STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: More than 40,000 Americans, including 326 Arkansans, had their sight restored last year as a result of corneal transplants. In addition, the Arkansas Lions Eye Bank and Laboratory and its 82 sister eye banks across the country provided more than 20,000 corneas for patients overseas and another 17,000 for research; and

WHEREAS: Arkansans can make the decision to give the gift of sight to others. By registering online with Donate Life Arkansas or with the State Revenue Office and arranging to become eye donors after death, Arkansas donors can ensure that the Arkansas Lions Eye Bank and Laboratory will continue to have the precious tissue needed for sight-restoring cornea transplant s; and

WHEREAS: The Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA), the nationally recognized accrediting body for eye banks in the U.S., and member eye banks nationwide have made possible more than 1,000,000 sight-restoring corneal transplantations since 1961; and

WHEREAS: The first National Eye Donor Month was proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan in 1983 and since then, a member of Congress has read a proclamation into the Congressional Record each March to observe this special occasion; and

WHEREAS: The central aspect of the EBAA's National Eye Donor Month commemoration is to raise awareness of the need for eye donors and celebrates the generosity of the more than 50,000 people who become eye donors each year;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim March 2015, as

NATIONAL EYE DONOR MONTH IN ARKANSAS

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to join me in recognizing the generosity of eye donor families who have made possible the more than 300 sight-restoring, corneal transplant operations in Arkansas.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 11th day of March, in the year of our Lord 2015.

Asa Hutchinson

ASA HUTCHINSON, GOVERNOR

Attest:

Mark Martin

MARK MARTIN, SECRETARY OF STATE