

# News

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas  
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75235 (214) 688-3404

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CONTACT: Ann Harrell  
Office: 214/688-3404  
Home: 214/369-2695

**\*\*UTHSCD/Lions Clubs staff their booth on transplants, help with other sight-saving projects.**

DALLAS--Volunteers from Dallas Lions Clubs and professionals from The University of Texas Health Science Center's bankable transplant program are manning an information booth during the Texas State Fair. The volunteers and medical personnel are on hand to give information and answer questions about organ donations. The booth, which is located in the Centennial Exhibits Building, is open during normal fair hours. The Dallas Lions are partners with the health science center in the bankable organ program.

The health science center, which pioneered kidney transplants in the Southwest, has also made a major impact with their skin transplants for burn victims, a technique that has led to saving many lives that in the past would have been lost. Through the bankable organ transplant program, which includes not only the life-saving human skin but also corneas and bones, many patients are being helped annually. In addition, a new unit in Pediatric Surgery is beginning to screen patients for a liver transplant program for children that is expected to begin in early 1985. The liver transplant program is in cooperation with Children's Medical Center.

In addition, the Lions work in cooperation with the health science center with other vision-related projects. Currently the service organization is sponsoring its annual eye-screening program for children on Saturdays at the Dallas Services for Visually Impaired Children's eye clinic at 3110 Blackburn.

Children who cannot afford ophthalmological care are referred by school nurses in Dallas Independent School District and surrounding areas for complete vision screening by volunteer ophthalmologists, including health science center physicians. In the case glasses are needed, they are bought by the Lions Club group. Needed surgery, including laser treatments, is provided by faculty members at Dallas Children's Medical Center.

The Lions organization is also continuing yearly program of eye-glasses collection. Boxes for donated glasses are set up in the Dallas and suburban areas at various independent dry cleaners, opticians' showrooms and other business establishments. Twice a year the organization, in cooperation with Highland Park Methodist Church, sends the glasses and volunteer medical personnel to fit them to such places as Haiti and Mexico. The glasses are donated to needy people who otherwise would not be able to afford eye care.

In a three-week period as many as 1,000-1,500 pairs of glasses may be given away, says Lion Howard Snyder, executive vice president of the UT Lions Sight and Tissue Foundation, which runs the bankable organ transplant program in cooperation with the health science center.