

# **Inside Out: It's good news: Applause for Jeffrey Holcomb, recipient of the 2021 Eye Bank Association of America's Gift of Sight Award**

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STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Jeffrey Holcomb, a funeral director has been named the recipient of the 2021 Eye-Bank Association of America's Gift of Sight Award.

Each year the Gift of Sight Award is presented to a professional who works closely with the eye banking community whose efforts demonstrate outstanding support of eye banking. The award also recognizes his ongoing and longtime efforts promoting eye donation to his colleagues in the funeral services profession in the greater New York City metropolitan area.

## **HOLCOMB'S CONTRIBUTIONS AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCES**

Holcomb has made essential contributions to both The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration and the eye donation community as a whole as a New York licensed funeral home director for more than 30 years.

Through his company, Continuing Vision LLC, he provides accredited educational opportunities for funeral professionals.

The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration is a private, not-for-profit organization founded in 1944 whose mission is to restore sight by providing cornea tissue for sight-saving transplant surgery, and ocular tissue for research into treatments and cures of other blinding eye diseases. Almost anyone from ages one through 75 can be a donor.

Annually 1,100 people have their sight restored with donor tissue provided by The Eye Bank.

Passionate about the subject of eye donation since both of his children were born with congenital hereditary endothelial dystrophy, it was through Holcomb's son Brian's cornea transplant that he was introduced to The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, forming a relationship that has lasted for more than 25 years.

His daughter Erin's transplant journey was more complicated, requiring a procedure in which the cornea transplant included a keratoprosthesis device, which prevented rejection of the tissue.

And it was because of his personal experiences that Holcomb and his family honored their donors by becoming volunteer advocates for The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration. And to this day Holcomb continues to be a pioneer in the advocacy of eye donation, participating in The Eye-Bank's events, videos and community outreach.

In addition, the astute businessman has hosted a multitude of seminars through Continuing Vision LLC, inviting Eye-Bank hospital and community liaisons to present educational sessions so that funeral directors can learn about the important role they play in the eye donation process.

#### **EMOTIONAL WHEN ACCEPTING HIS AWARD**

Upon accepting this year's Gift of Sight award in the EBAA's virtual session, Holcomb was emotional as he shared with the audience of more than 400 eye banking professionals that he was honored by the recognition.

"I want to thank the Eye-Bank Association of America for this great award," he said with humility. "It's a dream I thought would never come true. It's an immense pleasure that I was able to win this and I promise that my continued efforts will be there every day as a funeral director."

Patricia Dahl, executive director of The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, noted: "We were honored to nominate Jeffrey for the award and are very pleased that he received national recognition for his longtime efforts in support of eye donation."

#### **A LITTLE ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION**

The Eye-Bank Association of America (EBAA) is the nationally recognized accrediting and standard embodiment for all eye banks and represents a membership of approximately 60 non-profit eye banks nationally and internationally.

For further information about registering to be an eye, organ and tissue donor, contact The Eye-Bank at [www.eyedonation.org](http://www.eyedonation.org) or phone 212-742-9000.