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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **United States Eye Banks Respond to Aid Ukrainian War Casualties**

Eye Life International Inc. (ELI) would like to recognize the overwhelming response by six United States Eye Banks who came to the aid of wounded Ukrainians who sustained eye injuries thus far during the Ukrainian – Russian war. More than seventy-five corneal tissue allografts were provided by six United States eye bank organizations, namely Lions VisionGift, Miracles in Sight, the Nevada Donor Network, the San Diego Eye Bank, Advancing Sight and CorneaGen.

In response to an urgent request for corneal tissue by Ukrainian Ophthalmologists and surgeons, ELI broadcast a call to U.S. based eye banks for corneal and other ophthalmic tissue. Due to the unusual medical, treatment circumstances in the area, corneas, sclera and pericardium with a short-term shelf life and refrigeration would not be practical. Therefore, the donor tissue provided was processed by methods allowing for long-term preservation and required no refrigeration that better suited the wounded patients' care.

Eye Life International proudly organized this humanitarian endeavor mission for wounded patients needing urgent care in Ukraine and in neighboring countries treating refugees.

We are grateful for the near immediate response of these outstanding US Eye Banks whose missions, like ELI's, include responding to such medical crises whenever we can.

Let us hope and pray for peace in our world!

For more information, please contact Elena Vialova, ELI's CEO/President, at (410) 419-4443.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Vialova", with a stylized, flowing script.

Elena Vialova – CEO/president