



**Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey honors Bergen County Medical Examiner
March 14, 2007**

SPRINGFIELD, NJ – The Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey will honor Mary Ann B. Clayton, M.D., Medical Examiner for Bergen County, as its Visionary of the Year at a dinner program on Monday evening, June 11, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at L’Affaire Restaurant, 1099 Route 22 East, Mountainside.

"We're very pleased to honor Dr. Clayton for her extraordinary advocacy on behalf of eye, organ, and tissue donation," says Kenneth Mattfield, Chairman, Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey. "The medical examiner plays a critical role in coordinating the vital resources necessary to save lives and restore sight. We're grateful for her hard work on behalf of the people of New Jersey."

Dr. Clayton, a graduate of Rutgers Medical School, received her residency training in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology from St. Barnabas Medical Center and completed a fellowship in Forensic Pathology at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Providence, Rhode Island. Her work to support eye, organ, and tissue donation is "part of my job," she says.

"I am a strong proponent of organ and tissue donation, on a personal level," Dr. Clayton explains, "and it carries over to my professional responsibilities. On occasion, a family will contact our office directly and inform us that their deceased loved one was an organ and tissue donor, and ask for our help in making the right contacts. I am happy to step in."

Dr. Clayton adds that her involvement in the donation process often begins with a phone conversation with the New Jersey Sharing Network, helping to determine a prospective donor's suitability to donate eyes, organs or tissues. "Sometimes, during my conversations with families, I may be the person who introduces the topic and offers the opportunity for (eye, organ and tissue) recovery and donation," she says. "The generosity and kindness of families who are in the midst of their own personal grief always amazes me. It is a comfort to them to provide a gift of life in their time of sorrow, and it is my pleasure to assist them in any way I can."

The Visionary of the Year Award Program is a fundraising event to benefit the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey. Tickets are available for \$45. For reservations, contact Margaret Chaplin, Executive Director, Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey, at 973-379-4535.

The Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey, founded in 1970, is a subsidiary of Midwest Eye-Banks. It is a 501c(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 LEBNJ online at www.lionseyebanknj.org or call (800) 653-9379.