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**Midwest Eye-Banks Dedicates Memorial Garden for Eye, Organ and Tissue Donors**

ANN ARBOR – Eye, organ and tissue donors and their families were honored at Midwest Eye-Banks' Donor Memorial Garden dedication event on August 19, 2006.

The garden, located on the grounds of Midwest Eye-Banks' headquarters in Ann Arbor, is available to donor family members, transplant recipients, friends of the Eye-Bank and anyone whose life has been touched by eye, organ and tissue donation. "It has been created in memory of eye, organ and tissue donors who have provided the gifts of sight and life," explains Susan d'Olive Mozena, President and Chief Executive Officer of Midwest Eye-Banks. "It also honors their families, who have helped to make these gifts possible for others in the midst of their own personal loss."

Donor families attending the garden dedication listened as the names of their loved ones were read aloud. Peggy Chapo, a young woman whose husband died suddenly in his early 30s, explained how deciding to donate his corneas helped her through the most difficult time in her life. Alan Sugar, M.D., renowned eye surgeon and Medical Director for the Michigan Eye-Bank, underscored the meaning of the gifts made possible by donors and their families.

Guests were then treated to a tour of the new garden. The garden was designed in collaboration with professional landscaping contractor Clem Chargot of 3 C's Landscaping, and was completed this summer. Cornea transplant recipient and Master Gardener Jerry Redoutey donated his time and expertise, providing guidance in the garden's initial planning stages. In addition to lush greenery and colorful flowering plants, the garden features a cedar pergola, several benches and a walkway composed of decorative paving stones, which are available to be memorials. Those interested in naming opportunities should contact Midwest Eye-Banks' Development Office at (734) 780-2129.

Midwest Eye-Banks, based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, is a 501(c)(3), independent, not-for profit organization dedicated to the restoration of sight. 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](http://www.midwesteyebanks.org) or call (800) 247-7250.