donor Memorial and Healing Garden

Dedication Ceremony
October 10, 2005
2 PM

UIHC
A special thank you to:

Tim Ellsworth, Artist, Blue Eagle Designs, for the concept and design of the donor memorial and artwork

Alex Schmidt, Country Landscapes, for the design of the healing gardens surrounding the donor memorial

Lions Clubs of Iowa Past International Director Del Brown, Past International Director Norm Dean, Past International Director Gary Fry, Council Chairperson Carol Ann Kirkbride, and Iowa Lions Eye Bank Trustee Cliff Weldon for their support and fundraising efforts for this project.

Brandt Echternacht, Assistant Director for Planning; Adrianne Drapkin, Director, Project Art and the Medical Museum; Christine Scheetz, Director, Office of Community and Patient Relations; Jose Fernandez, Director, Capital Management; Larry McGranahan, Assistant to the Chair (Ophthalmology); and Walter Robalino, Project Manager, Capital Management, Allen Miller, Facilities Services Landscape Architect, and Bob Knebel, Supervisor, UIHC Grounds, for administratively making this unique project a reality.

We would also like to thank University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Administration, Facilities Services, the Joint Office for Marketing and Communications, the Office of Patient and Community Relations, the Department of Ophthalmology, Capital Management, the Iowa Lions Eye Bank, Country Landscapes, Country Stone Masons, and Blue Eagle Designs.
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50 years ago, Dr. Alson Braley approached the Lions Clubs of Iowa to raise funds to develop an eye bank, bringing the first transplantation services to Iowa. Since then, the Lions have been instrumental in the support and growth of the operation to the point where there is no waiting list for cornea transplants in Iowa, and researchers are at the forefront in discovering cures for blinding eye disease. In 1969, the first kidney transplant was performed at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Within a year, a program for transplantation, organ procurement and preservation was in place in Iowa. Today, Iowans have the opportunity of giving the gift of sight, the gift of life, and the gift of answers through research.

The Iowa Lions Donor Memorial and Healing Garden honors and celebrates the gifts given by Iowa families, and the hard work of all those who facilitate and support the donation process. The theme of the memorial is Hope, Renewal, and Transformation. Designed by Lisbon Artist Tim Ellsworth and Country Landscapes Designer Alex Schmidt, the donor memorial and healing garden commemorates donors who have transformed lives through their generosity as well as Iowa Lions and others who have supported the work of donation.

Besides serving as a tribute to donors, the memorial will carry a message of hope and renewal through academic medicine and the promise of research at UI Hospitals and Clinics. The memorial is intended to serve as a place of reflection for visitors, patients, staff, and students that will inspire all who go there. Finally, the tribute is meant to inform and encourage future donors who may one day choose to give the gift of sight and life, and whose selflessness will mean a brighter future for many Iowans.

Today, over 20,000 Iowans have donated eyes, tissues and organs to those in need, and continue to provide the gift of answers through research. Today, we honor all Iowans and their families for these precious gifts; we honor the Iowa Lions for bringing transplantation to Iowa, and for their continued support of donation and sight saving services; and we honor all those who support the work of donation, and transform lives through their services.
Dedication Program

John Sutphin Jr., MD Master of Ceremonies
Medical Director, Iowa Lions Eye Bank
Corneal Transplant Surgeon

Donna Katen-Bahensky
Director and CEO, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

Carol Ann Kirkbride
Council Chairperson, Lions Clubs of Iowa

Tom Weingeist PhD, MD
Professor and Head, Department of Ophthalmology
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

Past District Governor Dale Juergens (1956-1957)
Lions Clubs of Iowa

Jane Duvall
Cornea Transplant Recipient
President, UIHC Lions Club

Suzanne Conrad
CEO, Iowa Donor Network
Living Kidney Donor

Closing and Ribbon-Cutting