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In honor of April's National Donate Life Month, the Newspaper In Education Program is working with NJ Sharing Network to present this special series. More than 1.5 million Americans have their health restored each year through tissue donation. This series will examine tissue donation and transplantation from different angles.

Saving lives through organ & tissue donation

"How does tissue donation help restore the gift of sight?"

The Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey is an important partner of NJ Sharing Network, specializing in the recovery, evaluation, and distribution of donor eye tissue. The mission of the Eye Bank is the restoration of sight. This is accomplished through corneal transplantation. In the 40 years since it was founded, the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey has helped to restore sight to many thousands of people.

VIP Corner

Luis Fernandez, Cornea Recipient

"I was born with a genetic condition that slowly robs you of your eyesight. My eyesight got worse and worse throughout high school and after I graduated, until I received a cornea transplant last year. Being a man of faith I was very hopeful that I would get a cornea transplant so I wouldn't go blind. I can look at my newborn son today and see how beautiful he is because of my cornea transplant. I truly appreciate the gift of sight that my donor gave me."



Luis Fernandez
Cornea Recipient

Today's Exercise:

Select an article from today's Business section. Read the article to the class, and ask the class to answer very specific questions about the article. Note-taking is not allowed. Discuss how challenging it is to recall information using only your hearing. This provides a better understanding of what it is like to be vision impaired.

What Can I Do?

Encourage friends, family and co-workers to register as organ and tissue donors by visiting www.NJSharingNetwork.org. Tell them to discuss their wishes to be donors with their family and loved ones.



For more information and age-appropriate educational materials, or to register as an organ and tissue donor, visit:

www.NJSharingNetwork.org or call 800-742-7365.