

The Lions Eye

A Publication of the
Lions Eye Foundation of California-Nevada, Inc.



Summer 2016

Courage, Compassion, Coupled with Generosity

We do not get to select all aspects of our lives. Sometimes, events lead us down a path of misfortune and unhappy events. This is a story of one man named Alan, whose health betrayed him, but whose community and his dog Malcolm, stayed by his side and walked him through the difficult path to recovery with the help of the Lions Eye Foundation.

Alan was diagnosed with eyelid basal cell carcinoma (cancer) nearly fifteen years ago. As patient of Dr. Rona Z. Silkiss, Chief of the Division of Oculofacial Plastic Surgery at CPMC, Alan was treated with surgery and radiation therapy. Despite tumor removal and reconstruction, the tumor recurred, each time progressing more deeply into the orbit of the eye. Alan suffered physical and emotional effects of this cosmetically deforming and visually debilitating disease. With a job lost and no health insurance, Alan contacted Dr. Silkiss for help. She offered to treat him without charge and coordinated his ongoing care through the Lions Eye Foundation. Over the course of the next several years, Alan underwent additional surgery, scans and follow-up.



Malcolm and Alan

Following initial dramatic results, Alan suffered side of effects from this treatment including the development of a secondary carcinoma (the first report of which was published in JAMA Ophthalmology). Despite these and other innovative therapies, the disease progressed. Alan was advised to undergo an Exenteration –removal of his eye and the soft tissues of his orbit. This is a devastating and disfiguring but potentially lifesaving operation. After months of internal conflict, Alan agreed to undergo the surgery. This was coordinated by Mark Paskvan and performed by oculoplastic fellow Dr. David Russell and Chief Resident, Dr. Derek Huang. Two weeks post operatively, a smile that showed the relief being now free from cancer, returned to Alan. With an ocular prosthetic designed by Steven Young, Alan should be able to return to the work force and begin his life free from the emotional weight of living with cancer and an uncertain future. Alan is grateful to the Lions Eye Foundation, Sutter Health/CPMC and the dedication of his doctors for staying by his side and walking him through this most difficult life event.

Alan, in his own words: *In 2011, I was given the challenge of dealing with yet another recurrence (the 5th) of cancer in my left eye. At that time, my friend was unable to keep his dog Malcolm and asked me to take over his care. I accepted without really considering Malcolm's age (he was 12) or what direction my own health and living situation might take. Shortly after taking on this responsibility, I lost my home and my ability to work continued to decline as a result of my ongoing chemotherapy treatments. So I put a camping stove, a few cooking utensils and some clothes in*

Mission Statement: "The Lions Eye Foundation preserves and restores the gift of sight by providing free ophthalmic examinations, operations and medications to the less fortunate members of our community."

Courage, Compassion, Coupled with Generosity (cont.)

my car and Malcolm and I took up residence in my Toyota 4Runner. It was fun at first, like we were on a long vacation camping trip. However, I soon ran out of money.

I found caring for Malcolm made me happy, and kept me from worrying about the cancer and being depressed. By the end of our second year though, a tumor on Malcolm's right leg started to grow at an alarming rate. I faced tough choices, but Malcolm and I decided to take on both our medical issues together. Malcolm had his surgery, and although he lost his back right leg, he did well and came back strong. During this same period it was recommended that I undergo surgery to remove my left eye. I resisted doing the surgery and felt depressed, but the eye pain only increased over time. Now that Malcolm was stable, by his example I was willing to think and talk about my own much needed surgery.

Dr. Silkiss asked me to trust that my doctors had my best interest at heart, and gently but firmly said "Please Alan, put yourself in our care." In tears I said OK, I will if you hold my hand. As she has done in the past, she took my hand and said "Of course."

By now Malcolm had celebrated his 17th birthday. I talked to Malcolm letting him know that I knew he was getting tired and probably holding on for my sake. I told him that I needed him to stay with me through the surgery. His last task, as I could not do it alone. I had the surgery in June 2016 and Malcolm with me all the way. Only a few days after surgery, with his fellow friend's from the dog park in attendance, Malcolm passed. My friend told me, "Let the energy of Malcom's passing take you into recovering your own health and happy life. A new life." I still feel Malcolm with me, telling me... "Come on Alan, let's get going."

Retina Fellow Judy Chen

Judy Chen, MD, grew up in Los Angeles, California. She graduated summa cum laude from the University of Southern California (USC) Keck School of Medicine with a BS in Health Promotions and Disease Prevention. She then moved to the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine for her medical degree. During medical school, she presented and published papers in the areas of diabetic retinopathy and Chiari malformation syndrome and was the recipient of many honors, including the Department of Surgery Charles B Huggins Symposium Student Award for Clinical Research, Pritzker School of Medicine Dean's Promise Scholarship, and the Keith Edson Scholarship. She was also involved in many extracurricular activities such as founding the Sight Savers program and the Pritzker Podcast committee. Dr. Chen completed her internship at Highland Hospital in Oakland, CA. She then returned to Chicago to the University of Illinois Chicago to complete her ophthalmology residency, where she was elected Chief Resident by the faculty and awarded a research grant by the Illinois Society of the Prevention of Blindness.



Dr. Judy Chen

Dr. Chen chose the Eye Department at CPMC for its world-class faculty, breadth of pathology, and the opportunity to be involved in resident education. Outside of medicine, Dr. Chen's interests include musical theater, cooking and eating, as well as traveling.

LEF Clinic is Moving to 711 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

The Lions Eye Foundation is scheduled to move to 711 Van Ness (at Turk Street) in November 2016. The LEF Eye Clinic will be part of The Eye Institute, which consists of a five-story building with 88,000 square feet of office space, and is owned by the Pacific Vision Foundation (PVF). The Eye Institute is a collaboration and partnership between Sutter Health/California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC), Pacific Vision Foundation (PVF), the Lions Eye Foundation (LEF) and private practice doctors. The private practice physicians represent many of the ophthalmology subspecialties, including glaucoma, cataracts, plastics, etc. This group of doctors will also volunteer to staff the LEF patient clinics and be the attending at surgery for our ophthalmology residents. Also in the building will be a conference room for graduate medical education, commercial space on the first floor, leased offices, parking and space for the future expansion of the private medical offices. There is also space onsite for the planned eye ambulatory surgical center (ASC), which will be the next phase of construction for The Eye Institute.



Sutter Health/CPMC's graduate medical residency program provides a comprehensive and focused education experience for our nine eye residents. The Lions Eye Clinic is the focal point of their education since it provides hands on experience with patients. Through the sponsorship of patients with eye issues from lions clubs, clinics, and private practices, our young doctors are able to experience the many complex issues associated with a diseased or injured eye requiring specific treatment and/or surgical intervention.

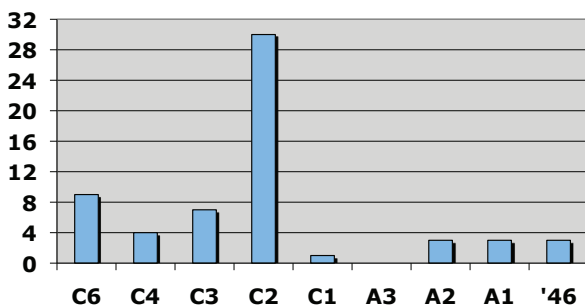
The partnership between Sutter/CPMC and LEF has grown and evolved over the past 55 years. Together, we provide our patients with quality treatment and surgical care at no cost to the patient. With a little over 5,000 square feet of space, the new Lions Eye Clinic will combine the Ophthalmic Diagnostic Center and the Lions Eye Clinic exam and treatment rooms. Having both entities in the same location will greatly improve patient care and education for our staff and residents. Our goal is to provide services for even more patients in our new home.

Sutter Health/CPMC is providing the \$2,000,000 funding for the clinic build out and PVF has allocated \$9,800,000 for building upgrades. LEF has already purchased all new equipment for the clinic's exam rooms and funded the purchase of two new lasers, an argon laser and a combined YAG/SLT laser for use in The Lions Eye Clinic.

Our new address will be: 711 Van Ness, Suite 250, San Francisco, CA 94102. However, our mailing address remains the same: P.O.Box 7999, San Francisco, CA 94120. To reach the Lions Eye Foundation Team, call 415-600-3950.

Statistics and Leverage

Number of Patients by District
from 4/1/16 to 6/30/16



Total Surgical Patients ----- 60
New Referrals ----- 67
Actual Dollars Spent --- \$133,420
Estimated Value ----- \$1,369,460

LEVERAGE 10.3:1

Fast Facts

- The most prevalent surgery was for cataracts
- The youngest patient was 18 years old; and the oldest was 80 years old
- There were also 2 Laser Procedures and 117 Intravitreal Injections, 6 minor surgeries and 356 Ophthalmic procedures with an estimated value of \$213,460 (incl. in \$'s above)

Acknowledgements and Thanks

April - June 2016

Memorial Donations (at least \$200)

- Everett "Sam" French • Phyllis & Charles Rogers • Ken Uyemoto
- Sally Territo Wong • San Francisco Nikkei Lions Club

New and Progressive Helen Keller Fellows:

- James Bosso • Ramon Garcia • Bob Fuller
- Rick Hanson • Richard Lockwood • Mike Overton
- Tilden "Dave" Richards (sapphire) • Ilan Rosenthal
- Ron Weaver • Roderick Wright

Capital or General Donations (at least \$200)

- Lisa Adukia • Dr. Andrew Calman • Sally Cofer Lindberg
- John & Silvia Schroeder • Arvin Lions Club
- Fresno Host Lions Club • Park Presidio-Sunset Lions Club
- Geneva Excelsior Lions Club • Visalia Sequoia Lions Club
- Sutter Health-CPMC

General or Capital Campaign Donations (at least \$1000)

- Mike Rogalski

Capital Campaign Don Stanaway Fellows

- Paul Catemartori • Don Kirk • Clyde Klaumann
- Jim Syvertsen

New Don Stanaway Life Members:

- Arthur F. Basile • Melinda Blankenship • Dale Bullock
- Lux Cora Lee • Michael Mahoney • Ken Richardson
- Jose Rodriguez



P.O. Box 7999
 San Francisco, California 94120
 www.lionseyefoundation.com
(415) 600-3950

Officers & Key Personnel

President – John Posey
 First Vice President – Mike Rogalski
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Contributors

Editors – Mark Paskvan & John Schroeder
 Photography – Mark Paskvan & Michael Mahoney
 Articles – Mark Paskvan, John Schroeder, Dr. Rona Silkiss
 Contributor – Fred Sommer
 Layout & Production – Roger Weiner
 Printing – Forté Press Corporation, Burlingame
 Distribution – Precise Mailing, S. San Francisco

For More Information: www.lionseyefoundation.com

Lions Eye Foundation Fundraisers

The Lions Eye Foundation has two fundraisers this year:

The Rocky Lombardi Memorial Wine Tasting and Food Extravaganza will be held on October 9, 2016 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Mission Blue Center in Brisbane. Tickets are available online at: www.therockywinetasting.eventbrite.com. Cost is \$35.00 in advance, \$45.00 at the door. Mark will also be selling lions pins (he has some really cool pins this year) at this event.

If you or your club cannot attend but would still like to support our fundraiser, please consider making a donation to LEF at P.O.Box 7999, SF, CA 94115. All donations will be utilized to provide free eye surgical care for our patients.

LEF's second fundraiser is the Penny Drive mentioned in our last newsletter. The goal is the equivalent of ten million pennies, or \$100,000.00 to be utilized to buy new equipment. So clean out your dresser, and put that heavy penny jar in the car... and bring your pennies and loose change to a club meeting or to the Rocky Wine Tasting.

**THE ROCKY LOMBARDI MEMORIAL
 WINE TASTING & HORS D'OEUVRE
 EXTRAVAGANZA**

**OCTOBER 9, 2016
 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.
 Mission Blue Center
 475 Mission Blue Center Dr.
 Brisbane, California
 \$35 in advance
 \$45 at the door
 (Price includes commemorative wine glass)**

**All proceeds benefit
 The Lions Eye Foundation**

Major Sponsors include:
 Sutter Health California Pacific Medical Center
 Millbrae, Brisbane & Half Moon Bay Lions Clubs

**To order tickets go to
www.therockywinetasting.eventbrite.com**

IT IS NOT TOO LATE FOR INDIVIDUALS AND CLUBS TO CONTRIBUTE AND BE RECOGNIZED AT THE NEW LIONS EYE CLINIC.

The Lions Eye Foundation has developed a way to recognize donors to the Capital Campaign. Individuals and Lions Clubs that have donated to this Capital Campaign will be recognized at the new Lions Eye Clinic according to the following donation levels:

\$ 5,000	Dream Builder	plaque, name on wall in LEF clinic
\$ 10,000	Hope Builder	plaque, name on wall in LEF clinic
\$ 25,000	Care Builder	plaque, name on wall in LEF clinic
\$ 50,000	Foundation Builder	plaque, name on wall in LEF clinic
\$ 100,000	Sight Builder	plaque, name on wall in LEF clinic, and name in building public area

Please send your donation to Lion Mark Paskvan, LEF Program Coordinator, P.O. Box 7999, San Francisco, CA 94120.