



Volunteering

Cornea Recipient Shares Her Story with the Community

by Nicole Flood, Saving Sight



Barbara Martin

For over 30 years, Barbara Martin has made a difference in the lives of her students, first as an elementary public school teacher and later at the university level. Fuchs' dystrophy threatened Barbara's ability to see, and thanks to the generous gift of sight from two eye donors, she's still actively serving her local community. Now retired, Barbara continues to change lives by teaching online university courses and volunteering.

When Barbara was in her early 40s, she learned she had Fuchs' dystrophy. Her doctors monitored the deterioration until it progressed to the point she needed a transplant in both her left and right eye. Her transplants were both successful. "It's kind of miraculous! As my eyes were deteriorating it became harder to see and reading was becoming blurry, so it made a big difference in what I am able to do," said Barbara.

Since her transplant, Barbara has become an avid supporter of the healing power of donation as a volunteer and ambassador for Saving Sight. She's spreading the word about the importance of eye, organ and tissue donation for those who receive the gift and the positive impact of donation by sharing her story.

Barbara spoke on behalf of Saving Sight at Mosaic Life Care's Celebration of Life in St. Joseph, Missouri on April 19, 2017. She was honored to share how being a cornea recipient has changed her life and what donation means to her.

"I encourage people to really be mindful of that process and organ donation. I think people can really make a difference to the life of someone else," said Barbara.

Making a difference in the lives of her students.

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