Our promise...
That every child born today will see and hear throughout their lifetime.
Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share our annual Philanthropy Report—a celebration of Mass Eye and Ear’s life-saving and life-changing work, made possible by your support.

In fiscal year 2022, your generosity fueled every aspect of our mission, helping raise $26 million to promote compassionate patient care, bold new research, training of the next generation of leaders in our specialties, and service to our surrounding communities.

It is our people who make Mass Eye and Ear so special and we are grateful for the vital role that you—our patients, friends and supporters—have played in our accomplishments. Thanks to you, we are closer to cures for blindness, deafness and diseases of the head and neck, and are building a healthier future for people here at home and around the world.

Thank you for all you do for Mass Eye and Ear.

Sincerely,

Robert Atchinson
Chairman of the Board

CarolAnn Williams
Interim President
$26M fiscal year giving summary

Who is investing?

- $14.3 M Individuals
- $6.1 M Corporations & foundations
- $3 M Trusts and estates
- $2.6 M Philanthropic research grants
- $1.5 M Other

Where are they investing?

- $19.0 M Research programs
- $3.1 M Unrestricted
- $2 M Facilities
- $1.5 M Faculty and endowment
- $400 K Other

$1.5M People

$19.4M Program

$5.1M Place
FY22 leadership gifts

In fiscal year 2022, Mass Eye and Ear received $26 million in gifts, grants and pledges from generous friends, private foundations and corporations. These donations, received from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022, are an investment in exceptional patient care, life-changing research and world-class training for the next generation of leading physicians and scientists.

$2,000,000 from the Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund for major renovations to the Eaton-Peabody Laboratories

$2,000,000 from Ben and Ellen Harvey for research and teaching in thyroid disease led by Gregory Randolph, MD, FACS

$2,000,000 from the Estate of William James Scoville to support the Ocular Genomics Institute and name the William James Scoville and Katherine Spirou Scoville Genomics Center

$1,200,000 from The Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation for Alzheimer’s disease research led by Joseph Arboleda-Velásquez, MD, PhD

$1,177,986 from Keith and Bobbi Richardson for spasmodic dysphonia research led by Kristina Simonyan, MD, PhD, Dr med

$1,092,500 from Anna and Neil Rasmussen for chronic rhinosinusitis research led by Benjamin Bleier, MD, FACS

$1,000,000 from the Children’s Hospital Ophthalmology Foundation to endow a Directorship in Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus

$1,000,000 from Fredrick and Ines E. Yeatts for age-related macular degeneration (AMD) research led by Demetrios Vavvas, MD, PhD, and Joan W. Miller, MD, and hearing research led by Zheng-Yi Chen, DPhil

$940,100 from Good Ventures for Alzheimer’s disease research led by Joseph Arboleda-Velásquez, MD, PhD

$675,000 from Foundation Fighting Blindness for research in inherited retinal degenerations led by Qin Liu, MD, PhD, and Rachel Huckfeldt, MD, PhD

$620,000 from MSL Renewed Hope Foundation for vision research led by Demetrios Vavvas, MD, PhD

$582,000 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for AAV vaccine research led by Luk Vandenberghe, PhD
In 2013, Ellen Harvey noticed an ache in her neck that felt similar to a twisted muscle. When the pain did not subside, she received a CT scan from her local doctor. The results did in fact show a twisted muscle, but also a 7x11cm growth in the middle of her neck.

Reassuringly, the biopsy results were negative, but Ellen still needed surgery to remove the growth. Due to the significant risks associated with the operation, her local surgeon referred her to the “absolute best,” Gregory W. Randolph, MD, FACS, Director of the Thyroid and Parathyroid Endocrine Surgical Division at Mass Eye and Ear.

Dr. Randolph determined that the growth, which was narrowing her airway, had been growing for over ten years, and they were lucky to have stumbled upon it.

“I had complete trust in Dr. Randolph before the surgery,” said Ellen. “He was transparent, positive and caring. He was there beside me when I woke up, asking me to speak to him. We both were filled with joy when my voice sounded just as good as it did pre-surgery.”

Just five weeks after her surgery, Ellen delivered the speech of her lifetime when she was inducted into the Environmental Industry Association’s Hall of Fame, one of only three women ever to receive this prestigious honor. Much to her relief, she spoke effortlessly.

When the Harveys sold their family company in 2021, a philanthropic opportunity presented itself and they chose Dr. Randolph to be the first major recipient of their generosity.

“The Harveys’ gift was exceptionally touching as it shows how compassionate care will stay with a patient for years after their visit to Mass Eye and Ear,” Dr. Randolph said. “I will be using their gift for thyroid surgical research and global teaching. This gift will not only help us lead the fight against thyroid diseases, but gives us the opportunity to teach future leaders of medicine how to care for their patients to make a lifelong impact.”
“We are profoundly grateful for the unmatched skill and compassion of Dr. Randolph. Our hope is that this gift will make an important impact on the lives of a great many others who face thyroid surgery.”

Ellen Harvey
"After witnessing my friend's vision be restored, Mass Eye and Ear took on an entirely new meaning for me. I always knew the research was incredible, and now I've seen the miracle of care unfold before my eyes."

Victoria McCullough
Victoria McCullough

The incredible gift of sight

Victoria McCullough’s passion for advancing eye research began 20 years ago when she was first introduced to Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass Eye and Ear. “Dr. Michael Young was pioneering the use of retinal stem cells to restore vision. He was brilliant and inspiring and his project was fascinating to me,” said Victoria. “In no time, I was hooked.”

A believer in the power of technology, Victoria began partnering with Michael Young, PhD, to help his laboratory acquire the latest technologies to gain new insights and hasten developments. With Victoria’s help, Dr. Young’s research advanced from infancy to launching the first human trial using retina stem cells in 2015. “We are now in the second phase of this work, using pure and viable rod and cone cells together with polymer scaffolds to preserve and restore vision,” said Dr. Young. “Victoria’s partnership played a seminal role in getting us to this pivotal point in our research. The equipment we were able to purchase with her gifts made this all possible.”

In the spring of 2022, Victoria’s relationship with Mass Eye and Ear added a whole new dimension. She noticed that her friend Michelle, a gifted photographer, was struggling with rapidly declining vision. “I knew if any place could help, it would be Mass Eye and Ear,” said Victoria. She helped make arrangements for Michelle to come to Boston and be seen by Demetrios Vavvas, MD, PhD, Director of the Retina Service. Michelle was nervous and afraid, but she put her faith in Mass Eye and Ear. After a thorough eye examination, Dr. Vavvas shared some excellent news—Michelle’s vision loss could be reversed. One month later, Michelle came back to Boston for surgery and returned home with 20/20 vision.

“Sight is one of life’s most precious gifts,” said Joan W. Miller, MD, Chair of Ophthalmology at Mass Eye and Ear and Harvard Medical School. “Our mission to save and restore vision drives us every day, whether in the exam room, surgical suite or laboratory. Unwavering champions like Victoria make it all possible.”
Michel Plantevin

Vision-saving care inspires a commitment to giving back

When Michel Plantevin was on a hike with his wife in the fall of 2019 and began seeing what he assumed were flies that she could not see, he never could have imagined the chain of events that would follow over the next few years. A trip to Mass Eye and Ear's Emergency Department (ED) led not only to sight-saving care, but also to a meaningful partnership with the doctor and the hospital that saved his vision.

Leo Kim, MD, PhD, an expert in retinal disease, was the retina surgeon on call that night. The team quickly diagnosed Michel with a detached retina and Dr. Kim scheduled him for urgent surgery, during which he reattached Michel's retina.

A follow-up appointment with Dr. Kim revealed that, thankfully, there was no scar tissue in Michel's eye. Retinal scarring, a condition known as proliferative vitreoretinopathy (PVR), occurs in 10 percent of patients after retinal reattachment surgery and can lead to permanent vision loss. “I was incredibly relieved and grateful to have my vision restored,” said Michel. “When Dr. Kim told me about his research program that was focusing on developing better treatments to overcome the problem of retinal scarring, I wanted to help.” Thanks to Michel’s very generous philanthropic support, Dr. Kim’s program has been significantly accelerated.

In addition, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Kim discovered that scar tissue found in the lungs of people with severe COVID-19 looked similar to PVR. Michel was equally intrigued by these findings and made another generous gift that enabled Dr. Kim to investigate further. Working with his colleague Joseph Arboleda-Velásquez, MD, PhD, Dr. Kim found that a protein called RUNX1 was involved in the development of both PVR and scarring in the lungs, a condition called pulmonary fibrosis. What’s more, they found that the same drug they had been testing to inhibit RUNX1 in PVR may also help prevent this serious lung condition.

These results were published to high acclaim in the American Journal of Pathology, which in turn led to nearly $1 million in additional funding to advance Dr. Kim’s studies of pulmonary fibrosis.
“Michel’s funding was monumental to get us started. He gambled on an idea. These ideas can be transformative, but we would never know unless we test them. Philanthropy is key in driving this early-stage research.”

Leo Kim, MD, PhD
“There is no doubt that our lives have been improved by our association with Mass Eye and Ear. We are excited that our support has led to such great success.”

Bobbi and Keith Richardson
Bobbi and Keith Richardson

From Wyoming to Boston for specialized care

When Bobbi and Keith Richardson founded Sierra Trading Post in 1986, they never imagined it would lead them to expert laryngology care at Mass Eye and Ear 31 years later.

Based in Wyoming, Sierra Trading Post began as a mail-order catalogue that sold close-out items from famous outdoor name brands. The company became a successful internet retailer and in 2012 was acquired by TJX. The Richardsons invested the proceeds of the sale with a global investment bank in Boston and began traveling East for annual team meetings.

Some years later, Bobbi was diagnosed with spasmodic dysphonia, a neurological condition causing vocal cords to spasm, leading to speech difficulties. She and Keith immediately set out to find a world-class specialist, a search that led them to Phillip Song, MD, Director of Laryngology at Mass Eye and Ear.

Under Dr. Song’s care, Bobbi found relief from her symptoms and improved quality of life. She and Keith also met Kristina Simonyan, MD, PhD, Dr med, Director of Laryngology Research at Mass Eye and Ear and world-leading researcher in dystonia, a category of debilitating neurological movement disorders—of which spasmodic dysphonia is a subtype—that cause involuntary muscle spasms throughout the body.

Motivated to help, the Richardsons made a generous gift to partner with Dr. Simonyan in developing DystoniaNet, a platform that uses artificial intelligence to diagnose dystonia from MRI scans of a patient’s brain. In preliminary studies, DystoniaNet effectively diagnosed dystonia in less than a second with nearly perfect accuracy, a finding that can drastically improve diagnosis and treatment for patients.

“The Richardsons’ support has been invaluable in exploring novel research directions,” said Dr. Simonyan. “By leveraging their generosity, we were able to refine and test the DystoniaNet platform—all with the goal of helping people with dystonia. I could not be more appreciative of their partnership.”
2022 Events

Sense-ation! Gala

The 2022 Sense-ation! gala was a great success! Co-hosted by Founding Chair Joey McIntyre and Billy Costa, the evening featured stories of inspiring patients and new innovations as well as a special performance from former Board Chairman Wyc Grousbeck and his band, French Lick. The event raised more than $1 million to help advance Mass Eye and Ear’s mission to find cures for blindness, deafness and diseases of the head and neck.

Mass Eye and Ear Golf Invitational

On June 20, 85 people participated in the 2nd Annual Mass Eye and Ear Invitational at The Weston Golf Club. Hosted by Former President John Fernandez, it was a great day of golf that provided support for the hospital’s life-changing mission.
Founders’ Day Luncheon
On May 9, Mass Eye and Ear hosted its annual Founders’ Day Luncheon at The Newbury Boston. The featured speaker shared her story of overcoming Meniere's disease thanks to skilled and compassionate care led by Steven Rauch, MD, Medical Director of the Balance and Vestibular Center, and Felipe Santos, MD, Chief of Otology and Neurotology.

Team Eye and Ear
Team Eye and Ear had another tremendous year! On April 18th, 42 members ran the Boston Marathon® and on August 21st another 29 members ran the ASICS Falmouth Road Race. Together, they raised $450,000 to support life-changing care and research at Mass Eye and Ear. Since 2006, Team Eye and Ear has raised more than $7.3 million.
Benefactors

The Reynolds Society

Named in honor of Edward Reynolds, MD (1793–1881), co-founder of Mass Eye and Ear, the Reynolds Society was established in 1986 to recognize special friends who make annual gifts, grants and pledges of $2,500 and more during the fiscal year (October 1 through September 30) to Mass Eye and Ear or Schepens Eye Research Institute.

We are pleased to recognize and thank the following Reynolds Society members for their generosity in fiscal year 2022 (October 1, 2021–September 30, 2022):

$1,000,000 and more
Anonymous
Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund
Children’s Hospital Ophthalmology Foundation
Estate of William James Scoville
Ben and Ellen Harvey
Anna and Neil Rasmussen
Keith and Bobbi Richardson
The Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation
Fredrick and Ines E. Yeatts

$500,000–$999,999
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Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Foundation Fighting Blindness
Good Ventures
MSL Renewed Hope Foundation
Elizabeth and Michael Ruane
Edward N. and Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation
David Vargo and Sheila Collins

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Research to Prevent Blindness
Suzanne Harte Sears and Francis* Sears / Edwin S. Webster Foundation
Chris Snook and Susan Stoddart
Troy Stevens
Jennifer and Jonathan Uhrig
Henry N. and Whiteley B. Wheeler
Janey L. Wiggs, MD, PhD, and Robert J. D’Amato, MD, PhD
Pat and Barry Yellen

*Deceased **Perpetual Trust
**$25,000–$49,999**
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Samuel* and Nancy Jo Altschuler 
MaryLynn and Joseph Antonellis 
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, Inc. 
Lily and Tim Bentas 
The Bergstein Family 
Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey P. Buzen 
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Amy and Yumin Choi 
Gustav and Vibeke Christensen 
Francois and Rosamond Delori 
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Estate of Nancy Cooper Young Williams 
Estate of Robert Earl Schiesske 
Steven and Deborah Field 
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The Bobby and Peggy O'Connor Foundation 
Polly Townsend* 
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Willie Fund 
Sheryl W. Winslow 2015 Charitable Lead Trust 

**$10,000–$24,999**
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Adage Capital Management 
Sharman and David Altschuler 
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American Glaucoma Society 
Bennett Living Trust Dated April 12, 2012 
Gary and Rochelle Bennett 
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Estate of Catherine Neill 
Estate of Richard A. Campana 
John and Vance Fernandez 
Fish & Richardson PC. 
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Lisa and Daniel Lehan III 
Haiming Li

“As a board member, I have had the privilege of a front row seat to see Mass Eye and Ear’s incredible mission in action. I am proud to support the doctors, scientists and caregivers who make it all possible.”

Rodney Pratt

**LOYAL FRIEND, 5 YEARS**

*Deceased
“As an architect, I have always considered my eyesight to be my most precious sense. Years ago, I asked my optometrist where the best cutting-edge eye research was being done. Without hesitation, he said Mass Eye and Ear. To this day, I try to give a little bit in profound gratitude for the hospital’s wonderful work.”

Edward Benner

LOYAL FRIEND, 38 YEARS
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Aurea Duque
Robert Eaton
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Adrian Priesol, MD, and Nurhan Torun, MD
Lt. Col. Thomas Przybelski

*Deceased
Having been here for over two decades, I have seen firsthand how special Mass Eye and Ear is. The commitment to excellence in patient care, research and training is truly inspiring. I am honored to give back in any way I can.

Derrick Lin, MD, FACS

LOYAL FRIEND, 12 YEARS

*Deceased
Team Eye and Ear

We are pleased to recognize the following members of Team Eye and Ear, Mass Eye and Ear’s running team, who together raised nearly $450,000 in fiscal year 2022 for research and patient care at Mass Eye and Ear. These dedicated runners serve as ambassadors of the hospital’s mission, and we are grateful for their partnership. Since inception, members of Team Eye and Ear have raised more than $7.3 million.

Nellie Adams
Craig Borders
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Nora Desrosiers
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“At six months old, our daughter was diagnosed with a rare airway condition that made it difficult for her to breathe. Thanks to the life-saving surgeries and care she received at Mass Eye and Ear, she is now a happy and healthy kindergartener with nothing holding her back. Our family is forever grateful to Dr. Chris Hartnick and his team.”

Ashley Smith

LOYAL FRIEND, 4 YEARS
Gifts in kind

Each year, in addition to outright and planned gifts, Mass Eye and Ear and Schepens Eye Research Institute are the grateful recipients of valuable tangible items such as medical equipment, academic texts, event tickets and more. These items are deeply appreciated and may be used by our patients or hospital staff, as appropriate, or may be auctioned off at a hospital event to raise funds for our mission. We are pleased to recognize and thank the following friends for their generous “in kind” gifts made between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022.

BoMin Creative Productions
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The 1824 Circle

Unrestricted giving affords Mass Eye and Ear and Schepens Eye Research Institute the flexibility to embrace new opportunities and address immediate priorities. To encourage unrestricted philanthropy at the leadership level, The 1824 Circle was established as a special recognition group within The Reynolds Society. Membership is reserved for friends who make unrestricted gifts of $12,500 or more during the fiscal year. Mass Eye and Ear thanks the following 1824 Circle members for their gifts made between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022.

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Richard and Nichole Aldrich
Joan and William Alfond
Samuel* and Nancy Jo Altschuler
Lily and Tim Bentas
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“My neuro-ophthalmology fellowship at Mass Eye and Ear was the pinnacle of my medical training. It is my privilege to give back to this vital institution and group of gifted practitioners, who still feel like family. I encourage others to join me in ensuring this tradition of excellence continues to thrive.”

Steven Hamilton, MD

LOYAL FRIEND, 7 YEARS

*Deceased
Annie Sullivan Society

The Annie Sullivan Society honors and recognizes the thoughtful and generous individuals who have named Mass Eye and Ear in their wills, planned gifts or estate plans.

Anonymous (20)
Peter and Widgie Aldrich
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The William Wolff Society

The William Wolff Society was established to recognize donors during their lifetimes for gifts made to Schepens Eye Research Institute through their estates or other planned giving vehicles. The Society was founded in memory of Mr. William Wolff, a former Schepens Corporator, devoted supporter and advocate of planned giving.

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“We believe that Mass Eye and Ear is a world leader in its field. The staff has technical expertise and compassion that ensure patients get the best possible care. We donate to fuel research that will result in the use of innovative technologies such as CRISPR and improve quality of life for millions and, perhaps, one day totally eradicate afflictions for many.

Doris and Bill Barrett

LOYAL FRIENDS, 20 YEARS
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