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Midwest Eye-Banks Establishes Memorial Garden to Commemorate Eye Donor Awareness Month

ANN ARBOR – Midwest Eye-Banks' mission begins with the "last act of charity" by donors of eye tissue and their families. To establish a living legacy honoring their gift – the gift of sight – a Memorial Garden will be established at the headquarters of Midwest Eye-Banks, in Ann Arbor.

"Our staff, especially those who help families through the donation process, are heartened by the willingness of people to share part of their lives so others may see," explained Susan d'Olive Mozena, President and CEO of Midwest Eye-Banks. "Whether providing community education or counseling families, we are ever-respectful of the Gift of Sight, as one of the most important commitments one can make in life. We encourage all people, especially during Eye Donor Awareness Month in March, to consider signing their state Donor Registry, which will help ensure that eye tissue is always available for those in need."

The Memorial Garden will be planned by landscape architects, staff members and Jerry Redoutey, a cornea recipient and master gardener. It will include plants, shrubs and trees to reflect all seasons, as well as a decorative fountain and park benches. A private groundbreaking for donor family members will be held on March 11, followed by a community dedication in June.

"The gift of sight provides families a sense of joy that, through the loss of their loved one, the life of another person – and perhaps more – will be enhanced by renewed vision," Mozena said. "Our Memorial Garden will provide a beautiful place for all to reflect on the virtue of sharing oneself with others."

To provide a contribution to the Memorial Garden, contact Susan Smith, Director of Development, at 1-800-247-7250, ext. 129.

Midwest Eye-Banks is a 501(c)(3), independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of sight. Through the Illinois Eye-Bank, Michigan Eye-Bank and the Lions Eye Bank of 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 Midwest Eye-Banks online at www.midwesteyebanks.org or call (800) 247-7250.