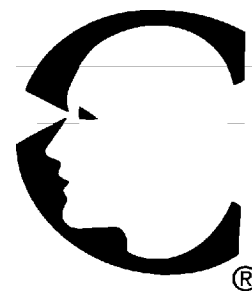


# VISIONARY

*A publication of the Cornea Research Foundation of America*



February 2001

## **Appreciative Cornea Transplant Patient Offers Emotional Support and Council for Others Undergoing Similar Procedures**

At the age of six Jeannie Palmer of Ft. Wayne, Indiana had eye surgery for a condition called amblyopia. After the surgery and recovery period, she thought her vision problems were over. Over that is, until at the age of 47, when she went in for a routine exam. Her family optometrist Dr. Wiggers, informed her that she had a condition called Fuchs Dystrophy and that if she didn't take care of it immediately, she could lose all sight. Dr. Wiggers referred Jeannie to Dr. Francis Price Jr. in Indianapolis, Indiana. Dr. Price is not only a highly respected ophthalmologist and surgeon, but also the lead investigator for the Cornea Research Foundation of America. After examining Jeannie, he said she definitely needed a cornea transplant as soon as a donor cornea could be obtained.

As you can imagine all this was quite a shock for Jeannie. After all, she just went in for a routine exam and all of a sudden she was on the waiting list for a cornea transplant! In retrospect she said she had gone for years "looking at the world through waxed paper." The clearness, brightness and vivid colors had been taken away so slowly, she didn't

even know they were gone. She now remembers adjusting the television repeatedly to get it "brighter and clearer." She remembers never having to wear sunglasses, even though all her friends needed them.

Within a short period of time a cornea was secured. It was screened for diseases and the transplant process began. Jeannie needed two cornea transplants. Dr. Price decided to do the left eye first. Jeannie of course was counseled intensively and on her own read everything she could find on cornea transplants.

The day arrived and Jeannie was sedated but not totally asleep. The surgery took about an hour and Jeannie was back in recovery. She went home that same day and returned the next day for a follow-up check up. Through the surgery she had felt no pain and during the recovery time she experienced some discomfort, but no real pain.

As soon as the bandages came off, Jeannie was shocked and amazed at how clear and bright the world really was! However, it was somewhat strange to see a clear bright world through the left eye and a dull muted world through the right eye.

For two weeks she had to be very careful. She couldn't drive, read or watch television. A small price to pay for new vision! After the first two weeks she was allowed to go back to work. That is, back to work reading and working on a computer eight hours a day!

After one year, Dr. Price performed the same surgery on the right eye. She knew what to expect this time, and once again, all went well. In each surgery the stitches

*Continued on page 2...*



*Jeannie and husband, Jim Palmer*

## **CRFA Announces New Web Site**

January 4, 2001 the Cornea Research Foundation of America rolled out its new web site. The site, located at [www.cornea.org](http://www.cornea.org), features information about the Foundation such as Mission, History, Board of Directors, Ways to Help and Past, Present and Future Research Projects. Also included is an extensive Virtual Library. This provides educational materials about diseases of the eye and information about eye surgery. You can also find copies of the CRFA Newsletter "The Visionary" as well as Links to other vision related sites. If you have access to the internet, please take the time to look us up!

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## **Cornea Research Foundation of America**

9002 North Meridian  
Suite 212  
Indianapolis, IN 46260  
Phone (317) 844-5610  
Fax (317) 844-5590  
[www.cornea.org](http://www.cornea.org)

## *Message From The President of the Board*

*The Cornea Research Foundation of America has always had a commitment to education. In the past, this has primarily consisted of seminars and courses for doctors or publications in scientific journals.. We are now adding another educational component. This effort will be to educate the general public by means of our new web site [www.cornea.org](http://www.cornea.org). This new site gives information on Corneal Diseases, Ophthalmic Terms (vocabulary with definitions), Research Studies, CRFA Information and Links to other eye related sites. Dr. William Zeh has just launched the initial version of the site and we anticipate a number of updates over this coming year.*

*The initial development of this site was funded by the generosity of William Goetz. We would like to do more and we welcome donations to help defray the cost of further improvements.*

*Sincerely,*

*Francis W. Price, Jr., M.D.*

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*... Continued from page 1*

stayed in about one year. While the world was now bright and clear, it still was not completely in focus. Jeannie got a set of hard contact lenses and, "Then I could see everything!" she exclaimed. This worked great for about 3-4 years. Then her contacts started irritating her eyes and she would wear them for shorter and shorter periods of time. At this point Dr. Price suggested LASIK surgery to bring the eyes into complete focus.

Because Jeannie's situation was so unique, Dr. Price opted to perform this surgery slowly and carefully, doing only one eye at a time, and using two procedures per eye. Jeannie's eyes responded beautifully to this approach. "I now have better vision than ever before in my life," exclaimed Jeannie. "I am very thankful and very pleased with my results. I would do it again in a heartbeat!" she said. She has a goal to improve her golf game this coming season. Last summer was the first time that she could actually see the flag and not just have her golf partner head her in the right direction!

Jeannie is so happy and so pleased with the life changing success of these operations, she is willing to talk with and answer questions from other people considering undergoing this procedure. If you would like to visit with Jeannie about a cornea transplant or follow-up LASIK surgery on a transplant, you may call the Cornea Research Foundation of America at 1-800-255-6520 ext 8015 and people there will put you in touch with Jeannie. She does wish to remind people that her viewpoint is that of a patient and donor recipient, not a doctor.

## Gaining Through Giving - The Win/Win Equation

Everyone in this country who is blessed with financial success will be a philanthropist when they die. Without proper planning, we allow the government to determine how our social capital is spent, paying estate taxes at marginal rates as high as 60%, depending upon the value of our estate. Fortunately, there are other options! Several powerful tools are at our disposal, allowing us to direct who will receive our social capital and how it will be spent. The key to determining whether we will be passive (let the government decide) or active (maintain control of our social capital) philanthropists is a matter of planning.

This article will summarize several of the most common planned charitable giving methods, beginning with the simplest, the outright, immediate gift.

### Gifts of Cash

When most people consider making a gift to charity, writing a check is usually what first comes to mind. Outright gifts of cash made to qualifying charitable entities, as you probably know, are tax deductible. As such, a gift of \$1,000 will only cost the donor \$690 if they are in the 31% bracket. Through this tax deduction, Uncle Sam encourages us to be active philanthropists!

### Gifts of Tangible Property

To gain even more leverage from your gift, you may want to consider gifts of appreciated real, or tangible, property, such as common stocks, bonds, mutual funds, real estate or other assets. Given the strong stock market in recent years, many individuals have experienced very large gains in the value of their investment holdings. However, for an investor to realize a gain on an individual stock, for example, they would be required to sell the security and pay taxes on the gain, resulting in a reduction in the realizable value.

However, by gifting such appreciated property rather than cash, you receive not only a tax deduction for the full market value of the gift, but you also avoid paying the capital gains tax on the

transfer! As is most often the case, several important rules apply when making gifts of appreciated property. If this may be a viable option for you, please consult your tax advisor.

### Charitable Trusts and Charitable Gift Annuities

Beyond outright, immediate gifts of cash and other assets, the tax code allows a number of truly powerful means of giving, known generally as "planned" or "deferred" gifts which exemplify the win/win concept of active philanthropy. Through the use of various charitable trusts such as Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRT), the donor can often realize the intangible benefits of helping others while receiving additional tangible benefits in the form of an immediate tax deduction, lifetime income (donor or donor and spouse), continued control of the assets, avoidance of capital gains taxes and the ability to leave more assets to the donor's heirs! Likewise, a Charitable Gift Annuity provides many of the same benefits, including an immediate tax deduction, lifetime income and preferential capital gains treatment and, is ideally suited for smaller, or a series of, planned gifts.

### Testamentary Gifts

One of the simplest, oldest yet increasingly popular means of making a difference can be broadly classified as testamentary gifts, or gifts made upon the death of the donor via the donor's will. Testamentary gifts can come in the form of a general bequest, such as "I leave to the Children's Bureau Foundation, a percentage bequest or a residuary bequest. Also, just as various trusts can be useful tools during your lifetime, testamentary trusts may be established to take effect after your death, thus providing resources for your family members today and benefiting your favorite charity in the future.

### Gifts by Beneficiary Designation

Another often overlooked means of

satisfying charitable intent is through naming a favorite organization (the CRFA perhaps?) the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement plan such as an IRA. This can be accomplished very simply and the charity can be designated as beneficiary to a set dollar amount or percentage of benefit. In the case of an insurance policy, you will not only receive an immediate tax deduction in the year of the gift, but will also realize a tax deduction in each subsequent year for the ongoing premiums paid on the policy.

As you can see, there are certainly many ways to accomplish your charitable wishes beyond "writing a check". In fact, through proper planning, the illusive win/win combination can be a reality!

## Date Set For Cornea Golf Classic 2001

The Cornea Golf Classic Committee has announced the date of the 2001 Outing. The Classic will be held Thursday, June 21, 2001 at the Pebble Brook Golf Club. The goal of the event is to increase visibility of the Cornea Research Foundation of America as well as to raise much needed funds for vision research. Last year's event was a great success! We had 23 teams playing and raised over \$39,000 for research. This year's event promises to be even better. We have already started the marketing efforts and have begun securing sponsors! Committee members include: Pat Chastain, Kevin Dubbink, Walter Gross, Buzz Howell, Joe Kack, Francis W. Price, Jr., M.D., Francis W. Price, Sr., M.D., Harry Scheid and Jocelyn Smith, O.D.. If you would like more information, or to be put on a mailing list, please phone the CRFA office at (317) 844-5610.

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CORNEA RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF AMERICA  
9002 North Meridian Street  
Suite 212  
Indianapolis, IN 46260-5350  
(317) 844-5610  
www.cornea.org

## Focus on Education Update 2000 Seminar a Great Success

The Focus on Education Update 2000 was held Saturday, October 14, 2000 at the Ritz Charles in Carmel, Indiana. Approximately 200 Doctors of Optometry attended the day-long event. Speakers included: Dr. Steven Klapper speaking on two topics, Eyelid Malpositions and Lumps, Bumps and Periocular Cancers; Steven Abel, Pharm-D, talking on Herbal Supplements and their Ocular Uses; Daniel Lee, D.O., presenting Ocular Allergies and Treatment; Kendall Dobbins, M.D., speaking on Evaluation and Management of Post-operative Refractive Surgery Problems; William Zeh, M.D., presenting Anesthetic and Non-steroidal Agents in Cataract Surgery and Francis Price Jr., M.D., elaborating on Comanagement and Medical Management of Refractive Surgery.

The sessions lasted approximately one hour each and participants were asked to rate the presentations. Steven Abel, Pharm-D, presentation of Ocular Pharmacology was a definite hit, with participants requesting him back next year.

Next year the seminar will be held Saturday, October 27, 2001 at the Ritz Charles in Carmel, Indiana. If you have any questions, please contact CRFA at (317) 844-5610 or Dr. Kathy Kelley at (317) 844-5530 ext. 2859.



*Dan Harmon O.D. and CRFA Study Coordinator, Judy Ries at Focus on Education Seminar.*