



GEORGIA EYE BANK, INC.

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 1, 2010

CONTACT: Bruce H. Varnum  
Chair, President & CEO  
Georgia Eye Bank, Inc.

PHONE: 800/342-9812 Ext. 227  
404/504-2580

### Governor Declares March as Eye Donor Month in Georgia

Atlanta – Governor Sonny Perdue has proclaimed March 2010 as Eye Donor Month in Georgia. The proclamation urges all Georgians to give the *Gift of Sight* by making the decision to become an eye donor. Several Georgia Eye Bank staff and Board members attended the signing ceremony at the state Capitol.

Georgia Eye Bank recovers, processes and provides donor eye tissue for eye surgeries and eye research studies, and promotes and provides education pertaining to eye donation. The Eye Bank, the sole provider of eye banking services in the state of Georgia, provides 25-35 corneas for transplant each week. Based on the number of tissues provided for surgery and research, Georgia Eye Bank ranks among the top eye banks in the country.

Georgia Eye Bank is a non-profit organization dedicated to being a world leader in eye banking. During 2009, the Eye Bank provided tissue for over 1,400 surgeries. Since its founding in 1961, Georgia Eye Bank has helped to restore the sight of more than 33,000 people. The donor's generous gift provides grieving families with solace because something wonderful has come from the loss of a loved one and then culminates with the joy experienced by the recipient whose sight has been restored.

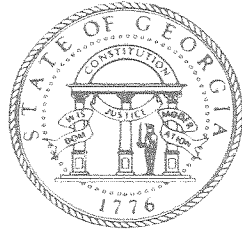
Georgia Eye Bank depends on many other volunteer groups and agencies to carry out its mission. The Board of Trustees, hospital and funeral home professionals, the Georgia State Patrol, medical examiners and coroners, and generous financial supporters are among those who make the *Gift of Sight* possible. The goal of providing donor eye tissue to every Georgian who needs the *Gift of Sight* could not be met without the support of a statewide volunteer network.

Take a moment to consider eye donation, register on Georgia's Donor Registry ([www.donatelifega.org](http://www.donatelifega.org)), and encourage your family and friends to do the same. Corneal transplantation, other eye surgeries, and eye research can take place only if someone gives the precious *Gift of Sight*.

Additional information is available at the Eye Bank's website, [www.georgiaeyebank.org](http://www.georgiaeyebank.org), or by calling Georgia Eye Bank at 404-264-1900 or 1-800-342-9812.

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**Left to Right ( Name/City):** Gina Steinbecker-Smyrna, Justin Lawson-Kennesaw, Victor Cooper-Atlanta, Susan Littlefield-Johns Creek, Bruce Varnum, CEO-Milton, **Governor Sonny Perdue**, Mari Fridenmaker-Atlanta, Sonja Brown-Douglasville, Angela Davis-Decatur, David Thompson-Sandy Springs



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION EYE DONOR MONTH

- WHEREAS: Sight is one of our most precious gifts, and many Georgians recognize that it is within their power to give someone else the ability to see; and
- WHEREAS: The purpose of Eye Donor Month is to alert Georgians to the power and opportunity they possess to give the gift of sight; and
- WHEREAS: Eye donation for research has the potential to restore sight to those suffering certain types of blindness, and more than 32,000 Georgians have received the gift of sight from an eye donor; and
- WHEREAS: Eye donation can give comfort and a sense of purpose to grieving families. Eye donation for corneal transplantation restores useful vision to those suffering from corneal blindness, and approximately 1,100 sight-restoring cornea transplants are performed annually in Georgia; and
- WHEREAS: Eye donation is one of the most selfless gifts we can make to our fellow citizens, and it is vitally important to discuss with our loved ones and family our desire and decision to donate; now
- THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the state of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 2010 as EYE DONOR MONTH in Georgia and urge our citizens to give the gift of sight by becoming eye donors and by discussing their wishes with their families.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand ten.



  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

  
CHIEF OF STAFF



JONNY PEREIRA  
9th Governor, State of Virginia

