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Midwest Eye-Banks Dedicates New Corporate Headquarters, Site of Michigan Eye-Bank

ANN ARBOR – With unseasonable warmth and sunny skies as a backdrop, Midwest Eye-Banks celebrated the opening of its new offices on Thursday, November 3. The ceremony commenced with opening remarks from William D. Barr, Ed.D., Chairman of the Eye-Bank’s Board of Directors and Lions Past District Governor, followed by guest speakers, a tour of the building and light refreshments for guests. More than 100 people were in attendance.

“We dedicate this building, and we re-dedicate ourselves, to the restoration of sight,” proclaimed Susan d’Olive Mozena, President and Chief Executive Officer of Midwest Eye-Banks, as guests were allowed a first glimpse of the new offices and laboratory. John W. Henderson, M.D., Ph.D., founding surgeon of the Michigan Eye-Bank and a member of the Ann Arbor (Host) Lions Club for five decades, was on hand to perform the ribbon-cutting.

Also on hand was Keller Johnson Thompson, Vice President of the Helen Keller Foundation and Ambassador for the American Foundation for the Blind. In her remarks, Keller, who is the great grand niece of Helen Keller, explained how Helen Keller first charged Lions Club members to become “Knights of the Blind” 80 years ago this year. She praised the Ann Arbor (Host) Lions and Midwest Eye-Banks for working together to change lives, as Helen Keller and her teacher, Anne Sullivan, had done years earlier.

Following Keller’s remarks, the Ann Arbor (Host) Lions Club presented a check for \$25,000 to Midwest Eye-Banks, part of a five-year, \$50,000 pledge in support of the new building. Midwest Eye-Banks’ Board of Directors named the Michigan Eye-Bank laboratory in honor of Dr. John Henderson, founding surgeon of the Michigan Eye-Bank, at the request of the Ann Arbor (Host) Lions.

The building is a 10,000 square-foot facility, built in 1995 and located at 4889 Venture Drive in Pittsfield Township, on the south side of Ann Arbor. Some renovation was required to accommodate the Michigan Eye-Bank laboratory and Eye-Bank staff offices. The Eye-Bank selected architect Robert Black and F & F Contractors to manage the renovation project.

Midwest Eye-Banks was formerly headquartered in the University of Michigan’s Kellogg Eye Center, with additional office space in the Plymouth-Green Innovation Community. Although the Eye-Bank will continue its strong working relationship with the University and with Kellogg, CEO Susan Mozena explains that organizational expansion and the need for more laboratory space necessitated the move.

Midwest Eye-Banks is a 501(c)(3), independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of sight. Through its laboratories in Illinois, Michigan and New Jersey, it recovers, evaluates and distributes human eye tissue for transplantation. It also supports research into the causes and cures of blinding eye conditions, promotes donation awareness through public and professional education, and provides humanitarian aid to people in need of corneal transplantation throughout the world. For more information, visit the Midwest Eye-Banks online at www.midwesteyebanks.org or call (800) 247-7250.